



# Scarborough Southwest NDP

## February - March 2013 Newsletter

### New Challenges and a New Year!

In 2012, your Scarborough Southwest riding association was busy! With multiple community events, fundraisers, canvasses, and more we have been moving forward. Let's keep that momentum going!

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, a number of SSW Members joined together to canvass door to door in Birchcliff to distribute membership information to NDP supporters in the neighbourhood. The canvass was successful. We visited over 200 homes and handed out 50 newsletters to interested people, and membership flyers to prospective new members. We must continue to canvass in order to get our message out. If you would like to assist us in our next membership canvass please get in touch.

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, the SSW NDP held a successful holiday social and fundraiser with our MP Dan Harris, and special guest MP Megan Leslie, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The event was fantastic, and it was great to see some old faces and some new. We managed to raise a little money for our riding association, but there is always more work to do.

We have a few events quickly approaching, including a Pints and Politics Night, A Scarborough Wide Dinner with Tom Mulcair, and the Federal NDP convention is happening this April in Montreal.

Recently the Idle No More movement has united Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people across Canada to stand up and challenge the status quo. Aboriginal people have been oppressed long enough, and will no longer accept how this government and previous Canadian governments have treated them. With Aboriginal people having the highest poverty rates in Canada, we need to unite and say enough is enough. Canada has let Aboriginal people live as second

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class citizens for too long. Check out #IdleNoMore on twitter or on the web, and find an event near you.

On the political front, we are still facing the same challenges with the Harper Government in Ottawa - a government that refuses to listen to the concerns of Canadians and refuses to see that their economic strategy simply isn't working.

In Ontario, we can say congratulations to our new Premier Kathleen Wynne. While she is certainly a change for Ontario, and our first Woman Premier, the reality is that we can't forget where this Liberal government has taken Ontario. New leader, but the same old MPP's. The recent labour battle the government launched against Ontario's teachers unions is an example of why we can't trust the Liberals to stand up for working people. Who knows, we may just have another election around the corner.

Thank you for reading this month. If you are willing to help us out, please do not hesitate to email or phone me.

As always, stay in touch, and visit our website at [sswndp.ca](http://sswndp.ca).

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

## The Bluffs Advocate Newspaper

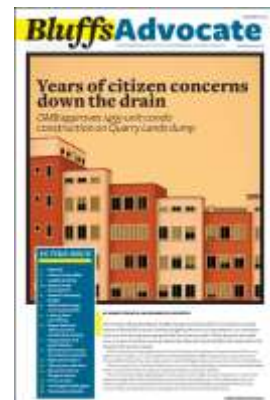
*By Tom Grinnell*

Thanks to the hard work of Bob Spencer, our Provincial Council Representative, Bruce Budd, our former Provincial Candidate and a few other progressive people, Toronto's East End has an exciting new Newspaper, The Bluffs Advocate!

The first edition of the paper featured articles from SSW NDP members, Paul Bocking, Guled Arale, Bob Spencer, and Tom Grinnell. The issue focused on urban planning issues surrounding the development of the Quarry Lands at Gerard and Victoria Park Ave.

This is an exciting initiative that will allow progressives to have a voice in the media in Toronto's East End. If you are interested in helping out, or joining the co-operatively run newspaper please contact Tom Grinnell at 647-461-9988

[tgrinnel@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:tgrinnel@lakeheadu.ca) or visit the website at <http://bluffsadvocate.ca/>



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# Riding Association Business

*By Tom Grinnell*

The SSW NDP held a General Meeting on Tuesday February 5, 2013. During this meeting the Association selected delegates and passed resolutions to present at the upcoming federal NDP convention in April.

The following delegates were selected to attend the convention:

Jill Andrew  
Guled Arale  
Paula Attfield  
Dan Danielson  
Bob Spencer  
Steve Thomas  
Alexander Wilson  
Oliver Wilson  
Stephen Yardy  
Candace Jazvac

The following two resolutions were passed by the membership:

1. Resolutions for the 2013 Montreal Convention

Re 6.8 - Our public broadcasters' role.

Whereas successive Conservative and Liberal governments have cut the parliamentary grant to the CBC/SRC,

And whereas only for other OECD countries – Portugal, Poland, New Zealand and the United States – invest less in public broadcasting as a percentage of GDP than does Canada,

And whereas, since the CBC/SRC President does not report to CBC/SRC Board of Directors and cannot be removed by them, the President and CEO is effectively accountable to no one,

And whereas, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage has recommended that “in the interest of fuller accountability and arm’s-length from government, nominations to the CBC/SRC Board should be made from a number of sources, and the CBC/SRC President should be hired by and be responsible to the Board,”

Be it resolved that Section 6.8 – Our public broadcaster’s role in the policy book be amended to read:

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New Democrats believe in:

a) Protecting the independence of the CBC/SRC by increasing public funding to at least half of the average invested in public broadcasting by other OECD countries, committing to provide that level of funding for a five-year period in order to reduce CBC/SRS's dependency on advertising.

b) Expanding and improving the CBC/SRC's regional news services, local programming, and internet presence.

c) Ensuring a transparent, non-partisan process for nomination and appointment of members of the CBC Board of Directors and giving that Board of Directors authority to hire, oversee, and, if necessary, terminate the President and CEO of the CBC/SRC.

d) Strengthening the independence of the CBC/SRC ombudsman.

2. Be it resolved that the following clause be added to Section 1.3 of the policy book:

(1.3 Physical infrastructure and transportation)

New Democrats believe in:

f. Strengthening VIA Rail with its own legislation guaranteeing it ongoing capital and operating funding

WHEREAS the Party has no specific policy on VIA Rail in an era when VIA's future is uncertain

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Democratic Party's Federal Council solicit input to develop a comprehensive policy paper on VIA Rail and passenger transportation across Canada.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a paper include proposals for perpetual financing of VIA's capital and operating budgets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Federal Council prepare resolutions amending the federal policy book that reflect the positions in this paper for the next convention.

# The Downside of Charity

By Diana McLaren

Images of Christmas holiday season 2012: pictures of smiling well-fed children carrying boxes of food and gifts, proud parents satisfied that their kids are learning to help others in need, daily pleas from charities to give so that others might have food in their bellies and a roof over their heads.

What is wrong with this picture of charitable kindness? Nothing if you believe it's how we show we care about one another. But if you believe the road to justice is paved by human rights, charity is an obstacle to reaching this destination.



In a just and equitable society, human needs and wellbeing come before corporate profits. There is universal entitlement (a word that has become tainted by the right-wing austerity agenda). Services are publicly funded and thus publicly owned – another concept that the prevailing power structure has demonized in the minds of the citizenry.

Statistics tell the story of a growing number of charitable and non-profit organizations competing for funds to patch the holes in our social safety net fueled by the rapidly diminishing role of government and the tax-cut mania driving inequality.

Here in Scarborough Southwest we need look no farther than the huge increase in food bank usage, driven by the lack of good jobs and affordable housing. Or the seniors leaving our area because they can't afford their homes anymore or high rent in local apartments private retirement homes.

Local agencies like Birchmount Bluffs Neighbourhood Centre and Variety Village go begging for the money they need to serve youth, seniors and people with disabilities. For the latter group, WheelTrans trips are harder to book and wait times to and from destinations are long.

Even large public institutions like schools and hospitals are forced to make charitable appeals to corporations and individuals.

I came of age in the 1960s, forming my worldview by



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reading literature and political writings of the times. Debates and demonstrations were the order of the day extending from classrooms to campus pubs because students didn't have to work after school to afford tuition.

During the heady days of Trudeaumania I approached my first vote with excitement. Not for the sophisticate with the rose in his lapel, but for the earnest Saskatchewan preacher I'd heard talk about a better world at a rally in my Hamilton hometown.

Tommy Douglas' words still ring true for me now that I am a senior citizen. We CAN create this world, one where we stand together as citizens in this grand experiment of life. By strengthening workers' rights and voice, by taming the beast of corporate greed and profits, by resurrecting the ideal of socialism and the public good, we will get to this promised land.

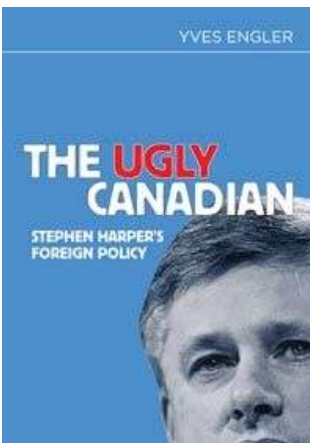
And we will tell our grandchildren of the dark old days when people had to rely on the vagaries of charity and what the writer Tennessee Williams called "the kindness of strangers".

## Coline's Corner - Recommended Reading

*By Coline Gardhouse*

### The Ugly Canadian: Stephen Harper's Foreign Policy -Yves Engler

New Democrats, and Canadians in general, have heard quite a lot about the Conservative Government's destructive domestic policies designed to continue the transfer of wealth in this country from the middle and working classes to the upper 10 per cent (especially the 1 per cent) through their Omnibus bills, severe cuts to our public service, ever lower taxes, privatization etc. But what is being done in our name on the Foreign Policy front has had little examination. Yves Engler's book is an important contribution to redress this serious omission.



Canada's international standing has sunk to a new low with our government's attacks on the UN, and consistent obstruction of every global attempt for positive environmental action. The primary role for many of our diplomats is now to be lobbyists for the tar sands industry and Canadian mining companies violating human rights in countries around the world in order to benefit the wealthy few.

How many Canadians know their government approved \$ 4 billion worth of arms exports in 2011 alone to the ultra repressive Saudi Arabian regime some of which were used against their own people and to invade neighbouring Bahrain? How many Canadians know the Harper government was supportive of

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right wing coups against the elected governments of countries such as Honduras that sought only some protections for their peoples against the exploitive and shameful actions of foreign companies? The endless corporate rights deals Harper is signing with every country he can are anything but benign trade deals. They also are designed in the interests of the wealthy few. There are very few repressive regimes our Conservative government does not like or support in our name as they champion our transformation to a warrior nation.

This book is a very readable, well researched, and powerful indictment of the Harper government's radical shift to the right in foreign affairs. It is available in paperback, and is highly recommended reading for all. It is essential reading for all Canadians who would like their Canada to stand for fairness and justice not only at home but around the world.

## Did You know?

January 28<sup>th</sup> 2013 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Morgentaler Decision. The hard fought battle by Canadian Feminists, Womens Rights Advocates and Dr. Henry Morgentaler to decriminalize abortion and ensure that it is a Woman's right to choice and control over her body. 25 years later, these rights are still under attack by the Harper Conservatives, and religious groups who refuse to recognize a Woman's right to choose. There is still much work to be done.

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February 6<sup>th</sup> 2013 marked the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stephen Harper killing the National Day Care Program. This program would have created more high quality regulated child care, made child care more affordable for families across the country and been a first step to a real system. Prime Minster Harper replaced the program with the Universal Child Care Benefit, a \$100 /month cheque for children under age 6. Since then, \$15b has been spent on the UCCB while families across Canada struggle to find affordable high quality child care.

From <http://www.ccaac.ca/>

## Upcoming Events

### **Pints and Politics Night – Wednesday February 27, 2013**

Do you want to get rid of Rob Ford, Stephen Harper and the winter blahs? Well we do to! 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!

**7:30 PM Wednesday February 27, 2013**

*The Feathers Pub*

962 Kingston Road (Kingston & Scarborough Rd.)

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**SCARBOROUGH UNITED – Dinner with Tom Mulcair and all Scarborough Ridings.**

Join us March 22nd as all 6 Scarborough Ridings will host a dinner with our Leader, Tom Mulcair.

This show of strength underlines our determination to win more Scarborough Ridings in 2015!

Tickets are available now simply by emailing [chrismockler1@gmail.com](mailto:chrismockler1@gmail.com)

Or visiting:

[https://secure.ndp.ca/event\\_campaign/index.php?campaign=35084&language=e](https://secure.ndp.ca/event_campaign/index.php?campaign=35084&language=e)

Please provide a phone number in your reply so one of our volunteers can process your order over the phone.

Tickets for this amazing evening, including a cocktail hour with the Leader and a full course meal, are only \$150 per person.

Please note that approximately \$110 of your ticket purchase price will be eligible for a Federal Political Tax Receipt!



Hope to see you there!

**5:30 PM Friday March 22, 2013**

QSiss Banquet Hall

3474 Kingston Road

Scarborough, ON

**Federal NDP Convention – April 12-14, 2013**

Montreal 2013  
April 12-14

For more information on this event please visit: <http://montreal2013.ndp.ca/>  
*Please note that the SSW NDP has already selected delegates to attend. However, there may be space if you wish to attend. Please contact the Federal NDP at [info@montreal2013.ca](mailto:info@montreal2013.ca) for more information.*

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## Photos from our Holiday Reception



Megan Leslie, MP and Dan Harris, MP



Candace's Parents, Marie and Dave Jazvac



Tom Grinnell and Jessica Shaw



David Harris and Julie Danielson



Bruce Budd and Dave Gracey



Yvette Roberts and Donald Allen

## Your Scarborough Southwest NDP Team

President	Dan Danielson
Federal VP	David Gracey
Provincial VP	Candace Jazvac
Provincial CFO / Membership Organizer	Tom Grinnell
Federal Treasurer	David Harris
Secretary	Rosemary Dale
Provincial Council Rep.	Bob Spencer
Provincial Council Rep.	Yvette Roberts
Youth Rep	Guled Arale
Youth Rep	Balthazar Crane
Youth Rep	Grace Jin
Member at large	Paul Bocking
Member at large	Bruce Budd
Member at large	Michelle Chateauvert
Member at large	Pia Christensen
Member at large	Coline Gardhouse
Member at large	Debessai Ghermatzion
Member at large	Jason Hellsten
Member at large	Jeremy Lu
Member at large	Diana McLaren
Member at large	Phil Piltch
Member at large	Ian Roberts
Incumbent MP for SSW	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**  
**Phone: 647-461-9988**  
**Email: [contact@sswndp.ca](mailto:contact@sswndp.ca)**  
**Website: <http://sswndp.ca>**



\*The next edition will be in April after the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Event

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