

NDP NPD

Pickering-Scarborough East

Riding Newsletter – August 2005

**Gary Dale
and friends
at Canada Day**



Hard at work over the summer!

*It's been a busy summer for members of the
Pickering-Scarborough East NDP!*

Leafleting

Back in June we got together with the Scarborough-Guildwood NDP to organise a mass leafleting at the various Scarborough mosques to publicise an Ontario Health Coalition forum at the Scarborough Civic Centre. Later that month, many of us also attended the public consultations on the new City of Toronto Act the provincial Liberals are designing.

Pride Day

Several of us joined Jack Layton and Olivia Chow in the 25th annual Pride Day parade celebrating the end of marriage discrimination in Canada.

Progressive mosques

A few of us started Canada day by joining the congregation at the United Muslim Association's mosque in Etobicoke for the world's first publicly announced mixed gender Friday prayers held in a mosque and led by a woman! This historic event has reverberated around the world as it challenges the patriarchal traditions of Islam.

Canada Day

Later we joined other Scarborough New Democrats in Scarborough's Canada Day parade. The group, which included the nominated candidates from three of the six Scarborough federal ridings, was joined by former Scarborough East MPP Dr Bob Frankford. Together we handed out roughly 2,000 pieces of literature to a large and appreciative crowd.

Next weekend

Next up is the Labour Day parade, where we will again be marching under the Scarborough NDP banner as part of the larger NDP contingent. Why not join your fellow activists for a great day?

September corn roast

Finally, Eileen Higdon is hosting a back-yard corn roast at her house in Pickering (see ad on reverse for details).

Labour Day
with
Jack Layton
in Toronto

*Join Jack at
Toronto's Labour
Day Parade,
Monday, Sep 5th.*

New Democrats will be meeting at 9:30 am at the northwest corner of Queen and University. Wear your union t-shirt or put on an orange hat or shirt and come join Jack and your fellow activists.

Please call
Wynne Hartviksen
416-591-5455 x493
or e-mail
whartviksen@on.ndp.ca
with any questions.

These are just the highlights of a busy season! To keep track of everything we're up to, and to join in, send Gary an e-mail and I'll send you an invitation to join our online discussion group. You'll be surprised at just how much we're involved in.

It's the 2nd annual Pickering Scarborough East *Corn Roast*



**Saturday,
September**

17th

**2:00 pm
start**

at Eileen's house,
852 Fairview Ave, Pickering

- lots of corn
- loads of pop
- great company
- rain or shine

\$15 per person contribution

Can we afford any more Liberal governments?

The recent announcements from the Ontario Realty Corporation about the sad state of the Ontario Government's property underscored a basic fact of life: you don't get something for nothing.

In Ontario for example, the impact of a decade of cutbacks was worsened by reducing maintenance to critical infrastructure. The so-called "cost savings" were just smoke and mirrors.

The problem here is not just a few government buildings! Right across the country, water and sewage systems are in desperate need of major reinvestment. Public transportation systems are using vehicles that should have been retired long ago. There's been little new building to keep pace with a rapidly expanding population.

The list of disasters is growing

The real impact of the cuts shows up in people. There has been a systematic failure to invest in the programmes that would get the best out of our population:

- childbirth in underfunded delivery rooms
- no affordable childcare
- cutbacks in primary and secondary education
- the absence of youth programmes
- escalating post-secondary tuition fees
- a lack of entry-level jobs for young people

Don't get old!

When you get older, the new "choice" is to work until you die, because your pension wasn't protected and CPP is inadequate, or be placed in a nursing home because adequate home care is no longer available.

Let's face it.

This failure to invest in our people imposes punishing social costs. Consider the recent spate of gun violence. Think about all the highly educated immigrants who can't work in their former professions because we don't have the programmes to allow them to qualify in Canada.

For the last decade, Paul Martin has been crowing about beating the deficit. He didn't beat it. He just shifted it off the books and onto the people of Canada. Now we are starting to pay the price for his lack of investment in people.

Like the failure to maintain the physical infrastructure, this unwillingness to develop our people's potential means that the longer we put off the repairs, the more expensive they become.

We can't afford another Liberal government.

Pickering-Scarborough East 

The Pickering-Scarborough East NDP riding newsletter is published several times a year by the riding executive. Please visit us at www.pickering.scarboroughndp.org. We invite readers' responses to any matter in this newsletter or any other issue of general interest to the membership.