



SEASON'S GREETINGS

Scarborough residents whoop it up for the holidays
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PRECIOUS PROJECT

Community helps send kids to art camp
- See page 7



THE EAST TORONTO OBSERVER

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Community mourns painter

Local artist 'without limits' Doris McCarthy dies at 100

ALICE HOANG
The Observer

Artist, teacher and lover of life — Doris McCarthy lives on in her paintings and through those who knew her.

McCarthy died peacefully at age 100 on Nov. 25 at her home near the Scarborough Bluffs. Her funeral visitation was held Dec. 1.

The service brought together friends and students who shared memories of the Canadian icon.

Evelyn Stoyoff, a graduate of Toronto's Central Technical School, said she is lucky to have been McCarthy's student.

"She was very devoted and she paid attention to each of the students," Stoyoff said.

McCarthy graduated from the Ontario School of Art in 1930, and two years later she began teaching at Central Tech, a job she had for 40 years.

Friends said McCarthy valued education and believed in life-long learning. In 1989, she graduated from the University of Toronto at Scarborough (UTSC) with a bachelor of arts in English. The school's art gallery, named after McCarthy, celebrated her 100th birthday in July, when she was present via Skype.

McCarthy wrote three autobiographical books: *A Fool in Paradise*, *The Good Wine* and

Ninety Years Wise.

"Back in 1985, she decided to go to the east coast to learn [printmaking]," friend and fellow artist Olivia Ruth said. "I asked her how it was and she said it was wonderful because she figured she was with the best guy that could teach her. But also, she said, 'I'd only just begun to learn.' And that was always her attitude."

McCarthy painted across Canada and ventured to different parts of the world, and would return with photographs she took to share with her students.

McCarthy loved to share her passion for art with everyone around her, said her friend Anne Tough.

"When she travelled, instead of writing postcards home to people, she would draw the message," Tough said.

Carrie Bryce, a collector of McCarthy's paintings, said she saw the artist as an adventurous individual.

"She didn't have limits," Bryce said. "She went out and painted in the Arctic by herself. She built her own house on land that she bought. She was a very empowered, very liberated woman to do that," Bryce said.

McCarthy donated her house to the Ontario Heritage Trust to be used as an artist retreat after her death.



“
She loved to share her passion for art with everyone
— Anne Tough

Courtesy Beth McCarthy

Scarborough painter Doris McCarthy was a fixture in the area for almost 70 years. She died in her sleep on Nov. 25.



JOSHUA UNGAR/The Observer

Residents rushed the doors at the Cedarbrae Library as it opened for the first time in two years on Dec. 6.

Library open after high-tech overhaul

JOSHUA UNGAR
The Observer

The Cedarbrae District Library opened its doors for the first time since October 2008 on Monday, revealing its \$9.15-million renovation. It had been eagerly awaited.

"As the city councillor here in Ward 43 for the past four years, the number 1 complaint or concern or question that has always been brought to me is when is the library opening," Coun. Paul Ainslie said.

Hundreds of children, teenagers and adults huddled outside the branch in the cold, waiting for the doors to open to their library.

"This branch really shows

how this community needs this library and wants this library," Ainslie said. "The great number of people here today is a tribute to this community."

The revitalization adds over 400 square metres to the aging building. Cedarbrae is one of the busiest branches in the entire system.

"This has been a complete and utter gutting and upgrading," said Edward Karek, communications officer for the Toronto Public Library. "This branch features a significant pilot project: we have the first automatic book return system in any Toronto library branch."

The automatic check-in is

a test project the library has been working on since 2009.

"The automatic check-in reduces handling time, the public doesn't have to wait for staff to check their material in or out now, allowing them to spend more time providing assistance," said Susan Martin, an expert on the new technology.

The branch also features 62 computers for the public with wireless Internet access, a riverboat-themed children's zone with interactive learning stations and more than 35,000 new books.

"As many of you have seen, the branch has many exciting new features including a new convenient layout,

an extraordinary layout. Glass and light, a lot more space," said Matthew Church, chairman of the library board.

The architecture and design was an important part of the renovation.

One of the library's concerns was that the renovation respect the original building, branch director Anne Bailey said when meeting with the public.

"As you come up from Markham Road, this building really stands out," Bailey said. "With the pinnacles and glass, it's just wonderful."

For footage of the renovations, go to torontoobserver.ca

NEWS

Cleanup continues despite snow

Chemicals from local car-crushing factory leak into Little Rouge Creek

BILLY COURTYCE
The Observer

Work to clean an oil spill at Little Rouge Creek continues despite heavy snowfall, Ontario's environment ministry says.

About six centimetres of snow fell on northeast Scarborough Dec. 6, but it was not enough to impede ongoing efforts to vacuum oil from the creek, ministry spokesperson Lindsay Davidson said.

"The snow right now is not a factor yet," Davidson said. "The effort is still the same as it was a week ago. We have a person there at the site every day."

The cleanup crew has lights set up to allow work to continue overnight.

"It's a 24-hour cleanup exercise," Davidson said. "It's not stopping right now. We're

uncertain how long it's going to last."

The spill was detected at Standard Auto Wreckers, near Sewells Road and Steeles Avenue, on Nov. 19.

The environment ministry expressed early concern that gasoline, along with oil, may have contaminated the creek, but tests by environmental cleanup company Direct Line proved the spill was limited to oil.

An oil spill is easier to control because it rises to the surface, while gasoline does not, environmental service worker Dave Rennie told *The Observer* two weeks ago.

Municipal drinking water hasn't been affected because workers choked off the spill before it entered the Rouge River, stopping it from reaching the city's tap water source, Lake Ontario.



BILLY COURTYCE/The Observer

Environmental service worker Dave Rennie said cleanup is a 24-hour job and isn't sure when it will be completed.

Ford's transit plans fall short for residents

JOSEF JACOBSON
BRADLEY FEATHERSTONE
The Observer

Scarborough councillors have opposing views on Rob Ford's promise to cancel Transit City and put in subways instead.

"Rob Ford plans to take away transit from a lot of people," Ward 38 councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker said last month. "Transit City was going to spread a wide net of services and lead to huge improvements in efficiency."

On Dec. 1, Mayor Ford announced funding for former mayor David Miller's transit plan would be stopped and diverted to extending the Sheppard subway line and putting the Scarborough LRT underground.

Ward 43 councillor Paul Ainslie supports Ford's plan.

"Scarborough needs a subway from Kennedy Station into Durham Region," Ainslie said. "Toronto should look at a regional transit system."

De Baeremaeker says he calculated Ford's plan would cost \$4 billion more than advertised, and he questions how a subway can be built without raising taxes.

But Ainslie argues the city can find more opportunities



BRADLEY FEATHERSTONE/The Observer

Mayor Ford wants to connect the Scarborough LRT and the Sheppard Line in East Scarborough.

for public and private partnerships. "We need to be more creative with how we find the money," he said.

Ford's subway extension connects the Sheppard and Scarborough LRT lines at the Scarborough Town Centre, but De Baeremaeker says this leaves many Scarborough residents without access to the system.

"Ford's plans don't help

anyone living east of McCowan Road or north of Highway 401," De Baeremaeker said. "If you live in areas like Malvern or West Rouge, you're getting absolutely nothing."

Under existing Transit City terms, the LRT will extend across Sheppard to Morningside, connecting more of Scarborough to the rest of the city. This was

designed with the 2015 Pan Am Games in mind, as some events will be hosted at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus.

"It looks to me like people are going to have to walk or bike to the Pan Am facilities from the Scarborough Town Centre," De Baeremaeker said. "And that's a long walk."

- With files from Josh Ungar

Scarborough councillors in charge at city hall

NADIA PERSAUD
The Observer

Mayor Rob Ford announced his committee appointments Nov. 29, including several Scarborough councillors.

Ward 37 councillor Michael Thompson said it's not surprising Ford looked east for positions.

"Scarborough is full of smart people," he said.

As the appointee for the economic development board, Thompson plans to use his business background to create jobs.

"We want to create an environment where businesses see

Toronto as an attractive place to conduct business to get the best amount of jobs possible," Thompson said.

Ward 40 councillor Norm Kelly was appointed to parks and environment.

"I'm like a graduate student," Kelly said. "I want to

get their perspective of what worked, what didn't, what they liked about it, before I make a thesis."

Both men agree Ford's appointments are not anything new for Scarborough residents.

"Scarborough has always



Scarborough has always sat on all the major committees — Norm Kelly

sat on all the major committees on council," Kelly said. "I don't subscribe to the feeling that Scarborough has been ignored. It's just that the media tends to focus on downtown councillors more."

Other Scarborough committee appointments include Ward 39 coun-

cillor Mike del Grande as budget chief; an at-large committee member, Ward 43 councillor Paul Ainslie for the government management portfolio; and Ward 35 councillor Michelle Berardinetti as an at-large committee member.

WHAT YOU WANT

With the inauguration of the new city council, we asked Scarborough residents what they expect from city hall over the next four years.



There should be air conditioning at every bus stop.

— Yvonne Ching, 20



We should stay away from subways and bring light rail transit to Scarborough.

— Melvin Suwarno, 22

News Briefs

Enjoy the sounds of the season

The Scarborough Choral Society presents the Sounds of Christmas. Residents are invited to celebrate the magic of Christmas with musical selections from *The Polar Express*. The performance is to be held Dec. 11 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Dec. 12 at 2:30 p.m. at the Markham Theatre, 171 Town Centre Blvd. in Markham.

New Year's bash at Toronto Zoo

Party like an animal this New Year's Eve at the Toronto Zoo. The event kicks off 2011 with a Justin Bieber tribute and a "kid's countdown." The party runs from 6 to 9 p.m.

High-speed crash proves fatal

A 28-year-old man is dead after a high-speed crash on Dec. 5. The single-vehicle accident occurred around 4:30 a.m. on Brimorton Drive near Markham Road and Ellesmere Road. Police say speed was a factor in the accident, as the car collided with a pole and split in two. Anyone with information about the crash is asked to contact Traffic Services at 416-808-1900.

Police shoot stabbing suspect

A man shot by police after allegedly stabbing his father is recovering in hospital. The SIU is investigating the incident, which occurred Dec. 4. Officers say the man was shot after he came outside and ran toward police officers with a knife. The man's father, Frank Duarte, is recovering at Sunnybrook hospital.

Scarborough robot rules

COURTNEY ROBERTS
The Observer

Malvern girls snag win in N.Y. robotics competition

The Blessed Mother Teresa Titans are about to be known for more than their skills on the basketball court.

Recently, the all-female robotics team won first place at this year's National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Engineering Design Competition during its conference in Rochester, N.Y.

This marks the first year a Canadian chapter of the organization has won first place at the

competition, which included 10 other teams from New York State.

"We started to scream when they called our names," said Sylvia Kuria, who's been on the team since she started high school.

The group of girls meets twice a week under the guidance of advisors Mary Charles Hills and Karubiel Mahari, along with mentors from Ontario Power Generation

(OPG).

NSBE was started to encourage black students to enter university in the science sectors, Hills said.

"We started the chapter in 2007 and there are three students from the original group who are in Grade 12 now."

During its weekly meetings, the team has various sessions that teach them about project management and how to research information properly.

Each person on the team is given a specific role.

"The key people are the computer engineer and the mechanical engineer. They work closely to program the robot and ensure that it has been built to perform the task," Hills said.

The team also has industrial and electrical engineers who ensure the robot is able to function.

The team's computer engineer Kameshia Broome faced

minor difficulties before the competition.

"I had to work with a mechanical engineer to program the robot and it got frustrating because sometimes things wouldn't work. It took weeks because the software kept changing," she said. "I eventually programmed the robot with ultrasonic, colour and light sensors, and three different motors."

As intricate as the robot was to create, the team completed the challenge effortlessly. There were 13 cans on a course, six of the cans were white and seven were black. The robot had to move as many of the white cans into the finish box as it could without touching any of the black cans.

The robot was built with a Lego Mindstorm kit.

Although the girls are enthusiastic about engineering, many of them are considering pursuing other fields when they graduate school next year.

"I really want to become a midwife," said Simone Bucknor.

Some of the other girls are considering work in law, social work, psychology and forensics.

Hills hopes that school initiatives like the NSBE engineering program will encourage more students to enrol at the school and try different things.



COURTNEY ROBERTS/The Observer

Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School students won this year's National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Engineering Design Competition during its conference in Rochester, N.Y. From left: Simone Bucknor, Bianca Benjamin, Sylvia Kuria, Georgina Bryan, Kameshia Broome and Olesya Johnson.

For more photographs of the champions, visit torontoobserver.ca

Kit aims to simplify life with diabetes

SARINA ADAMO
The Observer

Living with diabetes may be simpler in the future, thanks to a kit to be made available by the Flemingdon Park Community Health Centre in January.

The prototype kit – including a booklet, DVD, measuring spoons, pedometer, measuring tape and stress ball – was displayed on Tuesday morning as part of the South Asian Diabetes Prevention Program (SADPP).

"The good news is that we can now share this kit with communities living in Scarborough, North York and Markham," said Neil Stephens, SADPP program coordina-

tor at the centre. "We do have a catchment area but we are working with other community health centres to set up early detection clinics in their areas and refer them to programs in their areas."

Scarborough Centenary and West Hill Community Services have support groups and diabetes education programs for those in the area who are at risk.

Forty-four per cent of Scarborough's population is of South Asian background and consume a diet heavy in carbohydrates or refined sugar. The SADPP was designed to counter problems with their diet and provide them with knowledge to change it.



SARINA ADAMO/The Observer

A woman looks at a manual prototype that will be included in the SADPP care kit come January.

"For people who come here from a different country where the eating habits are different, it's really a huge adjustment," said MPP Kathleen Wynne

As immigrants face social

barriers, they can turn to community health centres for free guidance.

"For those who physically can't get a kit, we're going to make everything available

electronically," Stephens said. "For now, we are targeting giving our kits to people who need it the most, such as older adults and South Asians because of the high risk factor of these communities."

The SADPP's goal is to inform the area of the epidemic affecting so many.

"We now have more than a million people in Ontario with diabetes and we're expected to double that number over the next few years if nothing changes," Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews said. "If we can get ahead and diagnose the people that are at risk of diabetes and give them the tools to prevent it or slow it down, then we've come a long way."



I'm constantly waiting for a bus – they really should come more often.
— Danica Guballa, 16



I didn't mind what David Miller was doing.
— Brad Shaw, 35



I think there should be an underground railway built to run farther east.
— Dorsa Zarrabiah, 43

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Scarborough's in the holiday spirit

Civic Centre tree-lighting marks start of the season with festive celebration

MEGAN HARRIS
The Observer

Six-year-old Raquel Romero loves to sing and dance.

So when she got to perform at the Scarborough Civic Centre's tree-lighting event on Dec. 1, she was all smiles.

Raquel, in a red dress and reindeer ears, sang popular Christmas songs along with three other children and their instructor, Jacqueline John. It was one of several performances at the event, a community celebration to kick off the holidays. The event is usually an annual one, but it didn't take place last year because the Civic Centre needed space for an H1N1 vaccine clinic.

"We're definitely happy to have [the tree lighting] back again," said Derek Trenchard, Civic Centre events coordinator. "It's always a great event to kick off the season."

Raquel's mom, Carmen Romero, was at the event to watch her daughter perform. So were Raquel's grandmother, great-aunt and a neighbour.

"It feels very special to see her up there," Romero said. "Anything she does, to me it's great."

Beneficial to community

Scarborough councillors Mike Del Grande, Gary Crawford and Michael Thompson were among the crowd taking in the show. Thompson said he's glad the event was reinstated this year because of the joy it brings.

"I think these types of events are really important to the community," he said.

"It celebrates community, and you see talented young people and leaders who bring out the best in them. And tonight was well attended — it's a great way to kick off the Christmas season."

The Agincourt Collegiate jazz band, Scarborough youth choir TC3 and singer John also performed at the tree lighting.

Children were treated to free hot chocolate and cookies, craft tables and a visit from Santa.

The tree-lighting event is just one scheduled stop for the TC3 choir, which tours both nationally

and internationally. The children, who range in age from 7 to 17, were led by Rev. Denise Gillard and performed several holiday classics.

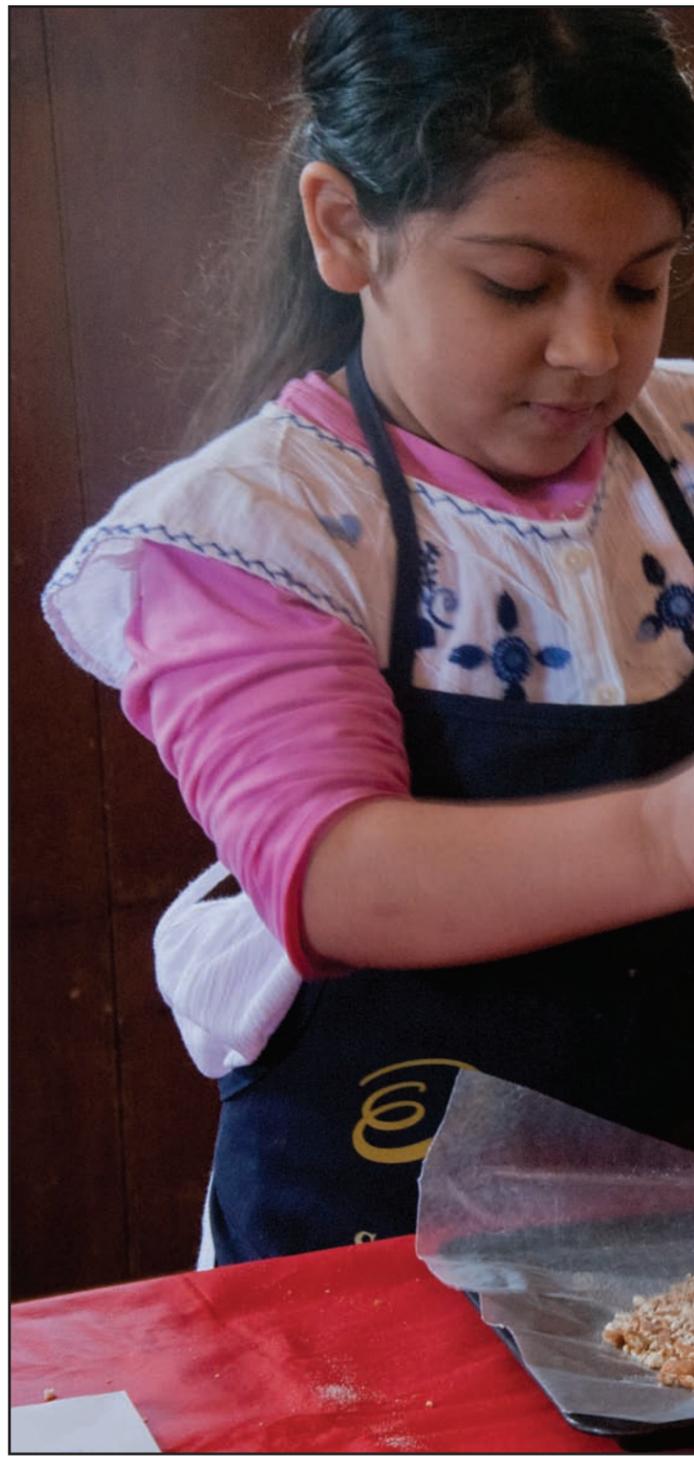
"My favourite part about performing is seeing the kids shine," Gillard said.

"Every child in TC3 is talented, but it takes a lot to stand before strangers and really let loose. When I see it happen, it makes it all worth it."

See torontoobserver.ca for a calendar of holiday events in your area.



One of the child singers gets a chance to sit on Santa's lap.



Six-year-olds Valeria Ruiz and Saige Tsolakis cook up vanilla balls.

Local kids visit

Museum allows children to picture the holidays in a different light



MEGAN HARRIS/The Observer

Volunteer Cassie West sings a historic Christmas carol to visitors.



Buses should keep running frequently after 7 p.m.

— Lesean Rant, 15



Transit is really slow and so you're always late because of delays.

— Jonathan Mendoza, 16



The city needs to shovel snow quicker and fix potholes on the road

— Lisa Baird, 15



MEGAN HARRIS/The Observer

a Victorian Christmas tradition, with the help of Scarborough Museum volunteer Michelle Ridout.

traditions of Christmas past

MEGAN HARRIS
The Observer

It may be 2010 but 8-year-old Sierra Tsolakis and her 6-year-old sister Saige recently spent an afternoon in the 1800s.

The two took part in a Victorian baking workshop at the Scarborough Museum Dec. 3, part of the museum's Festive Christmas Weekends, which take place the first three weekends in December.

"Kids get a chance to experience what it's like to bake without using electricity," Scarborough Museum curator Madeline Callaghan said. "It's kind of like going to someone's house because it has a homey feel and it's very welcoming."

During the workshop,

Sierra, Saige and other participants worked with museum volunteers to bake the sorts of holiday sweets Victorians would have made, using traditional methods from that time period, including working with a wood-burning stove.

The museum at Thomson Memorial Park consists of a log house and early farm house decorated as they would have been in the 1800s. The property's main house, the Cornell House, was built in 1858.

Museum visitors got to tour the property and learn about its history from museum staff and volunteers dressed in period costumes.

"There's a lot of history in Scarborough but it's not so self-evident," Callaghan said. "We're not just looking

“
Kids get a chance to bake without electricity
— Madeline Callaghan

at the early history. We're also in various ways trying to connect the past to the

present. We try to tap into the really neat stories of longtime residents and newcomers, to try to make it everybody's history, because we like to see a continuum of it. There's not just this past and suddenly the present.”

David Johnson, 84, has volunteered at the museum for eight years. He said he loves doing it because he is especially interested in museums and Canadian history, some of which he got to experience first-hand as a kid.

"I grew up in the country up north of here with a great uncle and aunt who were more or less pioneers of that area," Johnson said. "I was exposed to things like a wood stove to cook every day, so I was quite used to that type of living."

TTC: 'Overwhelming' response to toy drive

BILLY COURTICE
The Observer

TTC employee Chris Nottbeck spent much of a blustery Dec. 7 driving.

Road conditions were terrible and the commute was slow as drivers braced themselves for an overnight blizzard.

Nottbeck, however, couldn't have been happier to be out on the road.

In his trunk and backseat sat several boxes bursting with new toys, which will soon find themselves in the anxious hands of underprivileged children on Christmas morning.

"I was happy that I had to take the toys down to Birchmount — we've had so many toys come in," Nottbeck said. "It's great to see all these toys."

Nottbeck is one of dozens of volunteers who took part in the TTC's annual Stuff-the-Bus campaign, which urges Christmas shoppers to drop off a toy at TTC buses parked in front of Wal-Mart stores across the city.

"All the toys are going up to Newmarket to the Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness (CCFAA)," Nottbeck said inside the bus in front of the Wal-Mart on Milner Avenue. Surrounding him were more than a dozen boxes of toys. The bus had already been unloaded once that morning.

"We've really been overwhelmed with all the support we're getting this year," said

event organizer Kevin Kane.

He said the event began on a much smaller scale in 2005.

"When I first started this thing, I just had a few boxes in the back of my car," Kane told an applauding audience at the TTC's Birchmount garage Monday morning. "Now we've surpassed our goal of \$50,000 worth of toys."

"Next year we will be setting our sights even higher," Kane said.

"Wal-Mart has been helpful, Q107 does advertising, the TTC donates the bus and all sorts of volunteers," said CCFAA president Ellen Campbell. "It's been so great every year."

Campbell, who founded the charity in 1993, is a survivor of childhood sexual abuse.

"This drive is to promote awareness," she said. "It's important that people help out year-round and don't forget about these children after Christmas."

Five of the bus drop-off locations were in Scarborough, including one outside the Birchmount garage, which, Kane said, "was completely packed this morning."

"I don't often get to see the kids, but I see the mothers," Campbell said. "They always come in so amazed. 'I can just pick any toy?' they always say.

"And it's not just one toy. They can take home a few toys. They always leave so happy."



BILLY COURTICE/The Observer

TTC's Kevin Kane and CCFAA president Ellen Campbell cut the cake after another successful "Stuff-the-bus".



The TTC should run later than 2 a.m., at least until 3 a.m.
— Andrew Gavloski, 20



Apartment building managers should check up on their properties more often
— Michelle Harrypaul, 15



They should build a subway line that runs north of Finch and a train from Finch to Kipling
— Vlado Simic, 20

Ford-ward thinking

If you thought Rob Ford would come into his mayoral term diplomatically, without causing any waves, think again. His actions in recent days show it's obvious he doesn't care how many toes he has to step on to get his way.

But can a divided city council achieve the big promises he made?

Rob Ford's swearing-in ceremony kicked off with a bright pink jacket and an attack on kooky left-wing pinko cyclists, as expected from flamboyant TV personality Don Cherry.

Cherry's three-minute speech reiterated his support for Ford, bragging about "all the millions and millions and thousands of dollars" Ford would save for the city.

Although Ford claimed he didn't know Cherry was going to attack his opponents, did you expect anything less from a right-wing professional commentator?

It's too bad Ford created such an awkward mood in what should have been a celebratory event.

Heated debates between the newly invigorated right-wing and left-wing council will mean a bigger voice for the residents of Scarborough, thanks to Ford's new executive committee and caucus.

Mike Del Grande of Ward 39, Scarborough-Agincourt will "stop the gravy train" by chairing the Budget Committee and have a strong ally in Michelle Berardinetti, Ward 35 Scarborough Southwest.

Norm Kelly, (Ward 40, Scarborough-Agincourt) will kill the LRT in favour of subways on the TTC Board, even though millions have already been spent on the project. Not to mention it will cost millions more to cancel the already-started project.

I thought Ford was supposed to decrease the operating budget. How does increasing the police budget, 90 per cent of which is salaries and benefits, fit in with his promise of fiscal responsibility?

—Saeda Raghe

Merry Christmas or happy holidays

For a holiday celebrated by billions around the world, Christmas has been one of the more controversial celebrations through the years.

Many secular aspects of the holiday have raised opposition: the tree, the gifts, decorations, caroling and bells. But over the last two decades, religious facets of Christmas have sparked the most notable debates.

In earlier days the use of the letter X in Xmas was the cause of disputes.

In the last 20 years, it's been the use of the word Christmas itself. Saying "Happy Holidays" is suggested to replace "Merry Christmas".

We, as people tend to want to hold onto traditions with righteous indignation in the name of nostalgic ideology. When Wal-Mart told its employees to say "Happy Holidays" in 2005, it took just one season for the public uproar to make the retailer change its policy to include the use of Merry Christmas again.

The reason Christmas is now deemed offensive is the root word Christ.

It's interesting to note the word holiday is an English compound word for holy and day that surfaced in the 1500s. So because religion is the subject matter regardless of the saying used, non-religious people might still have reason to criticize.

Mexico's Las Posadas, and other religious holidays like Hanukkah, Christmas, Eid al-Adha, Yule and Kwanzaa all occur in the month of December. Not to mention New Year's is considered a holiday, and therefore can technically be encompassed under Happy Holidays.

Why should a person's choice of words matter when ultimately all they're doing is wishing others well?

So is change all that bad? If the use of a couple different words will appease the largest amount of people, then why not use it?

On behalf of all of us here at *The Observer*, Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

—Kaitlynn Ford



BRADLEY FEATHERSTONE/The Observer

East Scarborough residents are left out of mayor's transit plans

Oh, Rob Ford. You have to wonder what's going through that head of his.

Getting rid of Transit City would rob thousands of Scarborough residents of rapid transit.

The proposed replacement Sheppard subway route will only travel to Scarborough Town Centre. It will also serve drastically fewer people than the accepted light rapid transit (LRT) plans, which would extend all the way to Morningside Avenue, connecting the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus with the rest of the city in time for the 2015 Pan Am Games.

Scarborough residents will truly be the losers if Ford is successful in his plot.

Luckily, Ford's declaration that Transit City is dead may still have a long way to go before it's written in stone. His plan still needs to be accepted by the Toronto Transit Commission and both the provincial and federal governments, which put up the funds for Transit City.

And that's not to mention the rest of city council, which can overrule Ford's goal to end Transit City. Fortunately it looks like many councillors haven't let the new mayor pressure them to see things his way.

Ward 38 councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker agrees that Transit city is what's best for the people of Scarborough. His main concern is that an enormous area of Scarborough would not have access to



Bradley Featherstone

Scrapping Transit City was one of his campaign promises. This is one promise that should be broken.

rapid transit if Transit City is scrapped. He also questions whether or not it is possible to build a subway extension in time for the 2015 Pan Am Games.

Even if the subway line is completed by the time the Pan Am Games come to town, it will only get you to McCowan and Ellesmere. Leaving a long cramped bus ride to get to the facilities at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus. Transit City would take riders right to Sheppard and Morningside, leaving them only a short walk from where all the action is to take place.

It seems odd that Ford was elected on

a campaign to end the "gravy train" and save our money, but now he's willing to throw away the \$130 million that has already been spent on Transit City. If the plan is scrapped, this is money we will never see again.

Many of the contracts for Transit City have also already been paid, and getting out of the \$1.3-billion deal with Metrolinx will cost us another large sack of cash. There's also the possibility of legal bills associated with getting out of the contracts, only to then sign new deals for subways.

It's been said that Ford's plan for a Sheppard subway extension will cost \$4 billion more than the LRT line, which has already broken ground. But no one has answers as to where this money will come from. Our provincial and federal governments have already made it clear that they have given us everything they have to offer.

And good luck getting a subway line built in Scarborough by the time the 2015 Pan Am Games come rolling in.

Ford needs to take a look at where service is needed most and how the TTC can best serve its citizens. Just throwing as much as you can underground will benefit the construction industry more than the city's transit riders, at least for the foreseeable future.

Clearly, scrapping Transit City was one of his campaign promises. This is one promise that should be broken.

THE EAST TORONTO OBSERVER

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Choo-choosing the track to fun

Scarborough railroaders club open house draws young interest

NADIA PERSAUD

The Observer

No one remembers the last time Baytz Bed and Breakfast had visitors. The hotel is near a track where a train passes by every few minutes, but passengers never get on or off the series of vehicles.

This is because the people are less than two centimetres tall and the trains are about 1/187th of the real life-size trains.

At the Scarborough Model Railroaders Club, buildings like this miniature bed and breakfast, recreate southern Ontario in the 1950s when the steam and diesel engine trains ruled supreme.

The Dec. 4 open house brought a packed audience to the modest two-floor museum near Danforth Road and Birchmount Road.

The club has more than two dozen members operating the trains from different areas of the track. Troubleshooter Ray Stacey said it's a difficult job and things can go wrong quickly.

"I have to make sure the trains don't derail," said Stacey, a 19-year club member, after removing a miniature tree that fell on the track and derailed a train. "Very easily you can end up with cars strewn all over the floors or other scenery."

The club, formed in 1962, has two complete floors of



NADIA PERSAUD/The Observer

Cohwan Poirier 5, watches as the model trains operated by Martin Lansche, 50, whiz around the track at the Scarborough Model Railroaders Club. This model track replicates a scene in the Appalachian mountains.

tracks and scenery. The HO scale in the basement occupies the whole space while the N-scale occupies a majority of space on the upper floor.

"The N-scale concentrates on the details of very long trains running on nice long tracks of scenery," said Lloyd Reid, an operator of the HO-scale. "At the HO-scale we concentrate on shorter trains that take products to markets and take people from station to station."

The HO-scale has scenes of people along the 117 sq. ft.

of track building houses and embracing family members at train stations. Farms and bed and breakfast joints open to railway workers are also on display.

Reid said another difference between the two levels is the noise. The N scale trains are smaller than their counterparts at the HO scale and can't carry sound equipment.

The club is constantly expanding.

"It's unbelievable what they've done, said Barry Villiers, an attendee with his

three grandsons and two sons. "This used to be a walkway two years ago and the area in front was a meeting room," he said pointing to the winding train tracks that take up more than 75 per cent of the floor space.

The club plans to add two new tracks for the trains to wind around.

Stacey said while the club will buy the tracks and the trains, the scenery will be made by the club members.

"A lot of the scenery, you make it yourself," Stacey

said. "In some cases, you can go into the valley and look for some weeds and if it looks like a tree, then spray paint it green and voila – an instant tree."

The club meets every Tuesday night to operate and maintain its trains, tracks, and scenery.

"A lot of us have home layouts that you do by yourself," Stacey said. "And at a club it's a sharing of ideas. And what you found frustrating by yourself in a club environment becomes a lot of fun."

Study finds why we choose to cheat

ALINA SMIRNOVA

The Observer

You're more likely to do something bad if you can do it passively, a study has found.

Two psychology studies conducted at the University of Toronto at Scarborough showed people are more likely to deny help and cheat if it required little effort.

"It's a lot more difficult for people to morally transgress when they feel they're explicitly transgressing," said Rimma Teper, a PhD student and the lead author of the study.

She said this study shows why people may not take part in actions that are morally good.

"It's very easy for people to bypass opportunities to be a good moral person because a lot of the time they don't feel they're doing anything wrong by bypassing these opportunities," Teper said.

She says the findings can also be applied to the way charities solicit donations.

"There are more and less effective methods of getting people to do pro-social things," Teper said.

Hard to click 'no'

The first study asked if participants were willing to help a student with a disability finish a problem-solving set. For one group, the question came up on a screen and people had to either click "yes" or "no." The second was given an option to click for more details on how to volunteer. The first group was five times more likely to agree, Teper said.

"People find it more difficult to click 'no' than they do to click 'continue,'" Teper said. "Because saying 'No, I don't want to help this person,' is conceptualized in explicit moral transgression."

In a second study, a group was split in two and given math problems to solve. The first group was told there was a computer error and if they clicked the space bar, the answer would show up. The second group was told that if they waited long enough, the answer would show up. The second group was more likely to cheat on the test.

Precious Gems gives sparkling start to art



CAITLIN STOJANOVSKI/The Observer

Aileen Hill donated this photograph to raise money to help send children in need to arts camp.

CAITLIN STOJANOVSKI

The Observer

Kenya Daniel, 11, excitedly greeted guests at the Cedar Ridge Creative Centre on Dec. 2 and encouraged them to buy donated items from their silent auction. Daniel wants to give other kids, ages 8 to 13, a chance to attend the Camp Expression art camp.

"It's fun being able to do it with the rest of the kids. The instructors are really nice," said Kenya Daniel, 11, who has participated in the art camp for three years. "I beg my aunt, Aileen, every year to go."

Daniel described a *Wizard*

of Oz game the camp created last year.

"I have up to plan D," said Daniel, detailing her goal of being either a fashion designer, photographer, model, or garbage person. Attending the art camp helps her achieve those goals, she said.

The auction is put on annually by Precious Gems, started by Aileen Hill in 2005, to raise money to send kids to the camp.

Hill is applying for charitable designation this year, so she can issue tax receipts to donors. She aims to expand the program to include music and dance camps.

"We ask students to write a

paragraph on why they want to go to art camp, and then another one after the camp is finished," Hill said.

Most of the students wrote that they had fun and the experience helped them make new friends.

"Every year I worry we won't get any donations," said Hill, "But we always do. This year we filled three rooms with donated items."

A hand-knitted sweater, stone bracelets, elaborately designed earrings and necklaces, crafted pottery, photographs, and signed art pieces were only a few of the items that were being sold during the silent auction.



We don't need more buses but buses should follow their schedules better.

— Paul Wei, 23



The city should use minimal income of taxpayers to cover all expenses.

— Ray Katrayan, 50



I'd like to see more programs for the community that would provide work experience.

— Rosa Pinto

SPORTS

Titans dominate on ice

Warriors unable to recover after second period onslaught

KIMBERLEE NANCEKIVELL
The Observer

The David and Mary Thomson Titans dominated the West Hill Warriors hockey team in an easy 8-3 victory at Centennial Arena Dec. 7.

After a slow start, the Titans' Ryan Turley scored halfway through the first period. The Titans scored two more goals before the period was over.

Teammates Tommy Longo and Joshua Ryan got a little rough and were sent to the box, with Longo serving a two-minute penalty for tripping. Ryan served his own two-minutes for hooking.

Adam Keating scored the Warriors' first goal with just over a minute left in the first, ending the period with a score of 3-1.

The Titans showed no mercy in the second period,



KIMBERLEE NANCEKIVELL/The Observer

Three Titans players rush a West Hill player as part of a strong offence that led to an easy 8-3 Titans victory Dec. 7.

scoring a quick goal in the first 30 seconds.

Warriors player Cody Stankowski scrounged up another goal which was followed by a flurry of four

unanswered goals from the Titans.

Keating ended the Titans' goal streak with his second goal of the game, but the Warrior's fate was sealed.

The second period ended with the Titans up five goals. The final score was 8-3 after an uneventful third period.

The Titans sit second in the TDSB boys East Region

Tier 2 division. West Hill is in eighth spot, above Woburn CI.

Visit torontoobserver.ca for more hockey scores

Undefeated Warriors slay Lions

PATRYCJA KLUCZNIK
The Observer

In a game between the two top Toronto high school basketball teams, the West Hill Warriors beat the Stephen Leacock Lions in a 64-55 victory at Stephen Leacock Collegiate Institute before a packed gymnasium on Dec. 6.

West Hill dominated the first quarter, jumping out to an early lead that lasted until the third quarter.

The Lions were trailing 22-8, but they managed to fight their way back from the double-digit deficit to tie the game at the end of 36 minutes.

"Whoever was going to win the fourth quarter was going to win this game," said West Hill coach Sturgeon after the victory.



PATRYCJA KLUCZNIK/The Observer

Stephen Leacock's #31, Andy Tran, attempts a pass while guarded by a West Hill Warrior. The Warriors won 64-55 on Dec. 6.

The Lions got their second wind at the start of the second half. With an effective zone offence, Stephen Leacock

was able to cut the deficit to single digits.

Three minutes into the third quarter, the Lions'

Kemar Wilson hit a jumper to cut the lead to four.

Keenan Black hit a three-point basket with 3:49 left to

play to bring the score within one point for Leacock.

West Hill answered with a basket from under the net, but Leacock's Mohib Abdali replied with a three-pointer to tie the game 41-41 with less than two minutes left in the third quarter.

After fighting for the lead in the final frame, the Warriors pulled ahead of the Lions for good with just over five minutes left to play.

With the win, West Hill remains undefeated in the Senior Boys Basketball Tier 1 East Division. The Lions slipped to second place with the loss.

The West Hill boys will face David and Mary Thomson on home court Dec. 16.

For Tier 1 basketball standings visit torontoobserver.ca

Sports Briefs

Birchmount outplayed

Birchmount Park CI fell 1-0 in a shutout loss Dec. 8 against Northern SS in girls hockey. Ellen Stevens scored the single goal.

Mowat boys sweep win

Sir Oliver Mowat CI dismantled Birchmount Park CI in Tier 1 boys curling with a 17-0 sweep Dec. 7. This is Mowat's second flawless victory, winning with no rocks scored against.

Webster leads Borden to win

Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI blew out Sir Robert Borden BTI in a Tier 1 senior boys basketball matchup 75-52. Roshane Webster led Borden with 18 points. In other east Toronto action Woburn CI crushed Birchmount Park CI 79-52. Jahlove Lynch spearheaded the Wildcats' victory with 27 points.

Goalies save with new program

Scarborough native Eric Wood hopes to change the landscape of hockey instruction with his Young Goalies of Canada hockey school. Wood plans to focus on bringing the service to local Scarborough teams and give back to the community. Unlike most hockey schools, Wood initially plans to offer his program free and year-round.

Laurier can't find traction

Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI was defeated in a close curling match against York Mills CI on Dec. 7. The Tier 1 girls curling squad from Laurier battled hard but fell 4-3 in the east region division.



Transit is horrible. They should do something about the RT.
— Dawn Hall, 16



They should also have more sports facilities in Scarborough.
— Andre Gomez, 16



There should be more support for arts programs in schools.
— Jennifer Fryer, 16