



Councillor Paul Ainslie

Scarborough East – Ward 43

November 23, 2007

Councillor Norm Kelly, Chair
Scarborough Community Council &
Members of Scarborough Community Council

Re: December 2007 Edition of Toronto Life Magazine article on Scarborough

Dear Colleague:

The community of Scarborough was once again wrongfully addressed by the media in the December issue of Toronto Life Magazine. Titled “The Scarborough Curse” writer Don Gillmor, portrays Scarborough as a gang infested Borough filled with a “spectre of ethnic gangs”.

The article in my opinion does not portray the Scarborough that we all know and represent.

I would like to collectively have an open discussion on how we can raise Scarborough’s positive image to the media so they can help us build up our community not knock it down.

Attached you will find a letter to the editor of Toronto Life John Macdonald with my views on the article.

Yours truly,

Paul Ainslie
Councillor
City of Toronto
Ward 43 Scarborough East

c. Betty Henderson, Manager Community Councils & Committees City Clerk's Office

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Scarborough East – Ward 43

November 20, 2007

John Macfarlane
Toronto Life
Editor
St. Joseph media Inc.
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Re: The Scarborough Curse Issue December 2007

Dear Mr. Macfarlane:

As a reader of Toronto Life I very much enjoy digesting the witty articles and antidotes on the City and its inhabitants.

As a Scarborough native I was dismayed when I opened your December issue to be confronted with "The Scarborough Curse" (December 2007 issue pages 86-90). Scarborough, before amalgamation was financially sound. Our parks were clean the grass freshly cut, our street boulevards were in good order and the City steamed along very well.

When amalgamation hit, unfortunately Scarborough like many other boroughs in the City was financially drained. "The Scarborough Curse" however is not a fair summary of our community. Yes we do need funds for up keep, this has arisen as our tax payers monies are sucked into the downtown core. My community meetings (of which I hold one a month) have resident's calling for the old City of Scarborough as they lament, where are our tax dollars? The Cavalcade of Lights sponsored by Scotia Bank is a perfect example. The City has advertised it as a city-wide event: Where is Scarborough's Cavalcade of Lights? (I have a motion in for Scarborough Community Council's agenda November 27 asking that it be added for the 2008 year). It's not that we have forgotten Scarborough it's that we have to compete with all the other Boroughs' which like us were amalgamated into Toronto the Big. The real question is: Has Toronto embraced it's Boroughs? The answer in my mind is no.

Scarborough in my view and in my experience of walking the ward during the day and night as well as living here all my life is not a "spectre of ethnic gangs" as described in the article. I safely walked though my ward during last years election and continue to knock on doors during my mid term canvass or when handing out literature. My community of Ward 43 has lovely areas such as Guildwood to the south and the Seven Oaks community to the north. My prediction is that the Guildwood area will become a hot bed for real estate as people realize they can live in a quite fully treed community close to the downtown core without having to elbow themselves onto Hwy 401 or the DVP.

"My Scarborough" a monthly publication speaks on our community's achievements and focuses on the wide variety of residents and community business'. The publication demonstrates that Scarborough is a great place to live and work.

I am proud of the Mom and Pop shops which have made their living here from generation to generation. They are part of our fabric and provide an avenue for a tightly knit community.

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Scarborough Civic Centre is a beautifully designed building. Unfortunately the picture in your edition was taken in the fall when the water in the fountain has been turned off and the large pond area is neither full of the children enjoying the water as seen every day in the summer, also absent are the children who use the area to skate on in the winter.

Scarborough events are also being headlined: Councillor Thompson's "World's Biggest Salad" Recorded this past summer during the Taste of Lawrence festival was a great event. Historically Scarborough has a number of areas which significant interest: the Guild Inn Property my boosts a beautiful garden and park sculptures including a Greek amphitheatre, in 2006 I re-designated two historical homes which abut Steeles Avenue: the Underwood House and the William Stonehouse House.

Thompson Memorial Park located on Brimley Road north of Lawrence gives visitors the opportunity to view the Scarborough of yester year though the doors of early settler Log Houses while enjoying hot scones and other treats prepared on the premises.

I would love to give Mr. Gillmor a tour of my Scarborough, and the one I believe lived by those who enjoy it every day.

Yours truly,

Paul Ainslie
Councillor
City of Toronto
Scarborough East Ward 43

Cc: Councillor Norm Kelly, Ward 40 Scarborough-Agincourt
Councillor Adrian Heaps, Ward 35 Scarborough Southwest
Councillor Brian Ashton Ward 36 Scarborough Southwest
Councillor Michael Thompson, Ward 37 Scarborough Centre
Councillor Glenn De Baermaeker, Ward 38 Scarborough Centre
Councillor Michael Del Grande, Ward 39 Scarborough-Agincourt
Councillor Chin Lee, Ward 41 Scarborough-Rouge River
Councillor Raymond Cho, Ward 42 Scarborough-Rouge River
Councillor Ron Moeser, Ward 44 Scarborough East

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