

The Scarborough

OBSERVER

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE

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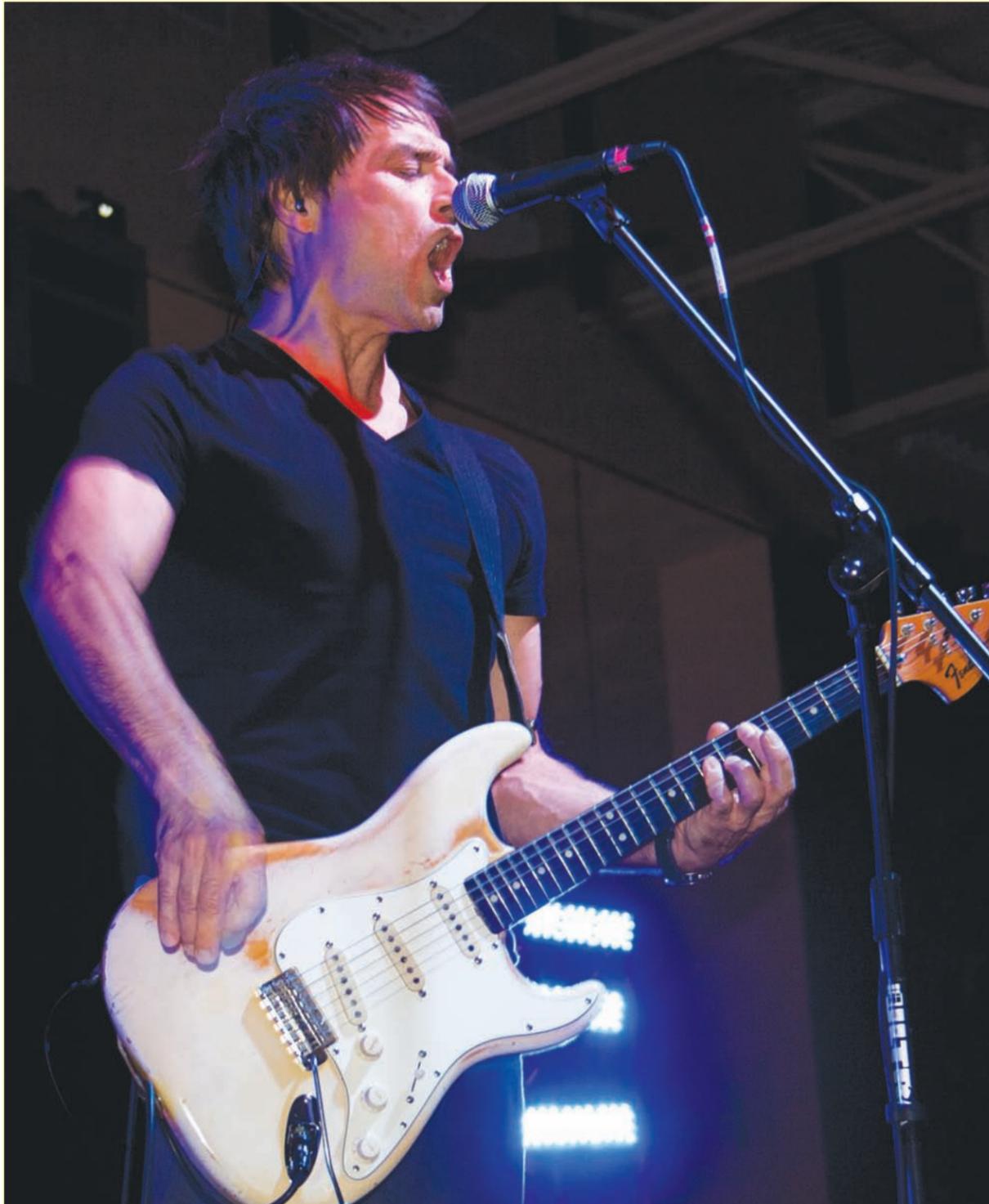
Fri. Oct. 21, 2011

torontoobserver.ca

Serving the Scarborough community since 2006

DRUM UP A STORM

Community centre opening at Kingston Road is new cultural hub for Scarborough's First Nations residents. **Page 3**



Erica Tiangco /// Observer

Scarborough gets Spooned!

Gordon Deppe, lead guitarist and vocalist of The Spoons, performs for local residents at a free concert held in honour of Centennial College's 45th anniversary on Oct. 15. Read more on page 8.

YOUR COMMUTE

Transit City back online

Internet petition to bring Transit City went viral with more than 1,800 signatures

By **MERSIHA GADZO**
The Observer

When East York resident Trish O'Reilly-Brennan posted a petition online to get the Transit City plan back, she had no idea how quickly it would spread.

With minimal promotion, it gathered over 1,600 signatures within a week.

O'Reilly-Brennan said all she did was let a few friends know about her petition through email and Facebook, and the petition took on a life of its own. Currently there are over 1,800 signatures, with a stated goal of 10,000.

"I was really bothered when [Mayor Rob] Ford got up on first day of administration and cancelled Transit City," O'Reilly-Brennan said. "I thought it was a really bad decision."

O'Reilly-Brennan hopes this petition might help bring Transit City back.

Transit City would provide

transit to more areas in Scarborough than Ford's alternative plan. The Transit City plan extends the Scarborough RT to Malvern Town Centre, and creates a Malvern LRT as well, starting from Kennedy, and connecting it with the Sheppard East LRT, which continues further east to the border of Pickering.

It provides service to areas which heavily rely on transit such as the University of Toronto Scarborough.

Ford's plan for Scarborough includes an Eglinton Crosstown and a Sheppard subway expansion, which covers much less in area.

The petition requests to bring back Transit City since it provides, as it states, "more transit for less money" compared to Ford's new subway plan.

"We all love subways, but that ship has sailed," O'Reilly-Brennan said.

For more on the transit routes, visit torontoobserver.ca

Area MP proposes speed-limiting bill

By **MARYAM SHAH**
The Observer

An early morning street race on Oct. 10 resulted in the death of a 25-year-old man, police say. He was racing another car when he lost control of his Honda Accord and crashed into a fire hydrant and a pole at Kennedy Road, and Finch Avenue E., splitting the car in two.

According to the police, the Honda's passenger fled the scene, but contacted them later in the afternoon.

Police are still looking for the second car, a two-door

black Infiniti G35.

Agincourt MP Jim Karygiannis cited the accident as yet another reason to pass a speed-limiting bill. The legislation would require cars to stop or slow down if they're going 30 kilometres per hour over the speed limit.



Karygiannis

He first introduced the private member's bill in 2006, and plans to reintroduce it in the House of Commons.

"Driving is a privilege, not a right," Karygiannis said. "The amount of money that we

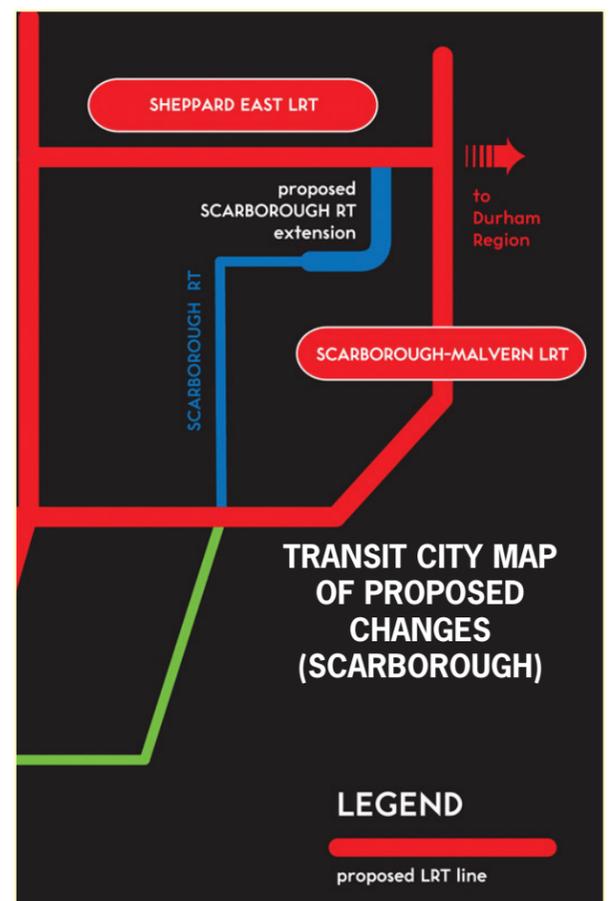
spend on people hurt in accidents, it's in the billions of dollars."

He added that getting GPS device manufacturers on board would be a good idea, as they could wire the GPS to inform cars of the speed limit in the area. If the car were speeding, the limiter would kick in.

"There's no way you can hit the maximum," he said. "At 180, it cuts me off. If I do over 150, I lose my car anyways."



Read more on speed limiters in the news section at torontoobserver.ca



Courtesy of the TTC

TTC makes a vow

Public panel set up to help carry out promise to improve service

By JANICE YEUNG
The Observer

Last Wednesday the TTC announced another customer service panel, which will include top TTC officials and eight members of the public who take the TTC regularly.

It has also hired its first customer service officer, Chris Upfold, who has held a variety of customer service posts with the London Underground for more than seven years.

"These discussions to improve customer's experiences have been going on for some time now," TTC chair Karen Stintz said. "Customer service is a cultural mindset, we are committed to it even through fiscal challenges."

Stintz said she's received complaints from Scarborough residents, but stated that she could not remember any particular one off the top of her head.

Complaints, such as about fares, show what concern commuters most, Stintz said.

"It is possible that as part of the budget cuts, we would change the prices of fares."

She insisted on keeping all bus routes while main-



Janice Yeung /// Observer

Anthony Hume, bus driver of route 190 (Scarborough Centre Rocket Eastbound), says the TTC's No. 1 problem is not about customer service but rather the technology in the transit system.

taining enough service for commuters.

Khyati Panee, a student at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus (UTSC), complained about buses being too crowded in Scarborough.



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

"Some stops are too far apart and commuters would have to walk huge distances

to get to where they need to go," Breanna Johnstone, a student at UTSC said.

"I have to wait for at least half an hour to get on bus 116 every day. I hate this route," she said.

"I don't think budget cuts are a good idea because services are already pretty bad around here."



■ Chimakurthy

Woman missing since Oct. 3

Toronto Police are seeking the public's help to locate a missing Scarborough woman. She has not been seen since Oct. 3 at 6 p.m.

Sulochana Chimakurthy, 26, was last seen at Eglinton Avenue East and Birchmount Road.

Chimakurthy lives alone and is an immigrant from India. Police were notified when the IT worker did not show up for work.

Police say she may be depressed and it is feared she may hurt herself.

Anyone with information should contact Crime Stoppers.

~ JAMES WATTIE

Local family jailed in Saudi Arabia

A former Scarborough resident is in jail in Saudi Arabia along with his two kids and wife.

Majeed Uddin Ahmed and his wife Zareen were arrested on Sept. 22 in Jeddah on unknown charges, according to a statement released by Jim Karygiannis, MP for Scarborough-Agincourt.

The reasons behind the arrest are unclear.

"There was a raw deal that his [Ahmed's] father-in-law was working on with one of the Saudi princes and the Saudis just went in and swept the whole family and put them in jail," Karygiannis said in an interview.

Karygiannis says

Diane Ablonczy, the Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, has been lax in dealing with the case.

He says he contacted her office after he learned of the arrest from Ahmed's father, a longtime Scarborough resident.

Karygiannis was told Canadian officials in Saudi Arabia will "try and go" to visit the family in prison.

"Later, I found out from the family that they've been told, 'This is out of our way

and once we have a tour up there, we'll go and see him,'" Karygiannis said.

Ablonczy's office and members of the family couldn't be reached for comment by press time.

~ AAKANKSHA TANGRI

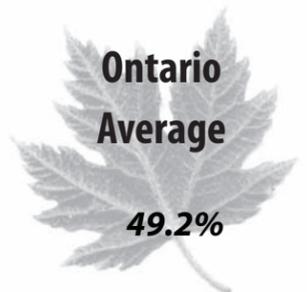


● Read more on this story in the News section at torontoobserver.ca

Pickering-Scarborough East
50.5%

Scarborough-Agincourt
44.1%

Scarborough Centre
45.5%



Voter turnout in the six Scarborough ridings compared to the provincial average in the Oct. 6 election.

Scarborough-Guildwood
48.3%

Scarborough-Rouge River
44.0%

Scarborough Southwest
48.9%

Did you vote? Probably not

Record low turnout despite promising advance polling

By AAKANKSHA TANGRI
The Observer

Voter turnout reached a record low on Oct. 6 as Ontarians went to the polls.

Only 49.2 per cent of eligible voters cast their ballots — the lowest response Ontario politics has seen in 36 years.

In Scarborough, first voter turnout estimates show that the riding of Scarborough-Agincourt had the lowest response with only 44.1 per cent of eligible voters voting.

According to one political analyst, while it is easy to blame poor campaign strategies and dissatisfaction with politicians, low voter turnout is a rising trend in Ontario politics.

"The low turnout in the Ontario election appears to be a continuation of a long-term and wide-ranging trend rather than an anomalous expression of disaffection with this particular Ontario election," said Christopher Cochrane, University of Toronto political science professor.

Low voter turnout doesn't

always favour incumbents as widely assumed because of the track record they carry into the election.

"If the incumbent hasn't governed to their supporters' liking, then they may find it difficult to get their supporters to come out and vote," Cochrane said.

Pickering-Scarborough East had the highest voter turnout with 50.5 per cent, a riding that had no incumbent.

Analysts expected a higher voter turnout after more than

600,000 voters cast their ballots in advance polling.

"One would think that advance polling would increase turnout — and it may well do that — but despite the best efforts of Elections Ontario ... the level of turnout is continuing to decline," Cochrane said.

Cochrane says making voting mandatory is one way to improve voter turnout.

"I'm not a supporter of this idea, but it would solve the problem of low voter turnout."

COMMUNITY

Aboriginal facility opens

Scarborough Life Centre celebrates native culture

By JESSICA LEE
The Observer

First Nations elder Kevin Fugita remembers a time when his culture was discouraged by the government.

"It started in residential schools," he said. "That's where we lost our culture."

Now, a new community centre in Scarborough aims to counter that legacy.

Officially opened on Oct. 11, the Scarborough Family Life Centre on Galloway Road and Kingston Road is a hub for First Nations activity.

"We do cultural activities, we do hand-drumming, we learn our songs, we do traditional craft-making and we make medicine pouches to carry our medicine," said Kelly Khashemi, the centre's youth engagement worker.

On any given Tuesday during culture night, the sounds of drums and singing can be heard in the basement of the new centre. On the first Tuesday of each month, a women's ceremony led by an elder.

"This is what we used to do," Fugita said during a com-



Jessica Lee // Observer

Aqua, a volunteer, leads the children in traditional native singing and drumming on Oct. 11 at the newly opened Scarborough Family Life Centre on Galloway Road.

munity dinner at the centre on Oct. 11. "We used to get together, have a meal and talk about things — work it out as a community.

"That's what we really lost. I think most cultures have lost that."

Previously called House of Ghesig (Sunshine) and operat-

ing out of a small brick house on the same corner, the centre changed its name after adding the new building.

The purpose of the gatherings is to educate First Nations people and other curious individuals of cultural traditions.

"Basically, we're learning from our elders and what

we learn, we carry down to our children," said Krista McQuabbie, a volunteer at the centre.

McQuabbie teaches traditional native craft making at the Scarborough Family Life Centre.

"My mom taught me when I was 11 or 12 years old," she

said. "She only taught me the basics. The other stuff I had to come up on my own."

McQuabbie's mother was put in a residential school at a young age, which focused on assimilating children to official Canadian culture.

■ For more, see News at torontoobserver.ca

NEWS FLASHES

Scarborough man to be sentenced

The 39-year-old husband and father of two reportedly forced his wife to engage in sex acts with his friends. He also beat her with a sword and held a sword to her neck if she did not comply with his wishes.

The man was also convicted in June of physically assaulting his then 10-year-old and six-year old sons.

Man pleads guilty, faces jail

A Scarborough man accused of forcing his elderly mother to live in a garage last February will face eight months of jail time.

Kwong Yan pleaded guilty to failing to provide the necessities of life to his 68-year-old mother.

Yan's mother was found unconscious and suffering from frostbite last winter.

Elderly man in serious condition

An 82-year-old man was hit by a car backing out of a driveway on Brimley Road and Sheppard Avenue in Scarborough.

The man was rushed to hospital early in the morning on Oct. 14 with serious head injuries.

The incident is still under investigation.

Scarborough man stabbed

A Scarborough man was stabbed in the throat near Markham Road and Eglinton Avenue E. late on Oct. 11. The condition of the victim has not been released.

One person is in custody following the assault.



James Wattie // Observer

Street renamed to Toronto Zoo Avenue

Scarborough residents living along Meadowvale Road north of Hwy. 401 will have to change their addresses to Toronto Zoo Avenue next year.

The decision came this summer after the zoo's management board responded to a loss in business — people have a hard time finding the right exit off the 401.

The province will be able to signal interchanges and exits by putting "Toronto Zoo" on highway signs.

— Alex Kozovski

Board faces byelection bill

By YAMRI TADESSE
The Observer

The Ontario government will not foot the bill for a byelection to elect new Toronto District School Board trustees, as two seats on the board are empty following the election of Micheal Coteau and Soo Wong to Queen's Park on Oct. 6.

"The ministry will not pay the byelection costs to fill two vacancies at the TDSB because the board has a choice of filling the vacancies by appointing a person rather than holding a byelection," Gary Wheeler, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Education said.

"Byelection costs will be reimbursed by the government only when a school board is legally obligated to run a byelection or has to pay for election recounts and com-

pliance audits."

According to Jerry Chadwick, trustee for Scarborough-Southwest, the right thing to do is to choose the democratic process.

"It's too early in the term to appoint somebody," he said. "It takes away from the voters' right of selection."

Deciding whether to hold a byelection or appoint a trustee will probably turn into "a long debate," Chadwick said.

If the board decides to appoint a trustee, it could appoint the candidates who came second to Coteau and Wong in the last TDSB election.

Sam Sotiropoulos, who finished second to Wong by about 500 votes last year, is

undecided on whether or not he will take the position if it were offered to him.

"To be honest, I have yet to discuss the matter with my wife and family and I would prefer not to speculate on hypothetical situations at this point," he said.

The school board will meet on Nov. 16 to discuss the matter. Chen said the board is likely to decide to hold a byelection.

"I think the board, based on my conversations with my colleagues, will decide to hold a by-election simply because it is more democratic and allows people to have a say," he said.

Soo Wong was criticized for "wearing two hats" during her campaign to become an MPP. But her former colleague disagrees.

"It's totally appropriate for [Wong and Coteau] to go for it," Chadwick said.



■ WONG



● For more on this story, visit the news section at torontoobserver.ca



Halloween is fast approaching, but it's not too late to put together a great costume without breaking the bank.

HALLOWEEN treats at Value Village

By KAYLA KREUTZBERG
Toronto Observer

It's not Christmas that brings in new customers at the Value Village at Lawrence Avenue E. It's Halloween.

"Halloween is our big season, it's like our Christmas," Jason Boyle, Value Village store manager said. "It always has been and it continues to be. You'll see our highest traffic this time of year, it's when we get our most new customers."

Boyle said October is by far the busiest month, mostly because Value Village features many brand new costumes and accessories.

"It's a great place to shop for used items, people can build their own unique costume from the products that we sell," he said.

Customer Rob Martinez said he comes to Value Village because "they have a lot of accessories that a lot

of places don't have, or do have the accessories just at astronomical prices."

Boyle said Value Village draws three different types of customers: "Some customers come in and want their prepackaged costumes that are ready to go, some people will buy some used items and accessorize them with the new, and some people are most creative and most budgetary responsible will just go to our used [items] and build their own costume," he said.

Gabrielle Torres was searching for a prepackaged costume. She came to Value Village because "I went to Party Packagers and Spirits Halloween and [Value Village] is a bit cheaper here and I don't want to spend a lot of money."

A Supergirl costume at Value Village costs around \$16.99, Party Packagers

sells the same costume for \$39.99

Nicola Dye, Value Village Halloween consultant said she feels this year is going both ways

with people either buying brand new costumes or putting together their own.

"Depending on what the cost is for the already made one and if they can put together one with used items for cheaper, then they will go with that," she said.

Boyle said that superhero costumes are the number one sellers among children. Iron Man and Transformers costumes are already sold out for young boys, as well as Supergirl costumes for young girls.

Dye said she hasn't seen a lot of adult shoppers yet because "they're really just waiting till it's close to the time but that's not really the best idea.



Sugarbuds bakery caters to the stars

From Jackson clan to KISS bassist Gene Simmons, celebs get their cake in Scarborough

By JESSICA MOY
The Observer

Sugarbuds baker Sabrina Singh presented KISS bassist Gene Simmons and fiancée Shannon Tweed a three-tier KISS-themed cake on the Marilyn Denis Show last month.

Red, orange, and grey icing covered the cake, which featured detailed figures of Simmons's family and other decorations, like studs and guitars. The edible art piece was auctioned at The Rally for Kids Gala at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

Sugarbuds on Old Kingston Road has delivered cakes to celebrities such as the family of Michael Jackson, Hugh Hefner, and the TV cast of *The Big Bang Theory*.

With a fine arts degree from Ryerson University, Singh's creativity first blossomed as a fashion and wedding photographer in Toronto. She got into the baking business as an opportunity to learn new techniques.

"I found I had a knack

for it," Singh said, as she iced sugar cookies.

"You get to use sculpting and painting."

With the boom in the cake industry a few years ago, her new-found skill turned into a business.

"I've been doing birthday cakes and family cakes and everyone was saying I should open up a bakery ... I took a chance and that's where we are," Singh said.

Having only taken a few formal baking classes, she learned most of her techniques on her own by reading and watching YouTube videos.

Singh's husband, Greg Robb, grew up in Scarborough, which is why the bakery has not moved to a busier location, such as downtown Toronto.

"He took me for a drive and I saw this area and it was so amazing, so beautiful with the Rouge Valley," Singh said.

"I just thought this is perfect, a perfect little village in the city, this is exactly what I'm looking for."



Jessica Moy // Observer

Elaborate cakes for celebrities and locals are created by Sabrina Singh of Sugarbuds.

Baseball camp a home run for local youth

By KYLE LARKIN
The Observer

Baseball in Scarborough is back on the rise, and it's in promising hands, too.

With the opening of Red Eye Pro Baseball last fall, kids four and up have a better chance to hone their skills.

Colin Cummins, director of operations and former independent league professional, opened the new training facility to address the growth problems baseball has been struggling with in Toronto.

"We're trying to give the guys as much of a chance to develop as possible," said Cummins, who brings more than 12 years of camp experience

to the diamond.

"Right now I think there's a lack of development in Toronto. I want to get us up to standard."

One of the key issues is that the Scarborough Stingers is the sole representative team, and it's only eight years old.

Once kids reach a certain age, they're forced to search for opportunities elsewhere or just stop playing seriously. Opportunity means everything for Cummins, who was once a final cut by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

"The goal is to make these kids not feel left behind," said Cummins.

"They deserve a shot. Even if they don't make it to the MLB, we want them to continue playing hard nonetheless."

THEATRE REVIEW



CLEVER, CLASSY COWARD

Courtesy Scarborough Theatre Guild

Haunted by the past: a comedy to leave you dying of laughter

By JANICE YEUNG
The Observer

For those who have an affection for England in the time between the world wars, *Blithe Spirit* proves to be a pleasant surprise at Scarborough's community theatre.

A classic comedy written by English playwright Noel Coward, the script is filled with wit, flamboyance and cheekiness.

Sticking to the roots of Coward's script, the entire play takes place in the setting of the living room of protagonist Charles Condomine's (Ted Powers) house in Kent, England.

Much of the play's most comical moments surround clairvoyant Madame Arcati, who Condomine invites to his house to attempt to communicate with spirits.

Elizabeth Van Wyck, the actress playing Arcati, is downright delightful and outrageously entertaining.

With her head of massive curls, dwarf-like stature and strangely exotic oriental costumes, she's an obvious eye-catcher onstage.

Her exuberant energy and long spans of chatter makes her the most dramatic character of all. The presence of this undoubtedly talented actress attests to the fact that there ought to be many more Scarborough residents who should support these community productions.

On the night of Oct. 14, the theatre

was only half full. Most in the audience were elderly couples.

It came as a mild surprise when most of them laughed at sexually explicit jokes.

The sexual undertones brought up by Elvira (Marisa King), Condomine's first wife, adds an intensity of emotion to the play. King is seductive and charming in many ways.

Appearing from a door at the top row of the theatre in a silvery gown and sparkling accessories, she makes her statement as the gorgeous but corrupt ghost antagonist from the start.

King is successful in portraying the temperamental and annoying woman who always manages to get her way through manipulating Condomine. Being the youngest on stage, she also inserts a fresh stimulus into the old-fashioned and classic play.

Although there are certain basic elements in Scarborough's community theatre — such

as the changing of scenes simply by

dimming the lights and stage

hands dressed in black moving

furniture around, lack of

variations in lighting and a

limited selection of costumes —

the ending technical scene

wowed the crowd when vases

were being thrown

on the floor and

tables turned over

without anyone seemingly

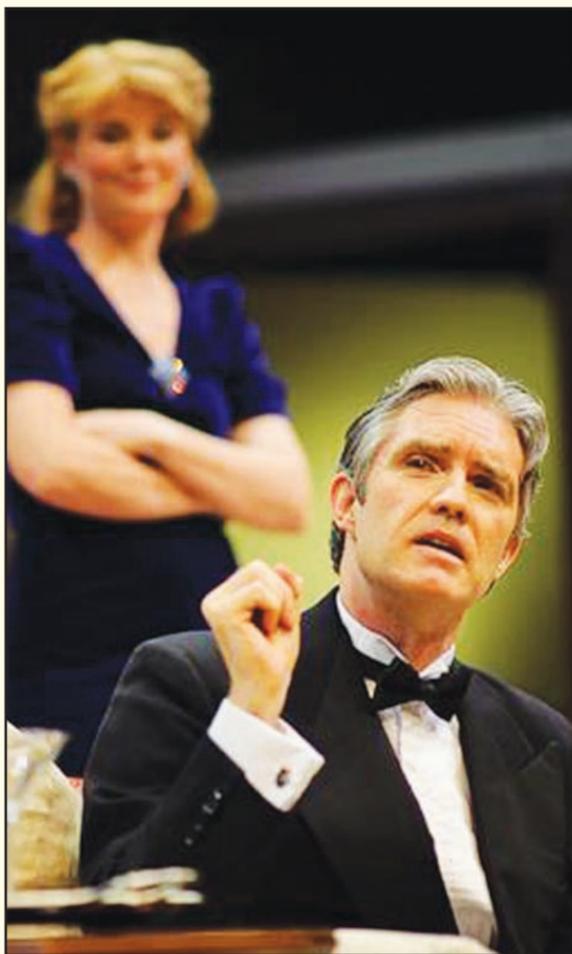
touching the objects.

Just another indication that the

Scarborough Theatre Guild

contains more theatrical surprises than

what an average resident might expect.



Catch the final showing of *Blithe Spirit* tonight. For more information, head to theatrescarborough.com. Charles and Ruth Condomine fall into a downward spiral in a love triangle involving a ghost.

MEET SOME BLITHE SPIRITS

Director: **Michael Jones**

Stage Manager: **Mignonne Sorlie**

Producer: **Lee Trian**

Charles: **Ted Powers**

Elvira: **Marisa King**

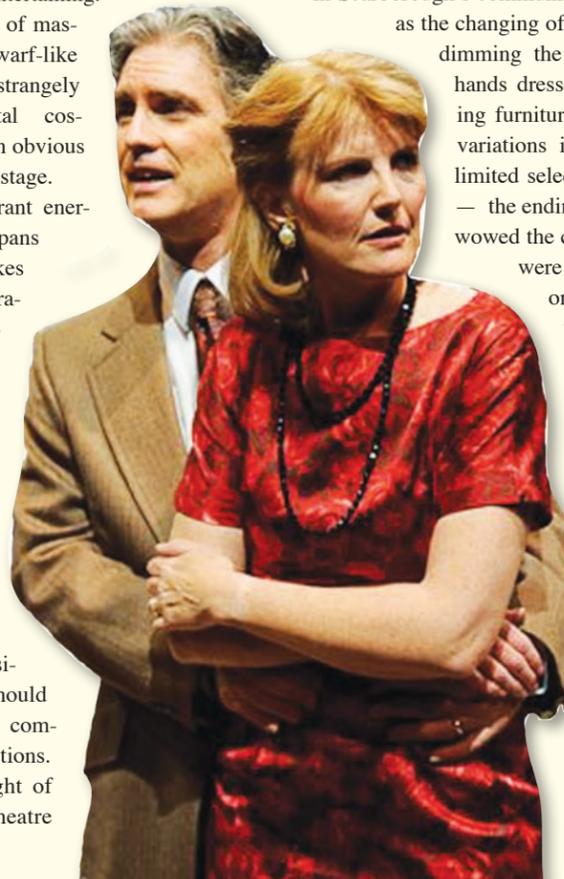
Ruth: **Karen Brown**

Madame Arcati: **Elizabeth Van Wyck**

Edith: **Opal Walters**

Dr. Bradman: **Ricard Pochkhanawala**

Mrs. Bradman: **Lynette Fairweather**



EDITORIALS

Hope for riders

Transit City may be back on track with a petition circulating

Hang on tight, commuters. Next stop, Transit City. Toronto can hope again, as the revival of Transit City is back on track. With a petition in circulation, and with just under 1,800 signatures within a few days, let it be heard, Mayor Ford: Transit City cannot be ignored.

And why should it? Transit City means more transit for less money. It covers all corners of the city conveniently. The usual commotion of riding the TTC would be minimized. The premature abandonment of the renovation plan cost the city substantial amounts in cancellation fees and penalties that have to be

paid to Ontario. Look at the \$333 million lost in federal money from axing the Sheppard East Light Rail Transit (LRT). Money spent on nothing.

Does it even make sense that one man can cancel such a huge project with massive repercussions to the city? What happened to city council? What happened to democracy?

It is hoped that more frustrated commuters will rally to the cause and call for the return of Transit City. It should not be difficult finding commuters unimpressed with the underwhelming transport in the city.

Transit City provides faster and more reliable transit to millions of commuters, and it doesn't waste valuable financial resources already sunk into the project. Ford's subway plan is not realistic. Considering the money already put into the LRT

plans, the proposal of putting subways everywhere instead is ludicrous. The cost of such an ambitious pipedream is too much for the city. And if Ford can cancel such a big project like Transit City the first time around, is it foolish to believe he cannot cancel his subway plans on a whim?

The wheels are in motion to restart the Transit City plan. As the petition grows, so will the commuters' resolve and the pressure on Ford. If they get it to a vote before City Council, then it will be up to the 45 members that should listen to the city's commuters, and solve the issue once and for all. The last thing the city needs is Ford taking them for another ride.

~ Alex Kozovski

Parliament of (almost) half the people

When 52 per cent of eligible voters cast ballots in the 2007 Ontario provincial election, journalists, political pundits and politicians themselves thought the low turnout was bad.

In this month's Oct. 6 election, that number dropped to just 49.2 per cent, shocking many observers who expected, based on strong participation in advance polls a better turnout than four years ago.

This year's turnout is the worst since 1867.

With fewer than half of Ontarians having chosen their leaders, MPPs in Queen's Park cannot truly say they represent Ontario.

The low voter turnout in 2007 should have startled politicians into action. They should have put more effort into finding out why almost half the province didn't relate to any of them. They should have found ways to engage the silent 48 per cent.

But they didn't.

It seems elections were, and continue to be, all about winning.

Politicians could blame voter apathy but the truth might be the contrary.

When more than half of eligible voters avoid the polls on election day, they're making a statement. They're saying that the politicians, regardless of party affiliation, don't make sense to them.

If leaders continue to ignore half of Ontario's electorate, they're not only missing out on huge numbers of potential votes, they're letting many people go unheard and unrepresented.

All newly elected and re-elected MPPs should take it upon themselves to reach out to those who didn't vote.

They must figure out what they are missing, because clearly, they are missing something.

~ Yeamrot Taddese



Andre Thurairatnam // Observer

COLUMN

The United Way to living and giving a better life

Giving is a character trait instilled in me as a little girl. Growing up, my mother gave away the clothes, shoes and toys my brother and I didn't use anymore to those less fortunate.

Donating has always been my mother's thing. Every Thanksgiving and Christmas morning was dedicated to

Christina Cheng



dropping off bags of goods to the United Way.

I believe helping the United Way is the way to living and giving a better life.

I remember not wanting my Thanksgiving breakfast pumpkin-spiced pancakes until I dropped off my "presents" to the "little girls" who needed them. And I recall not opening my Christmas gifts from Santa until I dropped off all the Barbie dolls and Polly Pockets I no longer needed.

If it weren't for the United Way, I wouldn't be so nostalgic for those early morning, feel-good donation runs.

I believe helping the United Way is the way to living and giving a better life.

The focus of the charity's efforts is on the three main areas that are essential to creating opportunities for a good life: helping people move from poverty to possibility; building healthy people and strong communities; and helping kids achieve their potential.

The United Way is based on a simple but profound belief: "What unites us is ultimately

far more powerful than what divides us."

When supporting the United Way, gifts go directly to its Community Fund, which supports strategies aimed at improving social conditions in our city.

The United Way brings people together from all walks of life to support a common purpose. It works to both build an understanding of our city's challenges and to mobilize people, ideas and resources to achieve shared aspirations.

Agencies such as Toronto Public Health, Action for Neighbourhood Change, Community Resource Connections of Toronto, YMCA Employment and Community Services have come together with the United Way under one roof to provide residents with various sought-after services and assistance.

Although Thanksgiving has come and gone, let's still gather our goods and donate to the United Way.

You can catch my mother and I continuing our giving tradition on Christmas morning. I hope you join us.

FIREFIGHTERS OPEN THEIR DOORS

By MARYAM SHAH
The Observer

Home safety goal of Fire Prevention Week

Your local firefighter might just be a jack-of-all-trades.

Matt Donnelly is, having worked at a variety of jobs, including a car dealership and as a parking attendant, before training as a firefighter

in the '80s.

"You could technically take the course right out of high school," he said about the process of becoming a firefighter. "But by the time they hire people, they tend to be a little older,

like 25. They prefer people that come with work experience."

Donnelly has been fighting fires for the past 30 years.

As part of Fire Prevention Week from Oct. 9 to 15, the fire department's training centre

at Sheppard Avenue East and McCowan Road held an open house. Interestingly, it lacks the traditional pole that firefighters have descended for years.

"We've had fire prevention week for over a hundred

years," division chief Jim Stoops said. "We hand out fliers in the area and at the school saying that children and their families come along."

The leading cause of local fires is cooking, Stoops said. "Be very careful around your stove, try to keep safe," he warned.

"I remember a fire I was

helping with, three-storey town-house fire," he said. "The windows actually started falling out of it because they weren't screwed in. They were foamed in by the construction people."

The family of four living there got out safely.

■ For more, see News at torontoobserver.ca



A young girl learns to aim a fire hose to hit a target in the distance at a firehouse near Sheppard Avenue and McCowan Road.

Maryam Shah // Observer

Brain breakthrough at UTSC

Researchers two steps closer to figuring out Alzheimer's cure

By CHRISTINA CHENG
The Observer

Medical researchers at the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) have been working around the clock to get brains ticking. Two new studies hit the science labs early last week.

Professor Kagan Kerman and chemistry student Anthony Veloso applied a new approach to examine amyloid plaque formation in Alzheimer's disease.

In the second study, which was published in the journal *Neuron*, UTSC chemistry professor Xiaohan Zhang, examines how zinc governs the formation of memories in the brain.

A new supplement in the current issue of the journal *Analyst* shows Kerman and Veloso's approach to a laser technique that allows a detailed view of the early minutes of amyloid aggregate formation in Alzheimer's.

"A laser focuses into a very thin beam and is aimed at solutions that contain amyloid-beta particles within the brain," Veloso explained.

Kerman said the amyloid plaque are protein deposits that "form around the brain

and interfere with its function," a process known to play a huge role in Alzheimer's disease.

They've also found the major component of protein deposits are in fact amyloid-beta: amino acids that link to-

gether to form harmful plaques in Alzheimer's patients but are otherwise harmless to normal individuals.

The news release on eurekaalert.org that reports on the new drug discovery shows an imaging system would help understand, diagnose and treat the disease.

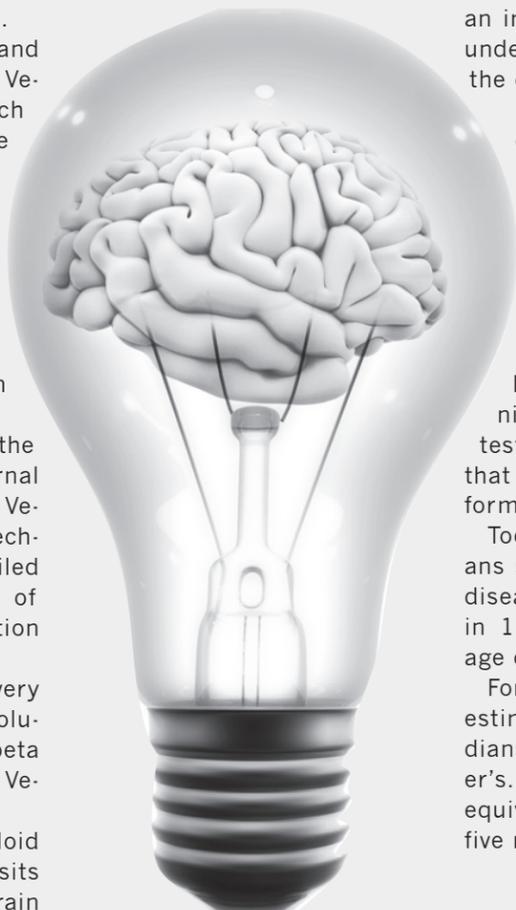
"The technique will help examine the early phase of plaque formation, explore how the aggregates are formed, and eventually discover its role in Alzheimer's disease," Kerman said.

He and Veloso are also looking to use the technique as a novel strategy to test therapeutic compounds that could completely halt the formation of plaques.

Today, half a million Canadians suffer through Alzheimer's disease and approximately one in 11 of them are under the age of 65.

For 2011 alone, it has been estimated that 103,000 Canadians have developed Alzheimer's. If you do the math, it is equivalent to one person every five minutes being affected.

■ For more, see News at torontoobserver.ca



Tackling date violence

Dating violence was a taboo subject for Grade 11 Malvern student Jessica Garnier until she came to Chester Le Junior Public School.

On Oct. 16, seniors, adults, and youth gathered at the school to discuss topics that are usually silenced.

A forum for youth that addressed dating violence was the highlight of the event for Garnier.

"I learned that [dating violence] is something that happens often but many people don't talk about it," said Garnier.

A woman, who referred to herself as Ice, is trying to bring awareness to these newcomers about violent relationships.

"Marginalized people are more at risk because they have fewer resources in the community," she said.

~ CHANTELE HENRIQUES

LINGUISTIC LARKS

Category
Halloween!

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

Unscramble the circled letters to form the final answer.

Directed by Francis Ford Coppola

By Kyle Larkin

Fundraiser for United Way about family

By NATALIE SEQUEIRA
The Observer

For Dominic Colangelo, a small charity barbecue is about more than raising money. It's also about keeping charity in the family business and community.

Angelo Colangelo, Dominic's father, who owns the Brothers Colangelo Fruit Market near Midland Avenue and Pitfield Road took over the barbecue from his father.

On Oct. 14 and 15, the market kept up a 10-year-long tradition of hosting the annual barbecue that raises money for the United Way.

The event was started by Scotiabank, who approached the market to ask them to donate the meat. Brothers Colangelo Fruit Market started holding the event at their location because the meat would be easily accessible.

It lets the community have a way of giving back," Dominic said. "My father started this business [and] this charity [partnership] and now we are all involved."

The fresh burgers and sausages made the short trip from the market's back room to a corner of the parking lot, where staff from the Scotiabank Midland and Sheppard branch volunteered to staff the grill and sell the food. "It's community involvement...they help us, we help them," said Terry Wilder, manager of personal banking at the Scotiabank branch.



■ Wilder



Erica Tiangco // Observer

The Spoons perform one of their new songs on Oct. 15 at the first homecoming event for Centennial College Progress Campus.

The Spoons dish out new hits for Centennial College

Rock band performs at opening of new athletic building

By ERICA TIANGCO
The Observer

In celebration of Centennial College's 45th year anniversary along with the unveiling of the new Athletic and Wellness centre [AWC] and courtyard at the school, guests were treated with an exclusive concert by legendary '80s band, The Spoons.

Scarborough residents and Centennial College alumni stirred up some "Old Emotions" and even caused some "Romantic Traffic" at the school's Progress Ave. campus on Oct. 15 as the school

hosted its first ever homecoming weekend.

The band is known for its new wave sounds. They performed a wide range of classic '80s hits as well as songs off their newly released album, *Static in Transmission*.

Centennial College students and talent search winners, the Yaqubi Bros, opened for the Spoons.

"It was fun to open up for such a well-known band," band member Rashed Yaqubi said. "We had a lot of fun. I really liked the crowd, they were really supportive."

The new AWC has

been underway since 2007 and now features approximately 65,000 square feet of squash courts, an 80-metre indoor track, two separate aerobics centres and a wellness centre. The gymnasium also offers a 1,500-seat concert venue.

Markeem Jacobs, a Scarborough resident attended the event with friends after hearing the newly renovated gym would be open to the public.

"I've been looking for a gym close by with affordable rates and I wanted to check it out," he said. "This is one of the nicest gyms I've seen in a while. I can't wait to play basketball here."

Coordinator of the Alumni Association, Krista Newton said the proceeds from Saturday's event will go directly towards a scholarship.

"The Alumni Association has a number

of scholarships and we're in the middle of doing some more," she said.

She added that the Alumni Association offers a variety of scholarships for Centennial students, including a tuition scholarship that goes to one student every year.

Newest member of the Spoons and keyboardist, Casey MQ joined the band in December 2010. "I had a lot of fun," he said.



● To hear an audio clip of this story, visit us online at Arts and Life on torontoobserver.ca

NEWS YOU CAN USE

■ The AWC is open Monday to Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and on weekends from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ The Alumni Association offers a variety of scholarships for Centennial students, including a tuition scholarship that goes to one student every year.

■ Students who qualify for alumni scholarships are entitled to movie vouchers, sports tickets, theatre tickets and more at discounted prices.

Kaleidoscope brings arts to Scarborough kids

By JESSICA MOY
The Observer

A new after-school program will be provided to schools in Scarborough starting in January. With an emphasis on multiculturalism, Scarborough Arts created Kaleidoscope, a collaborative arts and culture program that will be featured in five elementary schools.

"I'm boggled that it hasn't happened yet," said program coordinator Tamla Matthews-Morgan.

"It's incredible how [from these programs] nurturing art-



Scarborough schools will bring colour to arts programs with an awareness of multiculturalism

ists go on to become professional artists, while others develop a sense of community."

Kaleidoscope began with

a program called Creative Mosaics, a youth culture program that caters to underserved neighborhoods in

Scarborough. Creative Mosaics did the groundwork and figured out what's not being met, whose voices aren't being heard, and what they need to do. From this, a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation was submitted to create the Kaleidoscope program, which will last five years.

"In year three or four, there's talks to have a summer component and a documentary and how it has impacted students," said Matthews-Morgan who specializes in after school curricular activities.

The program involves

five art forms: mural/graffiti arts, performing arts, music, creative movement/dance and digital arts.

"Maybe [start off with] one session to introduce what the kids can do and after that, there will be a showcase," Matthews-Morgan said.

There are community arts programs that put on a showcase and it's an event for everyone to enjoy and support.

"It mobilizes a community and it can be very powerful," Matthews-Morgan said.

■ For more, see Arts at torontoobserver.ca



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