Scarborough-Guildwood Report
Autumn 2009
Hon. John McKay, P.C., M.P.

John McKay/Margarett Best picnic successful in spite of rain

Many thanks to St. Margaret-in-the-Pines Anglican Church, who generously offered their hall when rain spoiled the outdoor site.

(above) Waiting for the rain to stop so the little ones can play in the big bouncy fire truck.
(below) The lucky draw was very popular.
(below) The Enbridge hamburger stand was deserted when the rain came down, but the burgers found their way to hungry people inside the hall.

(above) Anuj and Anvi show Margarett Best their nice hennaed hands and painted faces. That’s Tushar Shah on the right.

(above) The Enbridge hamburger stand was deserted when the rain came down, but the burgers found their way to hungry people inside the hall!

Everybody was enjoying themselves so much at the picnic that we didn’t get all their names when we took their pictures. If you see yourself here, call my office (416-283-1226) and we’ll send you a complimentary copy of your photo.

(right) This group of friends enjoyed the afternoon, and the little girl with the pussycat painted face found a big balloon to take home. Along with over three hundred other people who attended, they agreed that the “indoor picnic” was a great success.

(below) Young volunteers worked hard on the food buffet. It was good to see so many youth taking part in the picnic, sharing in the preparation and helping with the clean-up.
Iain Duncan is the Co-ordinator for Capacity-building at the Lawrence Avenue site of Action for Neighbourhood Change, one of 16 local community engagement programs in partnership with the East Scarborough Storefront and the United Way.

Located in the centre of an area comprised of many hi-rise apartments and busy streets of homes, ANC sees the problems brought about by low incomes, language barriers, and lack of knowledge about the resources that are available in the community.

With a small staff of four and three university students during the summer, ANC has spent the last six months since its inception working with such neighbourhood organizations as Residents Rising. This is a 400 member group of people who live in the Kingston Galloway - Orton Park (KGO) area, whose vision is to build a stronger neighbourhood where the residents themselves are empowered to improve their quality of life.

The common goal of KGO and ANC is to make this the vibrant place to live that residents want.

Duncan says, “The people know their problems, and they know a lot about the solutions. What we have to offer are the skills needed to form cohesive, effective neighbourhood groups which involve as many residents as possible, and also our understanding of how to access the resources that are already out there for them.”

It is still early to look for success stories, but there has been an increase in the number of residents who now see ANC a place to connect with each other. The bright and airy space has been used for seminars on team-building in a setting where participants feel comfortable and skilled leaders can help them to new levels of co-operation. Problems around working with young people, assisting seniors with advocacy, being able to speak for themselves at public consultations, are just a few of the areas of concern on the agenda for ANC in the coming season.

One of the exciting new facets of ANC’s location is the involvement of the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus. For the first time, UTSC is offering a course called “City Studies” off-campus. Space at the Lawrence Avenue location is being leased by the university for a large classroom/library and an office. Students do research on this subject both academically and through several course hours per week volunteering with different agencies in the Kingston Galloway - Orton Park neighbourhood. Their research will be available to local organizations, greatly increasing both parties’ understanding of possible solutions to the problems faced by city dwellers in a large and diverse metropolitan area.

**SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY 1932-2009**

He was the last of four brothers. The eldest, Joseph, died a hero in the Second World War. The next, President John Kennedy, and the third, Senator Robert Kennedy, were both gunned down by assassins at a time when they had much more to contribute to their country.

Edward Kennedy was not perfect. His early life was marked by foolish escapades and scandals. But he earned redemption by his long and distinguished career as a Senator in the United States government.

Over a five decade span, Edward Kennedy championed causes that mirror the platforms of all liberal thinkers in the USA and here in Canada.

Health care was probably the most famous. Long before others in his country recognized the appalling fact that a huge number of Americans had no coverage against sickness or accident, Ted Kennedy looked at and envied Canada’s universal health care system. He believed that health care should be a right for everyone, rather than a privilege for those who could afford it, and he worked to bring it to his country until the last month before his death.

Kennedy was an eloquent and impassioned speaker, who will always be remembered for the hundreds of pieces of legislation he brought to pass. The People with Disabilities Act, legislation to provide assistance for underprivileged seniors, the No Child Left Behind Act, and many other laws whose enactment changed the lives of low-income Americans, all bear his stamp.

Kennedy was an outspoken critic of the war in Iraq, not a popular stance in the Bush era. But no-one could fault his patriotism, or his years of unstinting contribution to his country. The voice of Edward Kennedy is stilled now, but his work will live on.

**ACTION FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD CHANGE**

Calvin Kangara and Praveena Soundarajan are Resident Engagement workers at ANC.

Samsam Ismail of the Horn of Africa Parents Association with me at the closing ceremony and barbecue to mark the organization’s Summer Student Job Initiative.

It is always a pleasure to attend the Annual Garden party at Extendicare Guildwood. In a summer when there was more rain than usual, this party was held on a bright, sunny day. While I am unable to get to all the events and celebrations to which I am invited, I was happy to go to eighteen functions in and around this riding in August.
Sudanese refugee Moses Duku, his wife and family have been separated for all those years, he in Canada trying get them out of the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, and they desperately hoping it would someday happen. Thanks to the constant support of the people at Holy Trinity Anglican Church and the persistence of Layla Sharif in my Constituency Office, all the barriers were finally overcome and the Duku family is reunited to begin a new life. While waiting, Moses has earned a diploma in business and financial accounting. An apartment has been furnished, partly by loving gifts from parishioners and friends in neighbouring churches, and this little family can live safely in Canada at last.

Peggy and Sharon were among the many parishioners whose firm determination kept the process alive through all the years of setbacks and delays.

Birthday Celebrations
To Mary Margaret Ferrari, Harry George Kibble and Katarina Novak - congratulations on one hundred years. You have seen amazing changes in your long lifetime!

Alfred Collins is 86, and Eileen Baird just behind at 85. Valentine Persram marks her 85th year, while Ena Raytee Brigidalsingh is now 82 and Marilyn Winter has reached 80. Vicky Scallon and Suresh Taneja are both 75. We wish you all a happy and healthy year ahead.

Wedding Anniversaries
Violet and Glen Shearing have been married for 61 years, we are told. Margaret and George McCullough and Mildred and Milan Nash are celebrating 50 years. Families and friends were on hand to honour Marie and Forbes Duncan, Ethelwyn and Kenneth Green, Helen and Eugene King and Ingeborg and Wolfgang Sauck on their fifteenth anniversaries. Thank you all for being an important part of our community.

Provincial Millennium Excellence Scholarship
Narmie Kandiah, a graduate of Pope John Paul 11 Catholic Secondary School, has been awarded a $15,000 bursary toward her post-secondary studies. She was a leader in her high school years and a student in the International Baccalaureate program. Narmie is now enrolled at York university, studying bio-medical sciences and French. Her goal is to become a paediatrician.

World Transplant Games
Two years ago, Brandon Gibson underwent a lung transplant at the Hospital for Sick Children. This summer he competed in the 17th World Transplant Games in Australia. More than 1500 athletes aged 4 to over 80, all of whom have had successful transplants, gathered from 60 countries to compete. SickKids is the only hospital in Canada to send a team to the games - we’re proud of Brandon, his teammates and the wonderful doctors who make life better for so many children.

Dave Jones, Charmaine Henry and I at the Roots of Scarborough East (ROSE) community garden’s recent neighbourhood party. Beside The Storefront on Lawrence Avenue, where the old water tower once stood, the people who live in local apartment buildings now grow vegetables. Some space is also reserved to grow produce for the West Hill Food Bank. For more information on neighbourhood gardens, call Dip Habib at 416-208-7897.

It’s All in the Numbers
Just when you thought you had 911, 411 and 211 straight, along comes 311! Let’s review them all. 911 is for emergency assistance, when you really need medical or police help and you need it right away. It’s available 24 hours a day in 150 languages. Trained people will respond quickly and stay on the line with you as they dispatch the appropriate team to assist you.

411 is for directory assistance, when you need a phone number and don’t have a phone book handy to find it.

211 is for information about all kinds of community services - health, social or other programs. For instance, 211 can help you if you are looking for employment training or if you need to find an after-hours medical clinic. Information specialists can refer you to the right agency for your needs 24/7.

And now 311
This brand new service will be available 24/7 in any language to connect you to the City government. Questions about trash, potholes, and other areas of City responsibility are part of what 311 is set up to answer. If you want to know about the hours of the arena or pool near you, or want to find out when the request you have already made is going to be answered, 311 is the place for you.

Each of these “Numbers” has a different job to do. By calling the right one, you can avoid delays in getting the help you want, and at the same time keep the other lines free for people who need their services.

Remembrance Day
November 11
At the eleventh hour Canada stands silent

They shall not grow old,
as we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them.
Anyone who moves into the beautiful and vibrant Guildwood community soon finds that it is not just a place to live - it's a lifestyle. Your neighbours talk to you in the local stores. They visit with you when you are all out walking your dogs on a summer evening. They watch out for your children when they are playing outside, and for your newspaper when you are away. Who would guess that you are in a city of almost three million people?

No day demonstrates Guildwood better than Guildwood Day. From its beginning with a Presbyterian Church pancake breakfast to its finale, the GVCA barbecue at night, this day is a time for old friends to meet and new friendships to be born. My congratulations to the many volunteers who make this day and all the other events in Guildwood the warm success they always are.

The big parade had a sprightly Caribbean “Jump Up” flavour. I think my colleague Margarett Best MPP and I had as much fun marching along as the youngsters did!

The excellent Cedarbrae C.I. Steel Pan Ensemble was a crowd favourite, playing music with an island beat. We saw more than one of our neighbours dancing their way among the aisles of pretty and useful goods for sale.

Holy Trinity hamburgers and hot dogs kept everyone’s energy up for the games in the afternoon.