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U.S. military tribunal law faces first court challenge

Former federal judges told a U.S. court that Guantanamo detainees may be detained indefinitely based on evidence obtained by torture, as detainees' lawyers filed briefs challenging "jurisdiction stripping" provisions of the newly enacted law.

Bob Barker to retire as host of U.S. gameshow The Price Is Right

After hosting the United States gameshow The Price Is Right, Bob Barker has decided to call it quits and retire from being the gameshow's 35 year-long host. Barker plans to end the show in June of 2007.

Featured story

Reactor at Three Mile Island nuclear power plant shuts down

A reading taken from a "faulty" instrument panel on the Unit 1 reactor at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant located near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania has caused the reactor to shut down, but officials say that there is no threat to the public.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Rep. Bob Ney of Ohio resigns from Congress after having pleaded guilty to charges relating to Jack Abramoff.
- The National Transportation Safety Board rules that a stiff

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wind blew the plane carrying New York Yankees pitcher Cory Lidle off-course and into an apartment building in New York City.

- The World Meteorological Organisation reports that greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reached a record high in 2005 and are still increasing.
- A draft European Commission report raises new doubts about Turkey's bid to join the European Union.
- Trevor Berbick's nephew Harold Berbick is charged with his uncle's murder along with another man in Jamaica.
- Jackson Pollock's No. 5, 1948 becomes the world's most expensive work of art, after entertainment mogul David Geffen sells the work for \$140 million.
- Wu Shu-chen, the First Lady of the President of Republic of China, is indicted on corruption charges by Taiwan prosecutors. President Chen Shui-bian is not indicted due to presidential immunity, but prosecutors say he will be charged once he is no longer president.
- The New York Times reports that a website created at the request of United States Representative Peter Hoekstra and Senator Pat Roberts was found to contain detailed information which could help nuclear-capable states produce nuclear weapons. The

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website was shut down on November 2 following questioning by The New York Times and protests by International Atomic Energy Agency officials.

- Australia dispatches two warships HMAS Kanimbla and HMAS Newcastle to Fiji to evacuate Australian citizens in the event of a coup.

Bob Barker to retire as host of U.S. gameshow The Price Is Right

After hosting the United States gameshow The Price Is Right, Bob Barker has decided to call it quits and retire from being the gameshow's 35 year-long host. Barker plans to end the show in June of 2007.

"I will be 83 years old on Dec. 12... and I've decided to retire while I'm still young. "I've gone on and on and on to this ancient age because I've enjoyed it," said Barker who has been on American televisions for over 50 years.

"I'm just reaching the age where the constant effort to be there and do the show physically is a lot for me. I might be able to do the show another year, but better [to retire] a year too soon than a year too late," added Barker.

Barker first started to host gameshows in 1956 when he hosted Truth or Consequences and started to host The Price is Right on September 4, 1972 where, to this day, he has been the

gameshow's host.

Barker is hinting the possibility of appearing in a few movies, but jokes around saying he will not appear in any "nude scenes."

"I refuse to do nude scenes. These Hollywood producers want to capitalize on my obvious sexuality, but I don't want to be just another beautiful body," said Barker in a joking manner.

CBS calls Barker a "legend" and an "entertainment icon."

The first thing he plans to do after retiring is "sit down for maybe a couple of weeks and find out what it feels like to be bored," said Barker.

"Bob Barker is a daytime legend, an entertainment icon and one of the most beloved television personalities of our time," said Leslie Moonves, the chief executive of the CBS Network who also added that the network plans to do a special television show in Barker's honor, but Barker will not be saying a special goodbye to his viewers saying he will say what he always does at the end of every show; "Help control the pet population. Have your pets spayed or neutered."

"From the bottom of my heart, I thank the television viewers, because they have made it possible for me to earn a living for 50 years doing something that I thoroughly enjoy. They have invited me into their homes daily for a half a century," said Barker.

Reactor at Three Mile Island nuclear power plant shuts down

A reading taken from a "faulty" instrument panel on the Unit 1 reactor at the Three Mile Island

nuclear power plant located near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania has caused the reactor to shut down, but officials say that there is no threat to the public as radiation has not been released into the air. A wrong reading was displayed on a control panel which triggered the reactor to automatically shut itself down.

"It appears this was an uncomplicated, smooth shutdown. The company will need to take a careful and deliberate look at what went wrong," said Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman, Neil Sheehan.

A worker at the power plant was injured while the reactor was shutting down, after being scared by steam venting from the reactor which caused him to fall.

The reactor, which first went operational in 1974, shutdown on Thursday afternoon on the "non-nuclear side of the reactor" at 1:35 p.m. [EST] and as of the moment remains offline, added Sheehan. This is the first time since 1997 that the reactor has shutdown.

In 1979, the Unit 2 reactor suffered a partial meltdown and has remained offline since the disaster.

U.S. military tribunal law faces first court challenge

The military commissions set up by the Bush administration to try Guantanamo detainees may order indefinite detention of suspects based on evidence secured by torture, concluded an amicus curiae brief filed by seven former federal judges before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Lawyers for Guantanamo detainees also filed separate briefs arguing that the Military

Commissions Act of 2006 (MCA) does not prevent the court from hearing habeas corpus petitions from detainees.

A court uses the writ of habeas corpus to examine whether a person is lawfully imprisoned by the government, and to compel release if the imprisonment is not legal. In common law countries, habeas corpus is an important instrument for protecting an individual's freedom against arbitrary state action.

The United States has detained 759 men as "illegal combatants" at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, of whom about 250 have been released or transferred to the custody of other countries.

After the Supreme Court ruled in *Rasul v. Bush* (2004) that detainees are entitled to challenge their detentions in federal court, the Defence Department set up the Combatant Status Review Tribunal (CSRT) to review the determinations that the detainees were "enemy combatants". The detentions of 558 were reviewed by the CSRT, which confirmed all but 38 of the detainees as "enemy combatants". John B. Bellinger III, Legal Adviser to the State Department has indicated last month that the administration plans to try only 60 to 80 of the 435 men currently detained.

In December 2005, the Detainee Treatment Act (DTA) was signed into law under which, the habeas petitions of the detainees were to be transferred to the CSRT. The Supreme Court held in *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* (2006) that the DTA did not apply to pending habeas petitions that challenge the legitimacy of the tribunals themselves. This led to the Military Commissions Act of 2006 to be

signed into law, under which the administration seeks to strip federal courts of jurisdiction over the detainees' habeas petitions. Instead, detainees can challenge their detention at the CSRT and appeal only for a limited review by the D.C. Circuit Court.

Previously, two district courts have given contradictory rulings over the issue of whether the petitioners, who have not been charged but have been detained indefinitely, can petition for habeas rights in federal courts.

On Wednesday, attorneys for detainees filed the first full court briefings challenging the administration's interpretation of the detainee laws at the US District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, in the cases *Al Odah v. United States* and *Boumediene v. Bush* and *Khalid v. Bush*.

Separately, seven former federal judges filed an amicus brief in support of the detainees' brief.

The Justice department is scheduled to file a response by November 13.

Seven former Federal Circuit and District judges, Shirley M. Hufstедler, Nathaniel R. Jones and Abner J. Mikva and Patricia M. Wald, and retired District Judges George N. Leighton and Frank J. McGarr and Timothy K. Lewis filed an amicus brief supporting the petitioners' claim, saying that the "court-stripping" provisions of the MCA "challenges the integrity of our judicial system".

The brief argued that the government's interpretation of the DTA and MCA would force the court to condone the use of evidence obtained by torture to

sentence detainees to indefinite imprisonment, which is prohibited by common law and the Constitution.

The brief pointed out that the CSRTs failed to consider whether evidence presented to them was obtained by torture. The brief cited several cases where records of the tribunal proceedings showed that many of them did not address evidence of torture, some cross-examined detainees about torture allegations, but to distance U.S. forces from the alleged torture. Even when the CSRT referred torture allegations for investigation, it did not await for results before ruling based on the evidence.

Based on rules that compelled the tribunal to accept the government's evidence against prisoners as presumptively "genuine and accurate.", the tribunal relied on incriminating statements by detainees, even though they testified that the statements were obtained by torture and that medical records and other reports confirm the use of torture.

The government has maintained that investigating allegations of torture was not "the CSRT's role" and has claimed that the tribunals are permitted to rely on evidence "obtained through a non-traditional means, even torture" to determine that a prisoner was an enemy combatant.

The brief listed several instances where prisoners have alleged the use of torture to extract incriminating statements.

The Australian citizen Mamdouh Habib, who was captured in Pakistan in 2001 was "rendered" to Egypt, where he alleges he

confessed to several terrorism related crimes after being subjected to "horrific abuse" by the Egyptian authorities. The tribunal simultaneously found the enough credible evidence to order an investigation into the torture allegations and found Habib an enemy combatant based on the same evidence.

The brief outlined the case of detainee Mohammed al Qahtani whose interrogation, the Defence Department has said, produced "detailed information about 30 of Osama Bin Laden's bodyguards who are also held at Guantanamo". Interrogation logs showed al Qahtani was interrogated for about 20 hours per day for seven weeks, subjected to isolation, intimidated with military dogs, sexually humiliated, and subjected to sleep and sensory deprivation.

Since the CSRT rules permit secret evidence, suspects implicated by al Qahtani's statements will not be told who accused them or under what circumstances and the accusations will be presumed accurate.

The brief pointed out that it was not aware of a single CSRT that allowed a prisoner to develop an evidentiary record to support the allegations of torture. But according to the government's interpretation of the DTA and MCA, the appeals court cannot consider facts outside the CSRT's record when reviewing the CSRT's decision.

The briefs filed by lawyers for the detainees argues that the text of the MCA does not strip the courts of authority to hear pending habeas petitions and does not permit indefinite detention without

charge.

The briefs argue that if the MCA did indeed repeal habeas rights, then the law is unconstitutional. This, because the CSRT hearings and the limited review by the D.C. Circuit court, which are meant to be the substitute for a habeas review under the Act, are not "adequate and effective" to test the legality of the detentions, and hence would violate the Suspension Clause of the U.S. constitution.

The briefs point out that the administration's interpretation of the review process falls far short of the "adequate and effective" remedy required. It cites the following shortcomings

The administration contends that detainees or their attorneys are not entitled to classified information relevant to the case, but not in the CSRT's record .

The administration claims that the Act forbids the Circuit court from considering any facts not in the record of the CSRT proceedings or excluding any part of the evidence presented in the record (for instance, evidence obtained by torture).

The government also interprets the Act to require the Court to uphold the CSRT's decision, unless there was no evidence supporting detention. It does not allow the Court to assess the relative weight of the evidence, thus, as long as some evidence supported detention, this Court would be constrained to uphold the imprisonment.

Finally, the Circuit court itself has no power under the Act to order the release of a detainee if the CSRT process or its ruling is unlawful.

The briefs further argue that the MCA does not prevent the

detainees claiming rights under the Geneva Conventions.

Canada's Scarborough-Agincourt (Ward 40) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontonians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Scarborough-Agincourt (Ward 40). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Sunny Eren, Norm Kelly (incumbent), George Pappas, and Winston Ramjeet.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Sunny Eren

37-year-old Sunny Eren is a System Analyst and Records Manager at the CAAT Pension Plan.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: I think the three most important issues facing my ward are; Infrastructure/TTC services, Youth and Poverty. Since amalgamation the roads and TTC have been failing to meet the demands of a growing city. The city has grown by leaps and bounds and yet the only expansion has been the Sheppard Subway Line. In a stop gap effort to resolve the demand versus capacity issue, the city has elected to put more buses on the street. This lack of expansion with increased demand has led to only one outcome: more cars on the road with more traffic, pollution and aggravation. Our roads were never designed to handle the volume we have now, which is the reason for the current sorry state of repair. I feel that the youth have been alienated in our city with lack of parks and recreational spaces,

which give young people a more robust life. These people represent our future after all. Finally, crime is important issue - I do feel that poverty feeds into a cycle and that proper support to help people rise out of poverty, along with engaging our youth, will have an effect of lowering crime.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: To me TTC is one of the greatest issues facing our Ward; we all need a strong and connected public transit. It reduces pollution, traffic, and congestion. It's the primary means of transport for the majority of our Ward's citizens. People from the suburbs ride it through our Ward, and as the GTA increases in population, so too must the TTC expand. Yet I feel it's been stagnating, and it's been a growing problem for a while now.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I felt that I could no longer in good conscience just sit back and watch the city waste away, that I needed to do something to change the city for the better. I know a lot of people love to sit and complain but I felt it would be better to actually try to make a difference. That's why I threw my name in for city Councillor.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: This is where I live, I have my home here, and it is where my wife and I decided to start our life together. I intend to start a family and raise my children. Sure I could run in any Ward especially if there is no incumbent but this is where I am and this is where I want to change things.

Q: How are you currently involved

in the community?

A: Currently I sit on the Board of Directors of Streetlights. It's a non-profit charity that helps women escape prostitution and break the cycle of living in such a lifestyle. I also sit on the board of directors in my condominium corporation, where I reside. I have been involved in other activities such as raising money for the Hospital for Sick Children through a convention (Anime North) I helped put on. Recently I have been helping different Chinese community groups secure volunteers and get their issues publicized.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: Well number one is the pay raise. Council voting itself a pay raise when the city is experiencing a budget crunch was not the best idea. I do think the St. Clair right of way was a good idea but the public felt disenfranchised from the discussion of the issue. People need to feel they have a say in the decision making.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: Well number one is the pay raise, not only did the same council voted themselves a pay raise which despite the city is in a budget crunch was not the best idea. I do think the St. Clair right of way was a nice idea but the public felt disenfranchised to the political process and thus rejected that idea. I do endorse the City's Bike Plan and Clean up the City initiatives, but I think the city should get a failing grade when it came down to the Budget and

Garbage issue.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, what would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: Well first off I am quite young and I believe that I represent the Ward not myself. I intend to reach out to the community and try to meet everyone and help them. I don't belong to any network of old boys in a back room. I have youth, energy and a stubborn determination to really try to help people. In this way I can only hope to meet the needs and wants of everyone in my Ward. That why I think I am the better choice for Ward 40.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Well Toronto is my home, I have spent time in other cities in Asia and North America, but Toronto is where I feel safe and at home. I truly believe Canada is the best country in the world and that Toronto is the best city within Canada.

Canada's Scarborough-Agincourt (Ward 39) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontonians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Scarborough-Agincourt (Ward 39). Two candidates responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Wayne Cook, Mike Del Grande (incumbent), Samuel Kung, Lushan Lu, Sunshine Smith, and John Wong.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Wayne Cook
51-year-old Wayne Cook is a

business consultant, regarding trade in China.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A:
Crime: I support Mayor Miller's record, by adding 450 new Police Officers in the City, during the past 3 years. Further, as Ward 39 Councillor, I would work with Mayor Miller to add another 600 new Police Officers, over the next 4 year term. As a Council, we need to create recreation and job training opportunities that help divert youth away from gang culture. This is our "Community Safety Plan".

Traffic Congestion/Public Transit: We need to make an investment into public transit and alternative ways to get around our city (bike, walking, etc.). TTC service must be improved to provide an alternative to cars.

Parking: Locally, I will work with Council, to remove driveway barriers, which serve no real purpose. Also, I do not support "Speed Humps", as proposed on Canongate. Finally, families who choose to rent out a basement apartment, should not be harassed by being identified as a "Rooming House". True "Rooming Houses" need to be removed, but within the legal definition.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Locally, traffic congestion, TTC service and driveway parking is the related issue raised most during our canvassing.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: In my community, there is a sense that our neighbourhoods have deteriorated, over the past 3 years. I want to work with the community to turn this situation

around.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: This has been my home for 14 years.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: From 2004-2005, I was an intern in the Hon. Jim Karygiannis M.P.'s office in Scarborough-Agincourt. During that time, I was involved in community work in the Heathwood Community and on the traffic congestion issues on Steeles. For many years, I have been a volunteer with the Heathwood Ratepayers Association, delivering newsletters in our community. In 1997, I raised the issue that two residents had been killed, because there was no Railway Crossing at Passmore. After many weeks of canvassing door to door, the M.P., M.P.P. and City Councillors agreed to erect a Rail Way Crossing. Over my 14 years in our community, I have been active in a number of initiatives related to the environment, bikes paths, walking trails, saving trees slated to be chopped down, etc.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto means "Meeting Place" and this is true, as we are the home to so many people, from so many countries around the world.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: Proud: Decision to invest in new subway cars, which are made in Canada.

Least Desirable: A local issue related to removing street parking, which has resulted in front yard parking on grassy areas.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: I will listen to the community, NOT just send messages from City Hall. I want to see community driven solutions.

Mike Del Grande (incumbent)
52-year-old Mike Del Grande is the incumbent for this ward.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: Crime: This community has experienced a significant increase in violent crime. In addition, the number of unreported crimes is an issue. A number of constituents have told me that they have been victims but have been too afraid or ashamed to report it.

Traffic: Everyone wants speed humps as motorists are becoming more irresponsible with excessive speeds.

City Services: A general unhappiness with the level of service for the taxes paid.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: The decay of the City is very self evident whether it be with crime, garbage/litter or general state of City services. Residents are frustrated that taxes get increased but no noticeable improvement seen.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: As a 23 year resident and volunteer, it becomes evident that the same old gang at City Hall have not succeeded in their stewardship of the City. I want to use my experience and talents to try to break a log jam at City Hall in the way we operate and the way we provide service to our residents.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: I live here, I volunteer here, I own a home here and I want to see the area become a neighbourhood that people want to move to.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: Community Association co-president, Volunteer with local schools, past volunteer with Boy Scouts, Neighbourhood Watch, Block Parent. Past School Trustee, Volunteer Treasurer with one of the local churches and Volunteer Teacher.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is where I was born and raised. Toronto means being the envy of the world, prosperous, with safe neighbourhoods, good transportation and a good business climate to create jobs and wealth.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: Council decisions have been inconsistent and unfairly applied. The Ward is happy that I take a tough stand to ensure sound management and policy practices.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: I am the incumbent "rookie councillor". What I brought and still bring is a passion to do the right thing in the right way for my ward and the rest of the City.

Canada's Beaches—East York (Ward 32) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontonians will be heading to the polls to vote for

their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Beaches—East York (Ward 32). Four candidates responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Donna Braniff, Alan Burke, Sandra Bussin (incumbent), William Gallos, John Greer, John Lewis, Erica Maier, Luca Mele, and Matt Williams.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Sandra Bussin (incumbent)
Sandra Bussin is the incumbent for Ward 32, Beaches—East York.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A:
1. A Safe Environment and Our Community Health: Our community worked hard to shut down the incinerators at Ashbridges Bay Sewage Treatment Plant -the biggest producer of carbon-dioxide emissions and other significant airborne contaminants of all of the City's facilities. Today, our community's health and environment is greatly improved because of this shutdown. However, the need to find a garbage solution for Toronto has placed a spotlight on this site as a potential location to build a garbage incinerator. It is important that our community play an active role to ensure that thoughtful decisions are made.

2. Planning Development Change: The popularity of the Beach has currently stimulated significant developer interest in land assembly. The need to protect the unique character of our neighbourhoods is a critical and key concern. The new Official Plan will be put to the test in upcoming development applications verses the over-arching Provincial

Planning Act and the Ontario Municipal Board. I will push for "fine grain" tools that recognize the need to protect mature neighbourhoods, as well as to provide design guidelines to support the unique character of our neighbourhoods. Strongly enhancing community engagement in all aspects of the planning process is also needed.

3. Clean Beach and Waterfront Renewal Strategy: The development of Toronto's waterfront is a key goal. The success of the Beaches-East York community is attributed, in part, to its interface with Lake Ontario. I am proud of the work underway to create significant landscape improvements at Ashbridges Bay which will be included in the expansive 750 acre Lake Ontario Park, stretching from the eastern border of Scarborough to the westerly edge of Etobicoke. I will push the major clean-up of Coatsworth Cut/Ashbridges Bay. The Balmy Beach area is also earmarked for the "Clean Beaches Strategy" which is a priority for me.

The major skateboard park I am building for the youth and young-at-heart is to be completed in 2007 -for all to enjoy.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: The looming garbage solution is a key issue. The expansive lands at Ashbridges Bay and the Eastern Portlands are zoned to accommodate such heavy industrial uses. Our community and I will be vigilant and active in the process underway by a citizen selected advisory team (CEAT) to recommend both the technology and the site for the method of disposing of the City's residual waste.

We lived through the long years of

incineration at the sewage treatment plant, and know first-hand what the impacts can be on human health and the host community's environment. We know the struggles that ensue to make change.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I love my community and my city. I feel I can make a difference and I have the skills and ability to bring citizens together to make positive change. My professional experience spans assignments as a legislative researcher at Queen's Park for Members of Provincial Parliament, to elected Public School Trustee and City Councillor. Finding funding partners and convincing City Council

to approve projects for our ward is my forte. I bring creative problem-solving skills, combined with a sense of vision, toward the determination of the path we should take --this makes me feel that I am contributing to the improvement of the quality of life in our City.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: I want to represent Beaches-East York, Ward 32, because it is the community I was raised in and where I have raised my family. I know the people, I know the streets, and I know the neighbourhoods. It is an honour to be receiving the confidence and trust of the people in my community to represent their interests. I have a vision of where we should go as a City and a community, and believe I have the skills to achieve results.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I am currently the City Councillor and a Deputy Mayor. I

have achieved many successful projects in the Ward, drawing together the right partnerships to make things happen. Listening to residents, I learn what people want. For example, improvements to the Beaches Branch Library were suggested. I was successful in getting this request put on the priority list for the Library Board with the required funding. The result is glorious! Today, the Beaches Library is restored to its past splendour and improved with an attractive and fitting expansion. Every day as the City Councillor, I am at work for my community, taking care of the calls, correspondence and e-mails from the local constituents. Bringing together citizens to help set the path on local urban planning matters, designing playgrounds or developing local consensus on traffic planning matters are some of the types of activities that I am involved. At the Council level, I am engaged in the setting of City policy on matters ranging from the way we pick of solid waste to decisions related to public transit options and the allocations of city-wide budgets. I am a Deputy Mayor, T.T.C. Commissioner, Chair of the Mayor's Roundtable on a Beautiful City, Member of the Policy and Finance Committee and Budget Advisory Committee, Secretary of the Board of the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, Member on 3 local Business Improvement Areas, among a number of other responsibilities.

Q: Which Council decision since the 2003 election do you feel the city/ward should be most proud of and least proud.

A: There are many decisions that I am proud we made both locally and city-wide. For the ward, the development and selection of a citizen team to choose the direction for the future method of

disposal of residual waste will be selected; as well as providing recommendations on a potential site is the most important decision made this term. Secondly, the success in receiving significant funding from the city to build the newest and biggest skateboard park in the city together with a private sponsor is a great success for the youth of the ward and city. The political composition of the Council wherein the majority of the suburban councillors struggle, to support initiatives which reflect the needs of the inner city was a major drawback of this past Council. The art of compromise to receive Council approval on a series of initiatives like the City budget for example, led to the reduction in the effectiveness of the Toronto Transit Ridership growth strategy. Recommended spending for the Beautiful City campaign was cut as a result of a "them-and-us" voting attitude. However, changes to the Council procedural rules for the next term will allow for greater decision-making, in some cases at the local community council level, and by an Executive Committee of Council in order for the Mayor to enact bylaws that reflect the Mayor's Vision for the City.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is where I live, where I grew up, and where I have raised my family. It's my home. I am inspired by the opportunities that present themselves here in our City. This is a thriving, growing and developing young City. Recently, growth in the downtown areas has been very strong. Locally, our communities are stable but in some cases challenged by change. Making change work positively for the city and local neighbourhoods is an exciting everyday activity for me

as a City Councillor.

William Gallos

William Gallos candidate city council for Ward 32, Beaches—East York.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: Ward 32 is a unique family community within a major city. In order to preserve our quality of life, we must be ever vigilant to ensure we aren't overrun by city by-laws, poor transportation and parking issues, unsafe environmental issues due to sewage treatment plant drugs/crime and unsafe streets and park management. My aim is to have the community work with me to help economic gross with in the businesses, provide safe streets, clean up and maintenance of your parks and boardwalk, establish Sewage Treatment Plan, and much more...

Mr. Gallos did not respond to numerous questions. Instead of emailing Wikinews with his sole answer, as was asked, he posted it directly to Wikinews.

Erica Maier

44-year-old Erica Maier is general manager of Kathite Industries, makers of a chimney cleaner; "As Kathite is a seasonal occupation, I am also a full time Letter Carrier for Canada Post, I love the exercise and could certainly use it, and it keeps me in touch with the public."

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: Ward 32 is a unique family community within a major city. In order to preserve our quality of life, we must be ever vigilant to ensure we aren't overrun by oversized building developments, graffiti, vandals or petty crime.

My aim is to hire a graffiti removal team that would be available daily. Eradicate the graffiti and keep it away. Continue to work with police and have police more visible in the area, walking along our streets, parks and school yards. Police would get to know our neighbours, business owners and the local children which would return a sense of well being to our inhabitants.

I encourage taking art to the streets. Have billboards in various locations that locals can contribute to monthly. Thus promoting our area and the artists of our community. We need additional programs for teenagers that get them involved and keep them interested in community development.

Finally I would continue the work of preserving the heritage of our neighbourhoods, while helping the local businesses get the much needed assistance to grow and develop into thriving commerce. This could be achieved by having events and venues that add to our uniqueness and increasing consumer traffic and spending.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: At present I feel graffiti is my biggest concern. It is a small issue that has been left to fester and could balloon into all sorts of problems for our area and the city. If graffiti is left as a 'broken window'

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I am a person who involves myself in my community. If things need to be done, I am a volunteer for the job. This has always been fine in the past, as we have a terrific area with very few needs. Unfortunately, things have changed, although crime is down

for Toronto, petty crime is ever increasing. Vandals attack cars, spray paint graffiti everywhere, and if left unchecked, it will escalate to major crimes. Citizens are concerned and feel the need to stay indoors and not enjoying their neighbourhoods as they have in the past. I intend to retire in my neighbourhoods, but it won't be a happy retirement if I don't act now and stop this neglect.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: This is not only a Ward, but it is my home. I would be honoured to represent my home and ensure it is looked after to the fullest of my abilities.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: Currently I am a volunteer for Community Centre 55, helping with whatever they need and in their Christmas hamper efforts for many years. I have worked with the Lions Club on occasion helping in their Easter Parade work. I also have helped for many years in trash cleanup of the area, and have been a leader for Girl Guides of Canada for a local unit for over 10 years.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: I was very happy when have bid for Olympics and the World's Fair. I have been to other countries and attended such functions. Toronto needs something like this to help the city financially and promote what a wonderful place Toronto is. I hope in the future we are awarded such an honour. Least Desirable - Having the current city council administer themselves an 8% wage increase has to be the worst decision they

have made to date. Their wages and increase should be decided by a non-patrician group with council kept out of the process.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: I hope that I may bring a regular citizens outlook to city council. We need a balanced budget, after all everyone else in the general public has to work with the money they have. Lastly, we have to realize that we are paid by the people, we work for the people and we should all be accountable to the people on a daily basis.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is my home. It a city full of diversity, and different cultures. I have traveled the world and discovered that all that I have purchased is already available to me in Toronto. I love the mix of cultures, and the many different restaurants I have frequented. I have friends from all over the world. I was lucky enough to have a visiting princess meet me in 1979; she wanted to meet the most diversified high school in Toronto, and that was my own. As a student council member I was formally introduced! Then later in 1990 I was present when Princess Diana came through my hospital. Where else in the world could you meet a two princesses but in Toronto!

Luca Mele

22-year-old Luca Mele is the leader of the "Ecumenical Tribune Party" and recording artist/singer of signed band No Assembly Required.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: My main three points are crime,

pollution and corruption. Crime and Pollution are a result of Corruption, and both corruption and pollution are crimes in my political party's platform.

I will enforce a 100% change of laws that are currently in support of the crime and pollution in the city of Toronto.

It is time we assemble groups to go out AT LEAST a few times a week to clean up our neighborhoods so that our crime and pollution reduces, 20 minutes to clean a day can make a huge difference when everyone is involved and working together to be the change.

Have members of each neighborhood come to the city hall council chamber meetings as often as possible and host weekly meetings in the ward for those who do not show up to city hall for the updates and info of what is being taking place at city hall. Not enough people in the city are personally involved with the desicions (sic) that are made for them and their community and I will cause that to change dramtically.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: All issues are relevant, however not for too much longer. The current structure is too unstable to generate issues of that level without a collapse.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: The best way to get things done is to do it yourself. Nobody has been able to make a change in politics, ever. The Political world is an immature joke, and it will learn to grow up soon.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: I feel ward 32 is one of the

most beatiful water fronts of Ontario, and I want to improve on that by reducing the pollution and crime.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I belong to the G13 Mission of God, Church of the Universe, which started up in 1969 and now have a chapter of this church in the beaches neighborhood. Our work there is the same outside of the church and that is to help people by healing them with sacrements, meditations, cyrstals, and other forms of prayer. I'm also releasging a CD in stores across north america through Spinerazor and Universal records with my band 'No Assembly Required'. The CD is titled 'The Great Tribulation' and it is in relations to what you and everyone else are witnessing within this election and the events to come. We have toured around North America and have been playing in Toronto for over 7 years. Going to sell over 10,000 records in that time,

My success with the band has gave me the power to start my own political party, called the Ecumenical Tribune Party aka The ETP, in June 2005. I now have over 10 active levels of my political party system membership with over 1300 members around the city.

My political party has been empowering people to bring about justice to those in our community who have been increasing the crime activity as long with the abuse of our environment.

My work with the community has been paying off and will continue to do so for years to come.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is filled with energy that has the pontenial to present a

peaceful way of life to the rest of the world. Toronto is great because of what we have done for it and it means everything to me to be inside of all this action in these times. Toronto has always been a city of growth and inspiration. Despite the wrong turn the city has taken in the last few decades, it will always be a home to me because of the energy it holds.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: Extending the subway line from Downsview station north to Steeles Avenue in York Region was a smart move to agree on by the city, because it will help the traffic flow of the city and im very happy for that. It will give more people a chance to work and not just be limmited to an area that does not support their field of work. However, the decision I am least proud of would be changing the elections from every 3 years to 4 years. That will only support the corruption within the conversative government, and in result will grow to fit the United Nations plan to unite North America into one superstate. That would strip Canada of all our indepedent laws and values. Which will also come to result in a revival lead by my political party, The Ecumenical Tribune Party before 2016.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: My way with being honest and fast would change the actions and mind frame of all in office, resulting in 100% changes in crime and corruption. Reducing all problems to nothing.

Canada's Don Valley West (Ward 25) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontonians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Don Valley West (Ward 25). Three candidates responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include John Blair, Robertson Boyle, Tony Dickins, Cliff Jenkins (incumbent), and Peter Kapsalis.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

John Blair
48-year-old John Blair is a high school English teacher.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: First, I propose a personal property tax freeze. After three consecutive years of increases above the inflation rate, homeowners need some breathing space. Many are in danger of losing their homes due to higher taxes (just as tenants are being evicted from their apartments because of rising rents at a record levels in Toronto). We need to apply the brakes.

Second, developers, who (inspired by nothing other than optimum profit) ignore the wishes of communities in all wards, need to be taken to task. Public appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) are almost never successful while appeals by developers are disproportionately successful. Nothing short of dismantling the OMB will start to solve this situation.

Third, the Toronto Council pay raise is inexcusable and I will invest my 8.9% raise in worthwhile Ward 25 causes. Elected officials need to earn the respect of the

electorate by showing leadership in their own finances.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Definitely, over-development and intensification. Real two-way communication is necessary between neighbourhoods and the developers who propose to transform a given area. Ward 25 residents like their living spaces and any new development has to "make sense" to the people currently living in the proximity, not just dollars for developers. There must be a vision -- a "fitting in" with the existing character of a community.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: For some time, I have thought about being more involved in the challenges that face Toronto. I want to live to a higher standard than just to live for myself. Public service is an honourable calling. With the demolition of the former Don Mills Centre indoor mall (to be replaced by an outdoor lifestyle centre (courtesy of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and its instrument, Cadillac Fairview), I finally made my decision. The Don Mills Centre was already more than a shopping mall -- it was a friendly village for old and young alike, and now it has been levelled to satisfy the greed of a ruthless developer and its owner.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: Since I was five years old, I have spent a lot of my time in places such as Wilket Creek Park, Edwards Gardens, the Don Mills Centre, the Yonge and Lawrence area and many others. Ward 25 is where I grew up. I feel I know this ward and its varied neighbourhoods as well as anyone.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: Practically all the services I make use of (entertainment and numerous other amenities) are located in Ward 25. My breakfast club and many other friends live in Ward 25. If elected I will make the short move to Ward 25.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is a culturally diverse and lively place to live in. Compared to other major North American cities, it is relatively safe and clean. We need to work hard to make it continue to be regarded as such. The city must resist the current trend to intensify development without taking into consideration the "existing character" of any given neighbourhood. Our past is as important as our future. Hopefully, we can be a model to the world of what a progressive and environmentally conscious city can and should be.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: A very recent council decision (the vote against condominiums at the intersection of Fairlawn and Avenue Road) was a good one -- of course the developer has appealed this ruling to the OMB. The city should be least proud of its decision to increase their salaries by 8.9%.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, what would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: I am not a "business" person. I bring to council a fresh new perspective on things. I'm very serious about transparency and

moral and ethical conduct. The public has a right to know many things that are apparently hidden from it at present. I really want to "open things up." After all, we are supposed to be the representatives of the people. We should strive to earn the respect of those who have elected us.

Robertson Boyle

46-year-old Robertson Boyle is a management consultant (marketing/business development for businesses in the professional services)

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: Managing the City's phenomenal growth with a focus on those areas that impact on Ward 25.

- Urban development pressure and its impact on the neighbourhood, infrastructure, and environment.
- Accountability, transparency and responsible fiscal management at City Hall with a focus on increasing efficiency and reducing spending to alleviate upward pressures on property taxes.
- Greater interaction between councillor and community with a view to engaging the community in decisions that effect the community and ensuring top quality customer service.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Intelligently managing the City's growth with its incumbent challenges relating to real estate development, traffic congestion, and environmental pollution.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: We live in a very exciting time and Toronto is a very exciting place that is growing at a phenomenal rate. I am a well

rounded individual and in the prime of life, energetic and dedicated to civic duty. I want to use my experience, knowledge, and intelligence to serve the people of Ward 25 and to engage them more fully in decisions that affect them in their community. I also want to influence and inspire the direction of the growth of this wonderful city in a positive way.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: It is the ward in which I have lived for the past 17 years.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I have been involved in charity work with such organizations as Big Brothers, the church to which I belong, and fundraising for other health related causes. I am a avid fan of the arts in Toronto and have volunteered with a number of community groups that provide theatre to seniors and moderate income families. And I am past president of the Upper Canada Tenants Association.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Home Sweet Home, the greatest city in the world.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: Most proud of: The Toronto Green Development Standard. It is time to put it into effect.
Least proud of: Wasteful spending habits - which impact directly on our property taxes and the City's debt.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: I am a man who prefers to get out into the community and meet the people and I now work very hard to do that. It amazes me that most people I speak to in the Ward, have no idea who their representative is and have never heard from him - this, to me, is an abrogation of a councillor's duty to her or his electorate. I want to know their concerns, first hand, and make every effort to provide the means by which they can communicate their concerns and also hear their suggestions for solutions. I will forge effective partnerships with the leaders of the residential and business associations as well as representatives of the police, health and environmental bodies, religious groups, and others, in order to have their input and work together to get things done for the benefit of our community.

Furthermore, I would be a strong voice at City Council in advocating for those issues at City Hall which directly impact Ward 25: development, taxes, solid wastes issues. I believe the incumbent has not met the expectations of the community in these regards. Furthermore, I have 18 years' experience in managing a successful business working within strict budgets and tight timelines and would bring that experience to the position of City Councillor.

Cliff Jenkins (incumbent)
60-year-old Cliff Jenkins is the incumbent for Ward 25, Don Valley West. Previous to that, Jenkins was a client executive for IBM Canada, leading a team of information technology professionals to meet the business needs of a large client.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A:
Managing Toronto's density

explosion: The population of Toronto is increasing at about 15,000 people per year. New residents require additional infrastructure – increased sewer capacity, more TTC buses, increased solid waste capacity, extension of our subway service to York University and beyond, increased policing capability. Just about every municipal service has to be ramped up to meet the increased demands - and ramping up generates significant complexity and increases costs.

The best estimate of the amount new capital infrastructure required by each new person is \$20,000. Unfortunately, we receive only about \$4,000 per person in development charges. As a result, we've had about a \$240,000,000 capital shortfall every year – which we've "solved" by increasing debt and seeking handouts from other orders of government. This is unsustainable and unacceptable. Increasing development charges is the first step towards solving the infrastructure shortfall.

Protection and preservation of neighbourhoods: The density explosion puts great pressure on our stable residential neighbourhoods. The City's Official Plan directs growth to specific places in the City – particularly those serviced by rapid transit. But the development industry continues to seek growth in those areas of the City which are NOT targeted for intensification, as well as over-intensification in those areas identified for growth. This has immediate negative impacts on neighbouring single-family homes. While we have made gains in improving policies of the Official Plan to protect these neighbourhoods, it will be the job of the next Council to ensure that Planning Staff interpret and enforce these policies to really protect them.

Election Finance Reform: While Council has indicated its intent to reform how candidates raise money for election campaigns, it does remain a serious problem that must be fixed. VoteToronto, an independent organization, has documented the problems at www.votetoronto.ca of the influence that can result from election contributions of special interest groups. The new City Council must finish the job of election finance reform.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: In Ward 25, the key issue is protection of neighbourhoods. For most people, their investment in their homes is their single biggest investment. Intrusive nearby development can have major negative effects. For example, at 1000 Mt. Pleasant Road, an application for a 13-storey apartment building which would tower over and impact neighbouring single-family homes was deemed, by City planners, to be contrary to the City's Official Plan and should be refused. City Council did refuse the application. But, on appeal, the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) overturned the City's decision. City Council must re-enforce policies and processes which protect our stable residential neighbourhoods and must demand OMB reform from the provincial government.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: As President of a community association for 12 years, I saw the threats and challenges faced by one stable residential community. They ranged from inappropriate and intrusive development to a property assessment system which resulted in unstable annual reassessments. Through my

colleagues, presidents of other community associations, I learned that the problems were not isolated in my community. They were systemic across the ward, the City – and indeed, across the province.

I saw cases of unfair impact on homeowners who had previously believed that the Official Plan and the zoning by-law would protect their quiet enjoyment of their homes, apartments and their investment in the community. In every case, I felt there were ways for governments – particularly Toronto City Council – to protect our stable residential communities. In conversation and discussion with people in Ward 25, I found it resonated. Many people were and are impacted by inappropriate development. People want a planning process which serves them.

I developed an election platform in 2003 around protection of our stable residential communities. Once elected, I set out to implement it, against entrenched interests – with considerable success in many aspects, for example: Official Plan amendments, changes in the Committee of Adjustment, and new freedom for people to access previously withheld building permits.

There is more to do. The new harmonized zoning by-law coming before Council will require provisions to close existing loopholes. The planning process reform must be completed – to ensure that people are engaged earlier and meaningfully consulted on development applications in their community.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: My wife Liz and I have lived in Ward 25 for 21 years, raising our three sons, Neil, Scott and David

here. Ward 25 is a vibrant, wonderful place to live, work and enjoy life. Ward 25 residents are proud and protective of their neighbourhoods. Our employment areas on Leslie and Scarsdale and our commercial areas are thriving - but some are at risk from purchase and conversion to residential uses. Our parks and natural areas are magnificent. The ravines of the Don Valley are life-giving ribbons of green that benefit the entire City. Ward 25 is a jewel in Toronto. I want the best for it.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: To be a conscientious Councillor is to be deeply involved in the community. It requires very frequent attendance at local events and meetings. It is critical for a Councillor to hear what people have to say about matters affecting their communities, about their hopes and desires for their communities. I attend many evening meetings with ratepayer groups, with tenant groups, with school organizations and with other community groups. Doing that is more than a full time job. Consequently, I've temporarily deferred most voluntary activity - particularly my long-time involvement in my own ratepayer association where I was President for twelve years. I've also been a junior boys' baseball coach and junior boys' curling team advisor. My wife Liz, however, maintains her volunteer work. For many years she was active in Home and School associations as our kids worked their way through school - serving as President from time to time. As well, she was a volunteer for many years at Tennis Canada - rising to the position of Volunteer Co-ordinator for the annual men's/women's Canadian Open Tennis Championship. And now,

she is a volunteer at Sunnybrook Hospital.

And lastly, it runs in the family - all three of our sons have had and continue to have volunteer activities.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto truly is a city of wonderful neighbourhoods. It is an economic engine that must continue to create jobs. While creating these jobs and as Toronto continues to grow, we need to ensure that our infrastructure and services support that growth. We must provide infrastructure and services in a resilient and cost-effective manner. And we must never forget who we are seeking to serve - the residents of Toronto who live in our wonderful neighbourhoods. We must provide them with a safe, robust and clean city - one where they can continue to live, work and enjoy life.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: Council's least desirable decision was its failure to increase development charges to the maximum permitted under provincial law. Development charges are intended to pay for new infrastructure required to support the population growth of the City. While Council did increase development charges to achieve annual revenues of approximately \$50million - \$60million. Our need, on the other hand, is estimated at about \$300 million per year. We currently fund this shortfall by several unsatisfactory means: increased debt, starving our capital repairs budgets, raiding reserve funds and hand-outs from other orders of government. The next Council must reconsider this

decision.

What the City should be most proud of is Council's decision to recommend that corporations and unions no longer be permitted to make contributions to candidates for election to City Council. The provincial government, however, did not implement it. But, under the new City of Toronto Act, Council will soon have the power to do so itself. I was co-leader, with Councillor Michael Walker, on this initiative. When finally implemented, it will reduce the influence of special interest groups - particularly those with an interest in City business - on elected City Councillors. And more importantly, over time it will result in the election of more community-oriented Councillors.

Canada's Trinity—Spadina (Ward 20) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontoians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Trinity—Spadina (Ward 20). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Desmond Cole, Helen Kennedy, Douglas Lowry, Chris Ouellette, Carmin Priolo, Devendra Sharma, Joseph Tuan, and Adam Vaughan.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Doug Lowry

48-year-old Doug Lowry is a settlement officer, Money Market Operations, at TD Securities.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: The 3 more important issues in main campaign are

1. we have to be competitive against Markham and Mississauga

so the concentration of work remains in the downtown area, by supporting our business community. Work is changing fast and jobs that used to have to be in the downtown area, do not necessarily have to be, I do not believe Council gets it.

2. we need a Problem Properties Committee which is proactive to fix properties and improve neighbourhoods.

3. we need to encourage people to continue to reinvest in their buildings, one method is to have solar panels on homes

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: The Problem Properties Committee (which can easily exist in every Ward) to tackle problems before they reach crisis and drag on for months. The committee is made up of the Councillor, the police, and city regulation staff, the Councillor is to provide the political will. In this fashion, neighbours can do what neighbours do, enjoy their property.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: In Ward 20, there is no incumbent, I have served on a number of committees in the neighbourhood which allows me to have been exposed to many issues, and I live here and I believe I would do a good job.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: Most of my activities are involved with the Ward, I live in the middle of it, I walk to work through the Ward. My interest in the Ballet - their office is in the Ward, (on the waterfront), although the Four Seasons is just outside. I am the Treasurer of provincial and federal political

associations which encompass the Ward. My doctor(s) are on one side of the Ward, a community centre which I am involved with is on the other side and I try to shop throughout the Ward. This all means I regularly go through the Ward, I am familiar with its history and tend to know it the best.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I have active membership in the CLPC - 14 Division, Scadding Court Community Centre, the Waterfront Residents Association, a resident association just outside the Ward, representative of the my building at TCHC, plus I like gardening. These memberships besides going to community meetings, (and holding executive positions) means looking at many types of issues and having links to other groups. These groups means looking at the many different viewpoints on a regular basis, although I have biases, being exposed is good.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto to me is both myth and reality, although it pretends it is an open city, it is much more closed than one thinks it should be. Toronto is place to learn and to work and that is why people come here. When I first came to Toronto to study at Ryerson, having the Blue Jays was beneficial to me liking the city. Upon living in the City for a couple years, it was time to explore it and that lead to a lifelong appreciation of ballet. Toronto is also opportunity because it is so big, but to see it, you must bring it to a size you are comfortable with.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least

desirable?

A: Best Council Decision was something that did not make large headlines, but it could have a large impact, Council decided to takeover a derelict property in Parkdale and convert it to housing. Worst Council Decision was a plan by the Nuns in Scarborough to convert some of their land to housing and it was turned down.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: Because I believe Toronto is more of a closed society, where innovation happens all to infrequently, I would hope to change this by voting for innovative things. I would hope that I would be able to back those that try to do something better by allowing a degree of failure, to be quickly fixed.

I would also, continually thank people for trying to make this city better, most in small ways, but as a group what a difference!!

Canada's Eglinton—Lawrence (Ward 16) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontoians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Eglinton—Lawrence (Ward 16). Two candidates responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Steven Bosnick, Charm Darby, Albert Pantaleo, Yigal Rifkind, Karen Stintz (incumbent), and Steve Watt.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Albert Pantaleo
Albert Pantaleo is self employed;

he did not provide an age.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: Crime, Market Value Assessments, traffic Issues and a pedestrian Friendly Community

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Market Value Assessments I am determined to address concerns over the recent Realty Tax Assessments and increases. The provincial government has recognized that MPAC is not fair and is not working properly. It is now willing to review the process. This re-definition will require vision, common sense and ingenuity.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I have been a resident in Ward 16 and operated my own business at 1175 Avenue Road for over 40 years. I have always believed that it is important to give of my time and energy to my community. As a member and chairperson of the Avenue Road Business Association, I have also been involved with business development in the area for over 20 years. My children grew up and attended elementary and secondary schools in the area. As I have watched the neighbourhoods change across the ward, I have shared concerns with my neighbours and business colleagues over issues that can be dealt with in the proper way to the benefit of all the people living here. I passionately care about my city and my ward. Years ago, I ran for council because of my love for and pride in this community, that has not only given me my livelihood, but also a sense of belonging. As a caring resident and business owner, I believe that I have a solid and well founded

understanding of the issues and concerns of this Ward.

I am committed to INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY and RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATION.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: The solutions to serious issues should be decided by the community, not by self-appointed individuals, small or special interest groups, politicians or corporations who maintain their own personal or corporate agendas.

No one interested party should possess the power of representation. The community as a whole must be respected.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: Business owner, located in Ward 16 on Avenue Rd, for over 40 years

operating as Alberto Salon and Spa. Community Service and Volunteer positions include: Canadian Cancer Society Director - Business Improvement Area

Past President - Avenue Road Lion's Club

Past President - Hair Design Guild Campaign Against Market Value Assessment

Member - Avenue Road Business Association

Past Co-Chair - Avenue Road Business Association

Past Chair - Avenue Road Business Association

Past Convener - St Margaret's Hockey Association

And Co-Chair - Avenue Road Business Association

Past Chair - Avenue Road Business Association

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Question left unanswered.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: That is a good question you should ask the councillor.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councilor, what would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: To place forward a set budget for the following year make do to stay within the budget any increase should go on the next election referendum.

Yigal Rifkind

27-year-old Yigal Rifkind is a lawyer.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A:

1. Revitalization of the Bathurst Corridor: While Yonge St. has seen much of the economic boom of Toronto in the past forty years, Bathurst has long since lagged behind. It is time to bring new insights into the issues that affect the majority of our constituents. It is time to change City By-Laws regarding economic development on the Bathurst corridor. It is time for new thinking.

2. Transportation: The TTC currently runs at %120 capacity, and while Toronto continues to grow, new subway lines have not opened up. In fact the opposite has happened (see the shelving of the Eglinton Subway lines in 1995 after digging had already begun)

3. Crime and Violence: We need increased police presence in the Lawrence and Bathurst Area as it has been the scene of a number of violent and non-violent crime.

Q: What one election issue do you

feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Transportation, Toronto will keep getting more and more congested (especially because of the Street Car lane only on St. Claire).(sic) Something must be done.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I felt that the transportation issue was not being addressed.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: I have lived the majority of my life in this neighborhood, and have taken an active interest in this community for many years. From attending Forest Hill Collegiate, to attending the Sharrei Shomayim Synagogue at Glencairn and Bathurst, to opening my own law firm at Eglinton and Bathurst, I have had a close relationship with the area in which I am now running for City Councillor.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I am on a community Baseball, Basketball and soccer team, I work with the Out of the Cold Program for the Community and the majority of my legal aid clientele all come from my community.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: I grew up here, Toronto is the greatest city in the world.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: The least desirable was Karen Stintz support of a by-law which would allow Police Officers to not wear name tags (which prevents accountability). The best was a vote against an increase in

residential property tax (which passed anyway).

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: A desire to execute different things. A subways system going East West along Eglinton would be the best thing that the City Council could do for this city.

Canada's Don Valley West (Ward 26) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontonians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Don Valley West (Ward 26). Four candidates responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Muhammad Alam, Bahar Aminvaziri, Orhan Aybars, Michele Carroll-Smith, Mohamed Dhanani, Abdul Ingar, Geoff Kettel, Debbie Lechter, Natalie Maniates, John Masterson, John Parker, David Thomas, Csaba Vegh, and Fred Williams.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Geoff Kettel

58-year-old Geoff Kettel is a public administrator.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign. Development in residential areas in Leaside and Bennington and Wynford/ Concorde

Public safety, tenant issues and property standards in Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park
Future use of the Leaside industrial area

For other issues please go to the

web site www.geoffkettel.ca

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: The need to engage all communities and ensure fair representation of the whole ward. I will work with the community to build a city that is safe, green and healthy, and responsibly manage the City's finances

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I want to build a city that is safe, green and healthy and to responsibly manage the city's finances.

The municipal councillor is in a unique position to effect positive change due to working at the order of government that is the closest to the citizens

I am qualified for the job having 25 years of community service in Ward 26 and 30 years of public service in the Ontario government. My record of community service includes being:

Chair of the East York Board of Health and champion of the East York smoke free bylaws;

Chair of a not for profit housing corporation which created 120 units of seniors housing in Leaside so folks could stay in the community they love;

Chair of the Jenner Jean-Marie community centre in Thorncliffe Park and champion for its recently announced expansion to meet the needs of a growing community.

And in public service my record includes being Chief Financial Officer for Ontario public health responsible for a \$1 billion budget

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: In my view it is essential that the councillor live in the Ward they represent. I have lived in the Ward for 25 years. As a result of living in

and being involved in the community I am very knowledgeable about the Ward, its history, geography and economy etc.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I have lived in the Ward for 25 years, and with my wife we have raised our 3 children who attended local schools. In addition to being involved as a parent and community member in such areas as home and school association, school council, and church committees, I have taken on wider community leadership roles. Most recently I was chair of the Advisory Committee for the Jenner Jean-Marie Community Centre in Thorncliffe Park until September 2006 (chair for 6 years). I am former Chair of the East York Board of Health for 4 years (and active member for another 8 years) and former Chair of Stay at Home in Leaside (SAHIL) a not for profit community-based organization that built 120 units of seniors housing in Leaside. In addition I am on a leave of absence from my position with Ontario Public Health effective September 4, 2006. I was formerly senior manager with a budget of \$1 billion in health care.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto used to be known as "New York built by the Swiss". I would like to have a role in returning Toronto to being "the city the world wants to visit" because it fulfills its destiny as a diverse city that works for all its residents and visitors.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: The new Official Plan encourages intensification and increasing density, at the same time the plan gives more authority to neighbourhoods to protect and retain their character. Least desirable – the failure of council to make significant progress on its plan to become a less auto-dependent city (e.g. by approving bicycle lanes – this year only 1 km approved).

Mr. Kettel abstained from the question "If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?", as incumbent Jane Pitfield is running for mayor, "and as such I believe it is inappropriate to respond to this question".

Natalie Maniates
27-year-old Natalie Maniates is a Public Affairs and Communications Consultant.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A:
Zero tolerance for urban decay:
Consistent and efficient services to ensure graffiti eradication, lighting, street cleaning, parks maintenance, and beautification.
The maintenance of Toronto City Housing in Flemingdon Park must be restored to a state of good and safe repair.

Safe communities that encourage residents to keep active
Toronto must ensure a safe community environment that gives residents peace of mind in their daily life activities.

I propose the city introduce a system of location markers in our ravine and parks to provide residents with a feeling of safety and security as they enjoy our parks. This will also reduce response time of emergency services responding to 911 calls in our parks and ravines.

Responsible development for our neighbourhoods

I would advocate for a mandatory architectural peer review council to promote consistent and well planned development. This would enhance the public realm with respect to green space, size and height, density, and public access ultimately benefiting Toronto's communities.

A thorough and guaranteed public consultation process with local residents for any large scale development proposal. The recent surge of new buildings in the Bayview Institutional area could bring further development and we must ensure that the confines of any original agreement and framework are adhered to.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Protecting the strong sense of community Ward 26 is the most important issue the must be addressed. Traffic and development are converging forces in our community that have an impact on the sense of neighbourhood spirit . The city must arrive at well planned decisions through a thoughtful and efficient process that accommodates residents' concerns.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I have always had respect for Canada's political process. The municipal level symbolizes grassroots politics and I enjoy having that direct contact and support of my neighbours. I decided to involve myself because it is time that younger Canadians entered our political realm to make that difference and encourage our demographic to vote and have their voices heard. I am confident that I can bring a FIT – Forward,

Innovative, Thinking approach to city hall in order to bring sustainable solutions to Toronto over the next twenty years.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: Growing up and living in our community all my life has shaped my values and given me a sense of pride for where I live. I am proud of how Don Valley West has evolved but still feel that there is more work to be done. I understand the traditions of my neighbourhood and also identify with the new generation of residents who have chosen Ward 26 as their home. I want the City of Toronto to take responsibility to ensure a safe, healthy, and active community for residents of all ages.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: Coaching the Rumsey Rattlers children's basketball at Bloorview Kids Rehab. Fundraising for the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation and the Toronto Child Abuse Centre over the past three years.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: Most desirable: The City's commitment of sustained support of the Career Bridge program that helps foreign trained professionals get their first Canadian job experience. Toronto was responsible for employing new immigrants in the City of Toronto workforce and set an example to employers across our City as to how we can tap in to such valuable expertise that is right at our doorstep.

Least Desirable: The purchase of the Green Lane landfill site without

lengthy consultation or discussion with the entire City Council. The City must start investigating proposals for alternative methods of waste management that could prove to be more sustainable such as incineration.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: The FIT approach - Forward, Innovative Thinking. I am forward with a fresh start and futuristic outlook, innovative with beyond the box ideas, and thinking, as a natural communicator with a multitude of experience dealing with a variety of stakeholders. Coming to City Hall with no political baggage and such experience would position me well to become a consensus builder not just within council, but with both the federal and provincial levels of government.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto has enormous potential that has not been tapped in to yet. I would like to see Toronto become a world class city that embraces zero tolerance for urban decay, Safe communities that encourage residents to keep active, responsible development for our neighbourhood, and most of all, accountability to it's taxpayers.

John Parker

52-year-old John Parker is a lawyer.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: Get the budget under control; achieve value for money in City Hall spending; protect our neighbourhoods.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward

in this election?

A: Protect our neighbourhoods.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I am concerned that Toronto is falling far short of its potential due only to lack of committed responsible leadership. I want to help change that.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: Ward 26 has been my home all my adult life.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: Over the past several years I have served in many capacities of local, provincial, and national scope. This involvement has ranged from consulting to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to coaching pee-wee hockey.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto has always been my home. I always assumed it to be the best city in North America. I feel it is starting to slip. I want to get it back on track to where I think it belongs as the best city on this continent in which to live, work, and raise a family.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: Not much to be proud of. Outraged at secret vote to try to slip a pay raise past the voters. Seriously disappointed at decision to commit \$500M to buy a hole in the ground as another temporary solution to the issue of waste management.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you

bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: I would bring a determination always to keep an eye on long range goals and needs while focusing on achievable, immediate priorities, and not mortgage the future to finance a response to immediate short term political pressures.

Csaba Vegh

37-year-old Csaba Vegh is a private investigator.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: Property taxes, crime and traffic are three hot topic issues. I believe that homeowners and businesses are being over taxed. Generation of revenue is not a problem for the city, the way we spend taxpayers money needs to be re-evaluated. We need to hire more police officers and we need to give them the resources to do their job effectively. I believe that a city the size of Toronto should have at least one regularly operating police helicopter. We can also address youth crime by giving our youth the opportunity to spend their time in healthful and productive ways. I have suggested that the city should work with the school boards to open high school gyms to their student for after school activities. Currently, a lot of school gyms are closed to students after school due to a lack of qualified supervisors. Finally, infiltration of traffic onto the streets of Leaside have increased drastically over the past few years. I suggest reducing vehicular access to the streets of Leaside during peak hours for non-residents or their visitors. I also support the construction of the Redway Rd. extension to ease traffic flow.

Q: What one election issue do you

feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: As I mentioned before, I believe that that property taxes for homeowners and businesses need to be frozen. We are being over taxed.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I have lived in ward 26 for thirty years. I have also attended school here, worked here, and I have been a volunteer football coach at Leaside High School since 1989. I believe that I can be a strong and effective voice for our community at City Hall without partisan influence because I am not a member of any political party.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: I have deep roots in the community. Being a long time resident, I share the views and concerns of quite a number of the residents of Ward 26.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I have been a volunteer football coach at Leaside High School since 1989. I am also a volunteer with the Scarborough Minor Football Association. And, I have been a volunteer coach for the Leaside Hockey Association.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is a city of diversity, multiculturalism and acceptance. And with giving our police force the tools to do their jobs effectively, I would strive to make Toronto's streets the safest in Canada.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least

desirable?

A: Being an effective councillor requires the ability to work with a varied group of individuals to work as one unit to make decisions that affect millions of people daily. Through my volunteer efforts, I have worked with teams for many years, where bringing individual achievements into one cohesive unit are absolutely necessary to succeed. I will bring this experience to the table at City Hall.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: In my opinion, Councillor Jane Pitfield has done a great job for ward 26. I would hope to continue this strong representation with a non-partisan perspective.

Iran begins 10 days of military exercises

Iran's Revolutionary Guards began another series of military exercises on Thursday days after a United States-led naval exercise began in the Persian Gulf. Iran began the 10 days of manoeuvres in the Persian Gulf by test firing dozens of missiles, including the long-range Shahab-3 (estimated range: 2000 km or 1,240 miles), Iranian state-run television said on Thursday. Amongst other weapons tested was the Shahab-2, which Iran says can carry a cluster warhead that can deliver 1,400 bomblets at once.

Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi, leader of the Revolutionary Guards, said on television that Iran's military exercises were not meant to threaten neighbouring countries. "We want to show our deterrent and defensive power to trans-regional enemies, and we hope they will understand the message of the manoeuvres," he

said. "The first and main goal is to demonstrate the power and national determination to defend the country against possible threat." General Safavi said the exercises would last 10 days and would take place in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and several Iranian provinces.

New Zealand Police car involved in collision

A New Zealand police car landed on its roof after colliding with a truck in Upper Hutt at 9am NZDT (2100 UTC) today, closing State Highway 2.

The highway patrol car flipped, and its siren-lights ripped off, during a collision with two other cars at an intersection of River Road and Gibbons Street.

The police officer had minor injuries, but needed surgery to his hand and the truck driver was not hurt, a police communications spokesman said.

The Serious Crash Unit is currently investigating.

Senior Sergeant Bengé says police are speaking with witnesses, but will not have a clear idea about what happened until they can speak with the people involved in the crash. He says that could be a few days away.

Bengé says initial investigations indicate the police car was not involved in a pursuit, however witnesses say the car appeared to be rushing to a job with lights flashing.

The truck was carrying a load of windows and shattered glass was scattered over the intersection.

New Zealand journalists fall ill on testing water filter

The two inventors of an iodine-based filtration system from Christchurch, New Zealand, are still backing it even after media tested the 'filtered' water and became violently ill. The inventors are blaming it on a handling error and not the filter itself.

The filter is supposed to turn contaminated water into clean, healthy water.

Last week Russell Kelly, co-inventor of the filter, invited the media to test it out. Mr Kelly had taken water from both the Avon River and sewage water and mixed them together and then placed into his filter. The three journalists and the freelance cameraman became ill the next day, experiencing vomiting and diarrhoea.

Mr. Kelly is currently overseas but his wife Sue Kelly, co-inventor of the filter, said: "The water the journalists drank could have become contaminated because my husband did not disinfect his hands. We are usually so careful, quite focused, but with the press team there it was not a controlled environment. We feel really disappointed in ourselves but I didn't feel I could interrupt the filming process (to ensure her husband had disinfected his hands)."

The three journalists who became sick were from TV One's One News, TV3's 3 News and The New Zealand Herald, the freelance cameraman was working for TV3 at the time.

Blair Norton, One News reporter, had drunk the water and became ill, also required medical treatment for a viral infection instead of a

bacterial infection, according to Television New Zealand, which owns TV One.

Beverly Lockhart, 3 News reporter, and cameraman Joe Morgan, both tried a half a glass of the treated water. Ms Lockhart said: "I would not draw any conclusions about the incident but would be wary of any future on-the-job trials. We tried the water about midday on Wednesday and about Thursday at 10pm I was violently ill with vomiting and diarrhoea."

The reporter from The New Zealand Herald also became ill after drinking the contaminated water.

The Kelly's had invented the filter for aid agencies to make drinkable water in the times of emergencies. They had come up with the idea after they lived in Kashmir, India-Pakistan border, where they saw the problems with water supplies.

Canada's Davenport (Ward 18) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontoians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Davenport (Ward 18). Two candidates responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Lloyd Ferguson, Adam Giambrone (incumbent), Nha Le, James McMillan, and Simon Wookey.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Adam Giambrone (incumbent) 29-year-old Adam Giambrone is the incumbent councillor for Ward 18, Davenport, Ontario Canada.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A:

1. Some of our neighbourhoods have struggled with crime and community safety for more than a generation. We have begun to change that, but there's still much to do.
2. Our streets and public spaces have cleaner. We must redouble the effort to make them beautiful and attractive--and yes, cleaner--so people will use them.
3. The people of our city depend on reliable infrastructure--both physical and social--and we move by transit. We must continue to protect and invest in these priorities if we are to build a city we can continue to be proud of.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Continued investment in crime reduction and safer neighbourhoods.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: For our government to work, it needs direction from problem-solvers with a strong dedication to public service and accountability, and an energetic optimism about the good things we can do together. I admire the work of these people, and I have a strong drive to contribute in the same way.

When these people have not provided this kind of leadership, I have considered it my responsibility to take up the challenge.

I have also felt the need to have the voices of younger people represented at City Hall. Being the youngest member of Council, I have encouraged other young leaders to take up the challenge of political responsibility as well.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: I've lived in this ward all my life and feel a strong personal attachment to the people here. The sense of community here is very strong, but we have not always been well represented at City Council in the past, and we know it. I want to continue to give it the high level of care and attention it rightly deserves.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: Before I was the city councillor, I was actively involved in community groups and our parks associations. Our previous councillor was not responsive to the community, so with research and hard work with others, I was able to provide the kind of service we were lacking.

When I arrived at City Hall, I opened and have since maintained a community office, so people have ready access to their councillor. I have continued to work with community groups across the ward and provided ALL residents with the kind of information in correspondence and newsletter that they were not accustomed to getting. In a very culturally diverse community, I have also worked with many cultural communities in many languages to ensure that everyone, regardless of background or language, is well served by City Hall.

I have worked successfully with the community to establish 3 Business Improvement Areas so that our struggling main streets have a fair chance to grow and succeed.

I have increased local democracy by not only consulting, but often balloting neighbourhoods about very local decisions.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most

proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: This is a community that cares about the health of our environment. Of the decisions Council made this term, I think it's unfortunate that we didn't get to our goals in adding recycling and "green bin" facilities in apartment buildings.

I think this Council should be proud that we made a very responsible decision to keep our Transit plan on track by establishing the St. Clair Right-of-Way. There was a lot of fear-mongering about it, but in the end, Council made the right decision.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is a city that has a proud history of distinct neighbourhoods and cultural diversity. We are a city that has occasionally struggled against a Provincial instinct to cut back and destroy the things we have built together over generations. I think many people who don't know Toronto would be surprised at the progressive, community-minded nature of our people. It's a city I'm intensely proud of.

Jim McMillan

Aged "39 & holding" Jim McMillan is currently self employed in sales.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: 1) Elevators or ramps in Lansdowne, Dufferin, Ossington subway stations now.
2) Turning the contaminated 640 Lansdowne Ave - the police rejected it, the city & the T.T.C. are left neither wanting to pay the clean up costs (60,000,000.00) sixty million dollars. It should be capped with a foot of concrete and trees planted every 20 feet to suck out contaminants and the site used

for a multi use park.

3) Split the 14 Division police force into two groups, leave one group in the old Dundas/Dovercourt Sts. site with the administrative staff remaining there, the other half to set up a large satellite station at Bloor/Lansdowne Sts. saving gas reducing pollution and putting police in the face of the hoodlums who terrorize Lansdowne/Bloor area residents.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Rolling back the 9% pay increase to councillors and mayor.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: I have decided to involve myself in the political process because:

1) Adam Giambrone voted for the 9% pay increase

2) Adam Giambrone voted for the extension of using city finances/resources for 2 extra months.

3) Adam Giambrone believes ward 18 ends at Dufferin St. and ignores the needs of the west part of the ward, (Dufferin St. to the C.N. Line)

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: I want to represent my ward to clean up Adam's mess in our ward.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I have been involved in a clean up campaign for the last 17 years. I believe that cleanliness is next to Godliness.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: Since the 2003 election, nothing was done to be proud of,

but both the salary increase of 9.7%, and the untendered contract for the subway cars, were least desirable.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councillor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: I feel I could add many years of life experience & that of a family provider, to council & not that of a single recently school grad, with none of "the school of hard knocks experience".

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto means so much to me that I composed a Toronto song.

Canada's Toronto—Danforth (Ward 29) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontonians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is Toronto—Danforth (Ward 29). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Diane Alexopoulos, Andrew James, Case Ootes (incumbent), John Richardson, Darryl Smith, and Hamish Wilson.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Hamish Wilson

49-year-old Hamish Wilson is a writer, consultant, does house repair and is a candidate for Ward 29, Danforth, Toronto.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: We're heading towards a very nasty changed climate and aren't doing much here to reduce both our emissions nor to alleviate impacts. Transport sector

emissions lead our emissions growth yet the slim majority of NDP councilors are persisting with the Front St. Extension project, which hasn't looked at transit options, nor harm to transit from this \$255 million 2 km roadway. We have to look at transit instead of cars, and not just on this waterfront project.

I'm also very keen on making much safer passage for bikes east-west through the core. Bikes are a real part of solving many ills, though there are dork cyclists.

Ensuring safe east-west passage on Bloor St. beside the subway is an important thing to do in all core wards; and it would be cheap to do. See takethetooker.ca. More safety for bikes might ease morning crowds on the Bloor subway a bit too. The incumbent doesn't like bike lanes and is fouling up our progress. Housing affordability and conditions is another important thing.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: Actual leadership towards sustainable transportation, instead of reacting against bike lanes and trying to remove them. Peak oil, climate change, smog are all resulting from our inability to provide other options beyond the mobile furnace.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: We are all climate criminals to some degree, and to spend over a quarter billion on a road folly while lots of other things fall apart is wrong. The Feb. 21/05 21-19 council vote to keep alive the Front St. Extension and not to explore transit options meant we couldn't trust the NDP to be as progressive as they claim to be. Over time one person can make a difference and one can drag the debate towards

certain issues and perspectives.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: It's where I live, though I'm recently in the area and the area deserves more aware and constructive representation to try to deal with the problems of the area. It's not simple, there's an awful lot of work and responsibility in such a position.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I've been deputing over the last four years about the Front St. Extension which is big tax money, I'm on the Toronto Cycling Committee (again - I took off a couple of years, but it's been nearly a decade of bike work, and I'm quite involved in the TaketheTooker.ca effort. I also have had a lot of time with transit groups, and previous volunteer community radio work led to numerous links to environmental and civic groups, such as C4LD, fighting the destructive "amanglement" deemed by the Harristocracy. And I try to read some papers.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: It's been a home, yet it's also been uncomfortable given housing costs and how gargantuan our energy and resource consumption is though there are many good people trying to do good things. It's a useful place, yet it's also frustrating.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: That's a good question - likely working on the waste reduction side of things, but I've been very focussed on deflecting the Front

St. Extension, so the 21-19 vote in Feb 21/05 stunk, moreso as most "progressives" kept this Dumb Growth alive.

Q: If you were elected as a "rookie" councilor, What would you bring to the table beyond the incumbent?

A: A strong love, not hatred, of bicycles. I'd also be more willing to be harder on automobility but we also have to promote options - I have some ideas and am propositional, not reactionary. With the FSE, I proposed optional transit routes, not just saying No to Dumb Growth. I also have a deep understanding of all the environmental ramifications of our built environment and would try to turn back the thermostat and slow the throughput. I also have a degree of awareness of the political processes at City Hall and many of the politicians too, though part of me wants most of them tossed.

Canada's St. Paul's West (Ward 21) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontonians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Among Toronto's ridings is St. Paul's West (Ward 21). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include John Adams, Tony Corpuz, Joe Mihevc (incumbent), and John Sewell.

For more information on the election, read Toronto municipal election, 2006.

Joe Mihevc (incumbent)
54-year-old Joe Mihevc is the incumbent for Ward 21, St. Paul's West, Toronto, Canada.

Q: Describe the three most important issues in your campaign.

A: The three most important issues are the environment, transportation and the local economy. As Toronto plans for its future, we need to increase our waste diversion and recycling programs. We need to maintain and protect our green spaces. We need to enhance sustainable energy options. We need to reduce gridlock and smog in order to improve our air quality. And, we need an efficient, affordable, reliable transit system to keep the City and local economy moving. In addressing each of these issues, I am convinced that we cannot make decisions for today only; we need to have vision and hope for a brighter future. As Councillor, I have worked, and will continue to work, on each of these issues in many separate and specific projects throughout the Ward and City. For a full record of the positive results of my work on these issues, go to www.joemihevc.ca All three of the issues come together in one local project - the rejuvenation of St. Clair Ave W, which I address in the next question.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election?

A: The majority of residents have indicated to me that they want St. Clair, the Avenue at the centre of our community life in the south of Ward 21, to provide them with reliable public transit, an efficient flow of traffic, and sidewalks that draw neighbours out for a stroll or to shop locally. This is the vision towards which we are working! With streetscape and transit improvements, St. Clair West will continue to be pedestrian-friendly, and I will continue to encourage the growing patio culture for restaurants and cafes. To improve public transit, I support a

dedicated lane that will allow streetcars to pass unobstructed along the street. In terms of reliability, we are getting the equivalent of an above ground subway service – the dream of so many neighbourhoods across the city! How can I not support that as the local Councillor, responsible for enhancing the Ward which I represent? Current levels of transit service are already insufficient here and will become more so as St. Clair increases in density and popularity. Improved public transit is vital to preserving the neighbourhood character of St. Clair, while moving us into the future.

Q: Why have you chosen to involve yourself in the political process?

A: Great communities, like great cities, are built from shared dreams that address shared needs. I have been a Councillor for the last 15 years, and I am proud to have helped guide the growth and improvement of our community. In the last few years, we have seen the neighbourhoods in St. Paul's West increase in recognition, reputation and property value. This has not occurred by chance. I have worked hard to build successful, creative and vibrant relationships amongst local, corporate and government stakeholders in order to stimulate local renewal and make it happen! We are on the cusp of a renaissance on St. Clair that will reap tremendous rewards for small business and residents. Millions of dollars of City investment in street and transit improvements; support for local Business Improvement Areas; the Wychwood Barns Park; the upgrading of our play parks, the Cedarvale Ravine and the Kay Gardner Beltline Park; all this work is making Ward 21 a wonderful place to live and raise families. I have a vision of community and

City growth - one that is sustainable, civil and inclusive. I enjoy working with people who have a passion for this community and City. This is why I am involved in the political process.

Q: Why do you want to represent this particular ward on council?

A: The creativity, passion and positive community spirit of residents and businesses in Ward 21, St. Paul's West, continues to inspire me. It has made my work as city Councillor, a real pleasure. Together, we are transforming our neighbourhood and our City into one that works - because we are addressing our shared needs, hopes and aspirations, in a fair and equitable manner.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: My recent involvements include: Salsa on St. Clair, a street festival to showcase both Hillcrest Village businesses & Latin culture; Melitaville Festival to support community engagement in Davenport-Shaw neighbourhood St. Clair Art Walk to showcase local artists with Wychwood Heights businesses transformation of the TTC Wychwood Car Barns into a Park to provide valuable green space, recreation, live/work :* space for artists, and community space protected banks of Cedarvale Ravine which led to a City-wide ravine protection by-law annual Spring Clean-up Days in Cedarvale and Nordheimer Ravines, and Kay Gardner Beltline Park support for the West Toronto Initiative for Solar Energy (WISE) to purchase solar systems for the roofs of interested community members, reduce household-produced emissions and contribute to sustainable energy. a home for the heritage

Tollkeepers Cottage at Bathurst and Davenport; and, restoration of the historic Connaught Gates fought the demolition of rental units at 310/320 Tweedsmuir Ave, which led to new City zoning laws restricting condo conversions of rental housing stock stopped the McDonald's drive-thru on St. Clair which led to City by-law prohibiting drive-thrus near residentially-zoned areas improved playground equipment in Graham Park, Marian Engel Park, Humewood Park, Cawthra Park, and park infrastructure in the Kay Gardner Beltline and Cedarvale Park;

Wall murals by local artists to improve neglected lands the merger of Upper Village (Toronto) and Upper Village (York) BIAs

Forest Hill Village BIA's "Village Vision" began to renew the face of the retail village the Hillcrest Yard employee parking lot in order to reduce on-street parking problems on Davenport and in the Hillcrest and Wychwood Park neighbourhoods new signalized intersections at Burton/Kilbarry and at Ossington/Acores to make crossing safer for students, seniors and all pedestrians extension of the Allen Rd. noise wall, south from Fairleigh Ave. to Eglinton Ave. West renewed streetscape along MacPherson and Bridgman Avenues time-based TTC transfers and 4 additional off-street parking lots on St. Clair, to boost shop local campaign a new accessible elevator at Eglinton West TTC station the Commercial Façade Improvement Program

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: The diversity within Toronto

makes it not only a unique place in the world, but a unique place in history. Never has there been, nor is there elsewhere, the meeting, merging and living together of so many cultures that IS Toronto. Diversity truly is our strength. And, in as much as we are able to honour that diversity, Toronto will be a great city. Toronto is also a City where the vulnerable and marginalized have a voice and the commitment is strong to making sure their needs are met. This is our greatest security: each citizen knowing that they have a role, a place, and positive contribution to make to community life.

Q: Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?

A: Ward 21 was well served by city Council. No adverse decisions were made.

Ward 21 was especially well served by Council's decision to invest so much in our area: in so many of our parks and the Cedarvale Ravine; on street and transit improvements.

Clint Brown, ex NZ TV presenter, investigation complete

The investigation over whether the allegations that resulted in ex-sports presenter for 3 News, Clint Brown, being hospitalised has been completed but police are still tight-lipped over the result and if he will be charged.

Clint Brown was assaulted on September 13, 2006, and was put in hospital due to a concussion and a broken eye socket, for allegedly abusing a taxi driver while he was drunk in Taupo. Many witnesses say that Mr Brown was hit because he was swearing and verbally

abusing the taxi driver from the Top Cab company. However other witnesses say that Brown was injured because he was hit by the partner of another woman he insulted, not because he was verbally abusing the taxi driver.

Inspector Kevin Taylor, Taupo area commander, said the police had completed their investigation yesterday and wouldn't comment on whether he would be charged. "No progress will be made until at least next week."

The police reviewed closed-circuit video, interviewed several witnesses to find out what happened in Taupo that night.

Mr Brown had been suspended from work after the allegations came to light. On October 13 Mr Brown resigned from TV3 due to stressful conditions.

The reason that Mr Brown had been in Taupo that night was because he was at a promotional dinner for the New Zealand A1 team. It has been said that he was drunk.

TV3's own investigation into the allegations did not clarify anything.

Abducted Richmond Hill, Ontario man walks into police station

A Richmond Hill, Ontario man is currently released after he was abducted and escaped last night.

Chee Kian Jeff Chan, 28, was forced by three people into a black Mercedes SUV (which was caught on security camera) in the parking garage of his condominium at 23 Oneida Crescent in the Yonge Street and High Tech Road area. A small amount of blood was found at the scene. He was dropped off at an unnamed location in Toronto

Wednesday night.

The suspects were wearing black clothes and balaclavas covering their faces at the time of the incident. The licence plate number of the Mercedes SUV is not known because there was no plate on the front of the vehicle.

Chan walked into the Major Mackenzie Dr. W. police station, at about 6:45 p.m. last night, suffering from injuries and went to a hospital for examination.

York Regional Police say that he is a poker player, after hearing about a man with the same name that took seventh place at the River Rock Casino Resort near Vancouver, British Columbia on November 19, 2005, earning him \$44,753.

No ransom note was received and police believe that it was an extortion attempt.

"He was unaware of a lot of things during his ordeal," Constable Laurie Perks said. "He didn't know what they looked like. His vision was concealed and so he therefore didn't know where he was through most of his ordeal."

It is believed that Chan's three captors released him after 28 hours because of the media coverage surrounding his disappearance.

The investigation is still ongoing.

McGuinty passes on Caledonia dispute to federal government

Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty wants the federal government to deal with the Caledonia dispute. The Ontario government says that Ottawa alone is responsible for resolving the dispute, along with another 27 land claims.

Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice, who refused to meet with David Ramsay, Ontario's aboriginal affairs minister, said Ottawa and Ontario share responsibility for resolving a land claim on the Six Nations reserve in Southwestern Ontario.

The Ontario government has spent close to \$40 million since February, \$12 million to purchase the property back from the property developer, and \$15 million going to the OPP.

"They are just playing games right now," Haldimand County Mayor Marie Trainer told the Canadian Press. "We're in the middle. We're the ones suffering. . . . I would like them to stop acting like children. I wish they would quit holding Caledonia residents as hostages. It's pretty frustrating."

"The province has neither the authority nor the power to settle a land claim, so it's up to the federal government," David Ramsay, Ontario's aboriginal affairs minister said. "And quite frankly, to move these negotiations along, the federal government really needs to bring more vigor to these talks."

McGuinty is still urging the federal government to "step up to the plate" and to resolve the dispute.

Until then, the Ontario government will have to wait for more discussions with provincial ministers.

Pizza 'lust' campaign attracts numerous complaints

New Zealand's Hell Pizza company sparked a storm of protest on Thursday after putting 170,000 condoms in mailboxes.

Hell Pizza, located in 18 cities

throughout New Zealand, included a condom and explicit instructions on how to use it during sex in its small pamphlet delivered to promote its "Lust" pizza, and has attracted more than 30 complaints to the Advertising Standards Authority.

Groups such as Family Life International, Focus on the Family and the Catholic Church have condemned the campaign as encouraging children to use the condoms and follow the "explicit instructions" contained in the packet and called for a boycott of the company.

"From the feedback we're getting a lot of people are making complaints to the Advertising Standards Authority and are boycotting Hell's Pizza, and we encourage that."

The church had received a number of complaints from people offended at finding a condom along with the advertising in their letterbox, Bishop Browne said.

Bob McCoskrie, national director of the group Family First said Hell Pizza had crossed the line of what was decent and acceptable advertising material to be put in letterboxes of families and that the connection between "meat-lovers" pizzas and condoms cheapened women and the act of sex, and that Hell Pizza's advertising has previously been cheeky and fun, but he thinks the line has now been crossed.

"It is offensive to families to have condoms and explicit sex instructions put in their letterbox, and it is unacceptable for Hell Pizza to link pizza with the intimate act of sex," McCoskrie says.

McCoskrie says children and families should be protected from offensive grubby advertising.

"It is time we started protecting our children and families. Family First believes the Advertising Standards Authority will be receiving plenty of complaints about Hell Pizza's latest advertising campaign."

Hell Pizza's director Warren Powell refused to apologise for distributing the condoms.

Powell says the company discussed the promotion with Family Planning and the Aids Foundation and they completely support the campaign.

"While the primary aim of the campaign is to promote our Lust pizza, let's not forget that promoting the use of condoms has important public benefits," said Warren Powell.

"Government and public agencies distribute these things for free to young people."

"Before this campaign started we rang a number of these agencies and offered them our excess condoms at no charge."

Today in History

1852 - Count Cavour became prime minister of Piedmont-Sardinia, which soon expanded to become the Kingdom of Italy.

1869 - Nature, one of the oldest and most reputable general purpose scientific journals, was first published.

1890 - In London, England, the City & South London Railway, the first deep-level underground railway in the world, opened.

1979 - Iranian radicals seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran, beginning a 444-day hostage crisis.

1995 - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was mortally wounded by Yigal Amir while at a peace rally in Tel Aviv.
November 04 is Flag Day in Panama, Unity Day in Russia.

Quote of the Day

It is quite certain that in seeing the people who treat us so well despite their own misfortune, we are more obliged than ever to work hard for their happiness. ~ Marie Antoinette

Word of the Day

crestfallen; adj

1. Sad because of a recent event.
2. Depressed.

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