



# Scarborough Southwest NDP

## October 2012 Newsletter

### Greetings Scarborough Southwest New Democrats!

Welcome to the first of what we hope to be a monthly newsletter to New Democratic Party members in Scarborough Southwest. First off, I'd like to introduce myself as the membership organizer for your local NDP riding association. My name is Tom Grinnell, and I have been an active member of the NDP in Scarborough Southwest since 1999, and I am a current member of the riding association's executive committee. Your riding association executive committee recognizes the importance of keeping our membership informed and connected, and we hope that this newsletter will provide added value to your membership with the Scarborough Southwest New Democrats.

It is an exciting time to be a New Democrat in our riding! Just over a year ago, we elected Dan Harris, our first NDP Member of Parliament for Scarborough Southwest. We want to continue to build upon this success and want to make sure that the values that unite us as party members are reflected by electing a New Democrat at every level of government in Scarborough.

Our riding association is more vibrant than ever. Our executive committee is larger and more active than any time I can remember in my 13 years as a New Democrat. On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 we hosted our first public meeting which was a great success. We received coverage in the local media, and had over 50 participants come to Albert Campbell library to hear socially progressive presenters talk about fair taxation and inequality in Canada – an important cause for New Democrats to champion. On October 23, 2012 we are hosting a second public meeting entitled Jobs and Justice (details are included in this newsletter).

On top of these regular events we are hosting, we have also recently re-launched our website [sswndp.ca](http://sswndp.ca). Here we are posting information about events we are holding, news about the riding association and the NDP as well as other

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happenings for Scarborough activists to connect with. If you check out the website take note that we have also made it very simple for people to contribute *directly to the local riding association* through adding the ability to make single or monthly recurring donations with your credit card or banking information on a simple and secure online form.

All of these things we have accomplished have come through the hard work of volunteers. Our association is entirely volunteer run; people just like you who have a commitment to social justice, equality, fairness and a better Canada and world. As New Democrats we have a responsibility to be an active force in combating the conservative ideologies that are ever pervading our society. We remain a group of individuals united through the struggle for things like Women's rights, workers rights, fair taxation, environmental activism, the strength of our public institutions including public health care, the CBC, and much more. Through our solidarity as New Democrats we stand up for what is right for our community and for people. We remain optimistic that with our activism every human being will be able to exercise his or her right to a fulfilling and good life. Through this commitment to social justice and equality, we know the world can be a better place.

Tom Grinnell,  
Membership Organizer/ Provincial Chief Financial Officer  
Scarborough Southwest NDP Riding Association

## SSW NDP Member Profile: Dan Danielson

Dan joined the NDP in 1981 when a volunteer knocked on his door to renew the membership of the people who had recently moved from his new home in Scarborough. Dan is now our riding President.

When he moved into this area, Dan was already an admirer of our local MPP Richard Johnston. Richard went on a "welfare diet" to bring attention to the poverty of those who depended on Ontario's assistance to feed themselves and their children, and he led a campaign to make Ontario a "nuclear weapon free zone." "Richard is an inspiring leader and a nice guy who makes a personal connection with everyone he meets," Dan says.

Dan first came to Toronto from



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Chicago as a war resister, choosing “exile” over supporting the US invasion of Vietnam. Already a participant in anti-war and civil rights protests in the US, he came to Toronto during the turbulent years of the “Stop the Spadina Expressway” campaign, and the War Measures Act crisis in Quebec. He has always been grateful for the way Canada resisted US pressure not to welcome “draft dodgers” such as he.

Coming from race riots that were occurring in Chicago and in other US cities, Dan says he fell in love with Toronto right from the start. Even then Toronto was becoming multicultural and people seemed to get along. “I had my first Christmas in Toronto with my neighbours in an Annex rooming house, a family from Jamaica. The guy down the hall, Lubomir, was a refugee from Hungary.”

“I committed myself to the NDP when I joined the party and I met many people I admired who had worked hard all their lives for social justice for working people, for immigrants, for the poor and disadvantaged, and for a fair chance for everyone to have a good standard of living.”

Dan has been a member of the local NDP executive since 1982. He worked from 1985 to 1995 on NDP staff, having been hired by Richard Johnston and then working at Queen’s Park in 1990 when Anne Swarbrick was elected to represent the riding.

Dan has helped in many election campaigns in various capacities, as a volunteer and as a full time campaign worker. He has known our current Member of Parliament, Dan Harris, for 28 of his 33 years. “I’m so proud of the job that Dan Harris is doing as our Member of Parliament. Now I’m working to see him in the next cabinet in Ottawa after we defeat this undemocratic and elitist Harper government.”

## **Developers the winners if Quarry Land sell-off goes through**

*By Diana McLaren*

It’s shocking to see how readily some residents of our neighbourhood are willing, indeed eager, to sell our publicly owned lands to developers at the Gerrard/Clonmore site (also known as the Quarry Lands).

First, a little history.

I’ve lived near the eastern end of this property for 35 years. Over that time I raised my kids and was an active member of many community organizations. During the early 1990s, that included participation in community mobilization by two adjacent associations (Blantyre and Birchcliff) to force environmental testing on this former dump site.

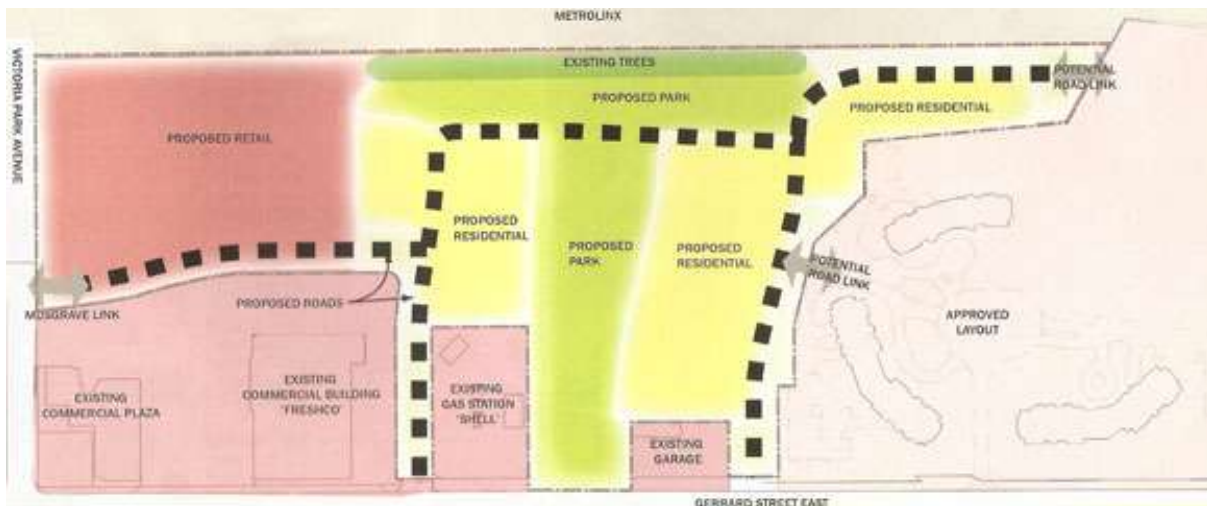
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We won that battle and the former City of Scarborough hired geological engineers to dig, test and report on what they found buried under the ground. Unfortunately the reports never saw the light of day and development was dormant until several years ago when the current developer moved to start the process of building high-rise apartment condos zoned for the part of the lands they own.

Not all of these lands are, however, owned by this developer. Several small parcels are privately owned by others, but the City of Toronto itself owns the largest section – 20 acres.

That's land owned by all of us.

The City has commissioned Build Toronto to develop plans to sell what they call all surplus city lands. The plan for the public part of the Quarry was unveiled at a recent meeting at Malvern Collegiate. The local residents group, Concerned Citizens of the Quarry Land Development, was present that night along with Build Toronto officials.



Courtesy: Build Toronto

The plan is this: retail development of some type along Victoria Park (site of the now defunct golf driving range), two parcels for some form of single family housing, and 4 acres for public parkland.

This plan harkens back to 1950s suburbia – cars, roads, parking, single-family homes, retail that may well end up as more big box (the latter soundly rejected by area residents.)

What we need instead is to stop this imminent sale. Then let's start over again and get it right this time. Let's move out of old-style thinking and develop a plan that is holistic, diverse and inclusive. That means affordable, non-profit housing

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(co-ops, co-housing, private and rental), social services, health services and public space for arts and cultural activities and community meetings.

Look around our community and see those not served by the current plan. Talk to the people who run our local food bank, housing advocates, legal clinics and our over-burdened neighbourhood centre. Before we sell off our public assets, let's make sure the end result will benefit those left out of the current plan.

Isn't that what makes a healthy community?

## Did You Know?

*By Ian Roberts and David Harris*

Our Member of Parliament, Dan Harris, recently announced that he is engaged. He proposed during a hike in Algonquin Park this summer. Other than Melissa, the only witness was a moose!

A more public proposal is part of the NDP's history in Scarborough. In May, 1963 at the nomination meeting for the upcoming provincial election a young Stephen Lewis announced to the crowd his intended marriage to Michele Landsberg who was in the audience covering the meeting for The Globe and Mail. Perhaps the most surprised person at the meeting was Michele Landsberg as Stephen had not told her that he was going to make that announcement.

They were married seventeen days later, on May 30. They went off to New York for a weekend and then spent the rest of their honeymoon knocking on doors in Scarborough West!

-With an excerpt from *Cameron Smith's Unfinished Journey- The Lewis Family Toronto, Summerhill Press, 1989*

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In the 1988 election, NDP candidate Dave Gracey placed third in a three-way race that saw incumbent PC MP Reg Stackhouse defeated by Liberal candidate Tom Wappel. Wappel would go on to hold the seat until deciding not to run in the 2008 election. Wappel won by large majorities in all his election victories except his first. The NDP fared best against Wappel in the 2006 election with Dan Harris receiving 23% of the vote. Harris faced off against Wappel a total of 3 times (2000, 2004 and 2006). In 2008, Liberal candidate Michelle Simson was elected after Wappel's retirement. Simson was the MP for one term before being defeated in the 2011 election (when she finished in third place) by 4th-time NDP candidate Harris. He captured the riding, with 35% of the vote, in a close three-way race (the first since 1988). It was the first federal win for the NDP in the riding since John Paul Harney in 1972.

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# Coline's Corner - Recommended Reading

By Coline Gardhouse

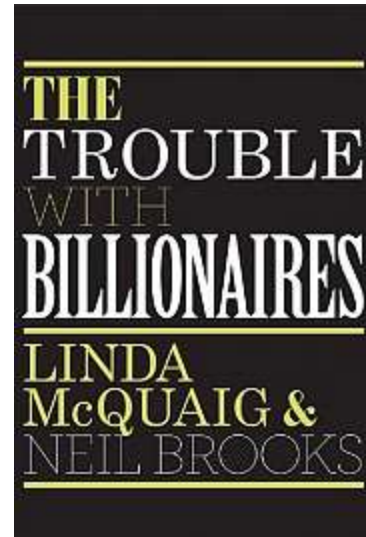
## The Trouble with Billionaires

Your SSW Executive has just completed a very informative discussion of the book *The Trouble with Billionaires* by Linda McQuaig and Neil Brooks. This was a follow up activity to our successful Scarborough community meeting on Inequality and Tax Fairness. If you have not had a chance to read this book yet we highly recommend you do. It is available in paperback and at our Toronto Public Library.

With engaging and lively writing, the authors use compelling evidence to document the continuing growth of inequality in our Canadian society through the massive transfer of wealth and power to the top 10 per cent (especially the top 1 per cent) in Canada.

The authors argue that the rich elite have captured their gigantic fortunes not because of special abilities or talents, but largely by getting control of the political agenda and rigging the rules in their favour. The results have been devastating for our society- including the ever increasing lack of democracy itself.

McQuaig and Brooks offer 6 important and evidence based recommendations to implement a much more progressive and fair tax system that would help us build the just and equitable Canadian society we as New Democrats advocate.



## Upcoming Events

### Pints and Politics Night – Wednesday October 17, 2012

Do you want to get rid of Rob Ford, Stephen Harper and Dalton McGuinty? Well we do too! Join fellow SSW New Democrats as we ponder and plot how to advance the leftist agenda at our 3<sup>rd</sup> Pints and Politics night. This is where all of the thinking (and maybe some drinking) happens. If you want to get to know other NDP members from the riding, and like minded individuals, this is a good chance to make those connections. Hope to see you out!

**8 PM Wednesday October 17, 2012**

*The Working Dog Saloon*  
3676 St. Clair Ave. East  
Scarborough, ON

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## **REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS RALLY - Saturday October 20, 2012**

- Reproductive health care for all, including refugees
- Maternal health includes abortion
- Stop the inequity in access
- The right to bear the children we choose to have

We need childcare, decent jobs and other support services to raise our children. Women in PEI have no access to abortion. Women in New Brunswick have to pay for clinic abortions. The Conservative government refuses to implement the Canada Health Act to stop these inequities and MPs continue to introduce anti-abortion private members bills while taking away health care for refugees. Join this Day of Action and help build the fight for reproductive rights for all!

<http://oct20rjday.wordpress.com/>

**1 PM Saturday October 20, 2012**

*Old City Hall*

60 Queen Street West

Toronto, ON

## **SSW NDP Jobs and Justice Forum – Tuesday October 23, 2012**

Join the SSW NDP and guest Speaker John Cartwright – President of Toronto and York Region District Labour Council & Paul Bocking Social Activist and Film Maker for a discussion on the loss of good jobs in Scarborough. For more details see the flyer at the end of the events section.

**7 PM Tuesday October 23, 2012**

*Birchcliff Bluffs United Church*

33 East Road (Warden and Kingston Road)

Scarborough, ON

## **ONTARIO NDP WOMEN'S CONFERENCE – Saturday October 27, 2012**

Please find below an invitation to the Ontario NDP Ontario NDP Women's Biennial Conference taking place on Saturday October 27<sup>th</sup>. Please pass this to the sisters in your riding and encourage their participation.

**Saturday October 27, 2012 | 10:00am to 4:00pm |**

*OPSEU Building*

31 Wellesley St East, Toronto

Join us to listen to inspiring speakers. Participate in workshops. Mingle with MPPs Cheri DiNovo, Catherine Fife and Monique Taylor. Get involved by

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participating in the Women's Committee Executive Elections for the following positions:  
President (1), Vice-President (1), Secretary (1), Treasurer (1), Communications Officer (1), Member-at-Large (5)

Registration Fees are as follows:

Type of Delegate	Fee
Regular (Voting)	\$50
Student or unwaged (Voting)	\$25
NDP Observer (Non-Voting)	\$30
Non NDP Observer (Non-Voting)	\$55

Please note registration deadline in October 18, 2012.

For more information please contact [women@on.ndp.ca](mailto:women@on.ndp.ca)

Hope to see you on the 27th

Women's Committee  
Ontario's New Democrats

**SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY MEETING WITH TOM MULCAIR –  
ADDRESSING VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY – Friday November 9, 2012**

**4- 6 PM Friday 9, 2012**

*Boys & Girls Club of East Scarborough  
100 Galloway Road  
Scarborough, ON*

**Scarborough Community Meeting  
with Tom Mulcair**

***Addressing violence  
in our communities***

Hosted by  
**Dan Harris**  
Member of Parliament  
Scarborough Southwest  
**Rathika Sitsabaiesan**  
Member of Parliament  
Scarborough Rouge-River



**Friday November 9, 2012  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Boys & Girls Club of East Scarborough  
(100 Galloway Road, Scarborough)**

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# JOBS AND JUSTICE!

A public forum on the ongoing loss of good jobs in Scarborough, and the impact of international trade agreements like NAFTA, featuring a screening of the new documentary film, **2 Revolución: Free Trade, Mexico and North America**



**Tuesday, October 23rd, 7:00pm**  
**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church**

33 East Road, just north of Warden Avenue & Kingston Road  
TTC & Street Parking Available Accessible Venue  
Free Light Refreshments

## Guest Speakers:

- **John Cartwright**, President, Toronto & York Region District Labour Council
- **Paul Bocking**, Director & Producer of 2 Revolución, Scarborough teacher & community activist

### About the film:

Some believe that NAFTA took jobs from Canadian and American workers and sent them to Mexico. But free trade has proven to be even worse for Mexican workers and their communities. On the hundredth anniversary of the Mexican Revolution, community leaders, factory workers, educators, trade unionists and human rights activists speak about how Mexico has been affected by free trade and privatization and how grassroots social movements are promoting social justice across national borders.

For further information, contact:

**Diana McLaren** - [dmclaren@tcn.net](mailto:dmclaren@tcn.net) - 416-699-9455  
**Coline Gardhouse** – [gracey.gardhouse@sympatico.ca](mailto:gracey.gardhouse@sympatico.ca) - 416-266-7902

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# Your Scarborough Southwest NDP Team

President  
Federal VP  
Provincial VP  
Prov CFO / Membership Organizer  
Federal Treasurer  
Secretary  
Provincial Council Rep.  
Provincial Council Rep.  
Youth Rep  
Youth Rep  
Youth Rep  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Incumbent MP for SSW

Dan Danielson  
David Gracey  
Candace Jazvac  
Tom Grinnell  
David Harris  
Rosemary Dale  
Robert Spencer  
Yvette Roberts  
Guled Arale  
Balthazar Crane  
Grace Jin  
Paul Bocking  
Bruce Budd  
Michelle Chateauvert  
Pia Christensen  
Coline Gardhouse  
Debessai Ghermatzion  
Jason Hellsten  
Jeremy Lu  
Diana McLaren  
Phil Piltch  
Ian Roberts  
Alex Schmidt  
Dan Harris, M.P.

**For SSW NDP inquiries and information on how to make a financial contribution to the SSW NDP please contact:**

**Tom Grinnell**  
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**Website: <http://sswndp.ca>**



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