



Top Stories

Voting ends in landmark Congo election

Voting ended in the final round of the first free Presidential election in Congo in over 40 years. The run-off candidates are President Joseph Kabila and Vice President Jean-Pierre Bemba.

Featured story

Canada's Etobicoke—Lakeshore (Ward 5) city council candidates speak

On November 13, Torontonians will be heading to the polls to vote for their ward's councillor and for mayor. Council incumbent Peter Milczyn and Joseph Mignone speak to Wikinews about their platforms.

Wikimedia chair Jimmy Wales steps down

Following the Wikimedia Foundation's retreat in Frankfurt, Germany the Wikimedia Foundation held an extremely important meeting in regards to the organization of the Board of Trustees.

Wikipedia Current Events

- President of Bulgaria Georgi Parvanov is reelected after a run-off election with Volen Siderov in the presidential elections.
- 2006 Bajaur airstrike: Pakistani helicopter gunships fired missiles and destroyed an al-Qaeda-linked training facility and killed 80 suspected terrorists in a northwestern tribal area near the

Wikipedia Current Events

Afghan border, in a madrassa near the town of Khar.

- The Israeli cabinet has approved the addition of an Yisrael Beitenu party into the governing coalition.
- Sir Nicholas Stern, the former chief economist of the World Bank, submits a report to the British Government warning of the economic costs and damage to the world that could result from global warming.
- Saddam Hussein's chief lawyer, Khalil al-Duleimi, walks out of court after 12 of his requests were rejected, but the chief judge immediately appoints other attorneys to defend the deposed President of Iraq.
- Specialist Ahmed Qusai al-Taayie, an Iraqi American United States Army soldier currently listed as missing in action in Iraq, is reported to have married an Iraqi citizen, against U.S. military regulations.
- A bomb at a Baghdad market kills 31 people and wounds more than 50 others.
- Super Typhoon Cimaron, the strongest storm to hit the Philippines in eight years, kills at least three people as it makes landfall in Luzon.

Wal-Mart fires employee with connections to Republican Party television advertisement

Wal-Mart fired Terry Nelson, a Republican strategist, last night because he had connections to a

controversial Republican Party advertisement in Tennessee. The ad's purpose was to blast Democratic Senate candidate Harold Ford Jr, who is running against Republican Bob Corker.

A blonde woman in the ad says, "I met Harold at the Playboy party". As the spot ends, she winks and says breathily: "Harold, call me!". The ad also "criticised" Canada. "Canada can take care of North Korea," a man in the television ad says. "They're not busy."

Nelson and his company, CrossLink Strategy Group, were hired by Wal-Mart last year in an attempt to help the company.

Jesse Jackson, an American politician, and other leaders signed a letter distributed by WakeUpWal-Mart.com, asking the company to end its relationship with Nelson.

In an interview with the Associated Press Nelson said, "There was no intention to offend anybody and it's unfortunate if people took offense. That was certainly not what people planned for or hoped for."

A spokesman for Wal-Mart, David Tovar, issued a statement saying Nelson's company had "sent a letter to Wal-Mart ending its working relationship with our company."

Bombay Stock Exchange Sensex crosses 13,000 mark in morning trade

The BSE Sensex touched another

milestone by crossing the historic 13,000 mark. The BSE's main index reached to 13,039.30 in morning trade, surpassing the previous peak of 12,994.45 set earlier this month on October 17. After 135 trading sessions the new milestone of 13,000 has been achieved. Sensex also gained today all-time closing high of 13,024.26 points.

Reliance Communications Ltd. gained almost 3 percent when it announced it's better than expected results in the morning. Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd. gained 4.09 percent at 760 while Bhari Airtel group gained 2.65 percent at 541.25. Infosys gained Rs. 6.55 at Rs. 2,104 per equity share.

People are expecting bullish market and looking for higher benchmarks. Nimesh Kampani, Chairman, JM Morgan Stanley expected the new milestone of 14,000 mark by March, next year.

Interview with Bill Bousfield, Regional Council candidate for Wards 1 & 5 in Brampton, Canada

The upcoming 2006 Brampton municipal election, to be held November 13, features an array of candidates looking to represent their wards in city council or the council of the Peel Region.

Wikinews contributor Nick Moreau contacted many of the candidates, including Bill Blousfield, asking them to answer common questions sent in an email. This ward's incumbent is Elaine Moore; also challenging Moore is Janet Hamilton and Tejinder Lamba.

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

A:
Door-to-Door transit geared to the

senior citizens
Increased Police presence in our school zones and parks
Eliminate the current waste of our tax dollars

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

A: With the elimination of wasted tax dollars, the savings would fund these and other initiatives.

Q: The Rose Theatre recently launched. What are your thoughts on this facility? Have you had a chance to tour it yet?

A: Although the theater is a beautiful building, I could not in good conscience have approved funding while there is a twenty-one year waiting list for affordable housing. I feel 65 million dollars is too high of a price to pay when there are so many without affordable housing, not to mention the location brings even more congestion to an already overcrowded area.

Q: How do you feel about Brampton's rate of expansion? Council recently capped the annual amount of new development; do you agree completely with this decision, would you have slowed development even further, or not have imposed a cap at all?

A: I think new development should have been capped even further. With development to continue before the infrastructure is in place to handle the increased volume will obviously add to our already over congested roadways.

Q: What service is most lacking in Brampton?

A: Many of the seniors in that I've spoken to in Brampton are literally almost shut ins. They don't have the means to get out in this great community and enjoy what they helped to create. As the Region

owns equipment to provide a door-to-door transit system for them, I feel it is a shame that no one will put in the effort to help get them out and about. As we are all aging, I shudder to think that as we approach our senior years, we also will be neglected by our elected officials of the day.

Q: What are your opinions on Brampton's congestion and the level of public transit funding?

A: I think back to when my family moved here, there were only 35,000 people in Brampton. My visions of Queen Street and Main Street as a youngster are relatively the same as they are now, two lanes each way. Here we are 40 years later, same roads but ten times the volume. Municipal government must continue to apply pressure for more transit funding from the province.

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

A: I have always felt our elected officials should be leading by example as they are in their position not only because of us but also more importantly, representing us as a whole. I for one have had quite enough of being represented by dishonest, self-serving, immoral people as hopefully, they aren't a reflection of the people they serve. I want to give people the option for truth, honesty and integrity.

Q: What qualities or experiences do you possess, that make you more desirable than the incumbent?

A: I offer honesty and integrity. It's no secret these are qualities that are lacking in all levels of government. It's something we all know yet continue to tolerate it. I can't fault people for continuing to vote for it as it shows we still have hope however, how many times,

how many elections pass before we say Enough?

Q: Much of Brampton's existing council is quite seasoned in the civic political process. What could you bring to the table as a "rookie", above and beyond the current roster of councillors?

A: A realistic, private sector approach to spending. I feel that even though experience is important much of council has been out of touch with real world spending for far too long to be effective. Although the current council is "seasoned" it's that seasoning that has created our shortcomings and issues that have come to light during this 2006 campaign.

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

A: I live in this ward; I've lived in this ward since my street was at the northern most point in Brampton. Now, forty years later my street is central Brampton, in some areas, there have been many changes while in others very little. As my wife and I are raising my two young children here, I have a great interest in this ward. My children attend school here, attend the recreational centers and parks here and I want to insure these areas remain accessible and safe for all. I'm tired of seeing the Police run into the park at the end of my street, I would like to see increased Police patrols of the parks.

Q: Of the decisions made by council since the last election, which one would you have changed, and why?

A: I wouldn't have awarded \$400,000 to an outside contractor, the Red Cross, to purchase equipment followed by a multi million dollar contract to provide service for dialysis patients without

putting that contract up for tender, thereby at least saving the taxpayers the original \$400,000 and possibly reducing the cost of that service. The Region of Peel already has contractors under contract providing transportation service. To not include them as well as any other interested contractors doesn't provide the best options available and that is what the bid process is intended to do.

Q: What does Brampton mean to you?

A: No matter where life leads me, after 40 years here, Brampton will always be "home". I've watched Brampton grow from a small town to a thriving city, which has retained its small town feel with the tree lighting at Christmas and the beautiful Gage Park.

Canada's Parkdale—High Park (Ward 14) 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 Parkdale—High Park (Ward 14). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Beverly Bernardo, John Colautti, Tom Freeman, David Hanna, Barry Hubick, Walter Jarsky, Ted Lojko, Gord Perks, Anthony Quinn, Rowena Santos, Dilorece South, Jimmy Talpa, Matthew Vezina, and David White.

38-year-old Anthony Quinn is a currently associate producer for Moses Znaimer, at his independent production company. For seven years, Quinn served as Executive Assistant to Citytv co-founder and CEO Znaimer at Citytv.

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

A: I'll break the three issues down by Ward, City and Philosophy.

The most important issue in Ward 14 is the prevalence of drug dealers, pimps and petty criminals on our streets; directly related to the low number of police available and the erroneous view that the status quo is ok and it's all just a part of living in Parkdale. My priority for Ward 14 is to increase the number of police on the street, who'll then have the manpower to get that criminal element out of the shadows of lower Parkdale, and revitalize the neighbourhood with the return of commerce and family friendly passage.

The most important issue in our City is the cold reception that the business community has received from Council and the resulting flight of businesses from Toronto and the ensuing erosion of the tax base. While Business is turning it's back on Toronto, a left-leaning City Council has continued on its irresponsible tax and spend mission.

The most important philosophical issue in this election is the infiltration of partisan politics and agenda driven decision-making being the rule and not the exception in Council chambers. While it is important to know the ideology of your elected representative, the needs and wants of Ward residents may not always mesh with the will of a political party and a Councillor then becomes handcuffed to the partisan political agenda, and is no longer a true "representative" of the resident, but only of the Party. Partisanship gets in the way of creative problem solving and consensus building. City issues do not stop at the arbitrary Ward boundaries and we need a Councillor who can work with others at City Hall and solve problems outside of political affiliations to get things done.

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

A: Parkdale – High Park is an enigma. It's the tenderloin of Toronto, in some parts a haven for criminals; in others a vibrant cultural marketplace with large homes on tree lined streets. It is the first stop for many new immigrants and the last stop for the poor and the mentally ill. Ward 14 needs a vision that includes taking care of our poor and ill, maintaining vibrant local businesses, holding onto our forest in the city and improving access to our waterfront. A vision that allows for revitalization while caring for those who are in the greatest need and maintaining identity of our individual neighbourhoods.

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

A: I've been following the shenanigans of politicians at City Hall since I moved back to Toronto in 1989. They've caused me to shout at my TV, write letters to the editor and continually vote against incumbents. I've complained to friends, family and anyone else who would listen about incompetent Councillors. Now instead of just complaining about the problem, I'm trying to do something about it. I've met my opponents and have heard their platforms and I'm now more worried that our tax and spend council may be strengthened by my left wing opponents and I'm emboldened in my resolve to bring independent thought to Council.

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

A: Because it's a challenge. Because this ward needs help and a broad minded approach to problem solving. I live approximately 900 metres outside of the Ward 14 border. My wife and

I live with our two pre-school children in a west end condo, and we've tried in vain to buy a home in Roncesvalles Village and High Park over the last few years. I chose to run in Parkdale – High Park because it's my home and will be the neighbourhood where my children will grow up. I want to help shape that environment for the better; for my family and for all families in Ward 14.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I'm a father of two pre-school kids and starting a family, as all parents will know, is a busy time and I hope considered a contribution to the community in itself. I have however made the effort to find some extra time to contribute to the community. I'm starting my third year as a volunteer tutor for 'inner-city' middle school students, in an after school homework club organized by Frontier College. I'm a volunteer soccer coach for my daughter's soccer team in the Toronto Parks and Recreation league. I'm Board Secretary for my Condominium Corporation representing several hundred residents.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is: the Leafs and the Argos; Slush and Sunburn; Subways and Streetcars; Szechuan and Souvlaki; Atwood and Egoyan. It's the "centre of the universe" and the engine of the country.

Toronto can and should be the great, democratic, multicultural wonder of the world. A bastion of inclusiveness, diversity and environmental awareness with an artistic, cultural and free enterprise foundation derived from all corners of the planet. With a compassionate leadership and a

social safety net that catches those who fall between the cracks.

Canada's Parkdale—High Park (Ward 13) 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 Parkdale—High Park (Ward 13). Two candidates responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Linda Coltman, David Garrick, Greg Hamara, Aleksander Oniszcak, Bill Saundercook (incumbent), and Frances Wdowczyk.

35-year-old Linda Coltman is a consultant and boards member.

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

A: Voter specific engagement (locally) leading to the new implementation of something citizen driven on an annual, in ward basis (& an increased citizenry interest in voting and voter engagement in general).

Identifying the social needs of our wards residents and seeking recommendations to such and working towards great new adventurous ways of addressing same.

Being open to inviting corporate development within our ward through the recognition of our strong cultural heritage and respect of such through a means of encouraging positive address of the social needs of the ward 13 constituency.

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

A: Unifying the ward and increasing civic engagement throughout (increased

participation, heightened voter turnout etc.) Unifying the ward by the institution of a comprehensive website accessible by all the ward's residents is a new, innovative potential means of accomplishing such alongside more tried and true methods of encouraging and fostering participation through regular open community consultation and the like.

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

A: To pay equity to all issues and too to bring a different kind of representation to this ward.

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

A: To represent the multiplicity of its diversity, which differs from that of other wards.

Too, this ward has been my home for 20+ years and I have been actively involved within such throughout, as such I feel well suited to representing the people living and working within and further engaging with them to identify their needs, thoughts, wants etc. and seeking to foster positive interactions and growth within this, my home ward, in keeping and adhering to the diversity of the wards constituents.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: As a leader and a participant within many community groups I currently spend and have spent much of the past two decades alongside the constituency working to address, react to and seek democratic solutions to the ward's needs. As a member of multiple local Boards, Committees, Executives and community groups, I strive to keep abreast of issues through continual personal interaction with the residents and too through multimedia sources.

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: As far most proud of, there are multiple to choose from in respect to the total City perspective however, the May 2004

Implementation of pesticide bylaw in which Council decided on an implementation schedule for phasing in full enforcement of the bylaw is a decision that our incumbent councillor voted on behalf of the ward 13 constituents behalf in support of the pesticide ban and one that is of great importance on our ward level as citizen engagement in respect to environmental issues is strong within and listening to and supporting the opinions of the local citizenry is, in my belief, one of the key aspects to promoting further and increased citizen engagement in respect to all issues brought forth for discussion to City Council.

As far as least proud of, in respect to the views of our wards constituents, the Council decisions based in respect to financing, in September 2004 in respect to election financing and further tied in to such, in July 2006 in respect to compensation for elected officials. In July, Council approved a pay increase for members of the Council who will be elected in November, taking effect January 1, 2007 thereby increasing Councillors' current salary of about \$87,000 annually to \$95,000, a decision that while deemed to be reflective of bring the salaries in line with the average of large Ontario municipalities is not one that I see as being a desirable decision. Locally within ward 13 our incumbent councillor voted against the ward's constituents in 2004 in respect to a vote taken to restrict election donors to individuals, banning corporations

and trade unions from making campaign donations. My views remain that citizen engagement is of paramount importance within our City and that the wishes of said citizenry should be reflected through individual Council member votes and the collective Council decision/outcome of such.

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

A: I will bring new age thinking. I will be productive and resourceful in developing new programs and not flogging dead horses. I will not be willing to sit in unproductive community partnerships with groups seeking to develop the ward but instead would ask groups to each develop one solid idea for which I would work with them to lobby for full council implementation of such within ward 13.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto, being the largest City in Canada, has the potential to become a world class leader in engaging our diversity thereby prompting our City into becoming the best led, run and operated City in the world.

While already recognized as a world class City and among the best in the world, the potential for Toronto to lead in all aspects is there and waiting to be utilized. Through engagement of our City's populous I foresee that Toronto can make the transition from greatness to becoming the recognized world's best if we act on and make use of our untapped local resources in a more effective manner.

39-year-old Aleksander Oniszczyk is a freelance journalist.

Q: Describe the three most

important issues in your campaign.

A: Taxes and Spending: Lawn signs, billboards, flyers - have you noticed that my opponents are spending a lot of money on their campaigns? Do you think they will stop spending a lot of money if they get elected? I believe fiscal responsibility is not just a phrase to drop in interviews. Intelligent and resourceful solutions are needed to get full value for our tax dollars. I don't just say it, I do it. Did I spend thousands of dollars on a flashy website? No, I created it myself. A can-do attitude can go far. Councillor wages need to be rolled back as well. We need to do our part. Of course, the flip side of the coin has Toronto paying a disproportionate amount of money in taxes compared to the services it receives. The Province, the Federal government and most importantly, the people of Canada need to have this made clear to them. It simply will not change until we have their support.

Toronto is the economic engine of Canada and when that engine needs an oil change, it is best not to wait until it seizes up.

No More Ugly Buildings: Rampant uncontrolled overdevelopment needs to stop. We need to listen to the concerns of our citizens. Why is it that banks are allowed to build such monstrously ugly buildings in the area while other businesses like the McDonalds in Bloor West Village manage to be good corporate citizens and build to integrate with the neighbourhood? Why are condos being built where they are not wanted? Council needs a vision and a plan.

Traffic calming measures have backfired in the Ward. Traffic is worse than ever. We need a real integrated plan rather than a patchwork of band-aid solutions.

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

in this election?

A: Property Tax: It affects everyone in the area homeowners and tenants alike. Our taxes have gone up but our services have gone down. Although it is less expensive to service homes in our area for garbage collection than it is in the more spread out suburbs, we pay more. Our infrastructure is already built, but our taxes go to build new, less efficient suburban ones outside our ward. Long time residents are being forced to move due to spiraling cost increases. Common sense is needed to put an end to this injustice.

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

A: Enough is enough. Our current Councillor seems invisible until election time. I have seen our ward decline in recent years with graffiti, reduced TTC service, ineffective traffic calming measures and inappropriate development. I've read the platforms of the other candidates, and they are just typical things politicians always say with no actual ideas to back them up. I want honesty in government. I believe in transparency. I believe in backing up every statement with a plan. Most of all, I don't see any vision in the other candidates platforms. For example, from Greg Hamara's web site we see under the heading " Building Safe and healthy neighbourhoods" that his big plan is "Better enforcement of traffic rules". Oh yes, very inspiring plan. That just gives me goose bumps. Compare that to my idea of Raised Bicycle Lanes as found in Amsterdam, eliminating graffiti as has been done by the New York subway system. The other candidates do not place the constituent first. Want proof? Check their websites and you'll see that I am the only one that

actually lists and links to the

websites of my competitors because I want to HELP constituents make the best choice.

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

A: Although I have worked in Austin, Texas, San Francisco and other cities, I have lived in Parkdale – High Park for over 35 years and I consider it home. I have seen how great the area once was and how great it could be and I am inspired to make it a truly great place to live again.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: As a freelance journalist I write about issues that concern the community on many levels. I volunteer my time to charity and support local businesses. I have lived in the ward for over 35 years and participate in its activities. I attend the Arts festival and Ukrainian Festival because not for photo ops as some of the other candidates treat the events, but for the experience itself. I do not join a group to just pad my resume or add as a bullet point on campaign literature, I go out and try to effect change. For example, I personally sought the Mayor out to discuss my plan for a raised bicycle lane as discussed in <http://www.oniszczak.com/index.html#1>. I had a vision and I talked to someone that could get things done. I saw a need for more community interaction – so I designed and built a website (vividpicture.com) that allows all residents to discuss, comment and vote on each others ideas. The others list groups they join – but ask yourself – what did this group do for the community lately? Did the candidate actually contribute anything, or did he or she join because it looks good in a list.

Q: What does Toronto mean to

you?

A: Toronto means opportunity and the ability to be the best at what we do. We see the underlying greatness in our city's genes but do not promote ourselves enough. We need more pride. We have the tallest building in the world (CN Tower according to the Guinness Book of Records) but most people don't know this and would more likely guess "Chicago" or "Kuala Lumpur". We are considered the most multicultural city in the world, yet we don't promote this richness in restaurants, shopping and experience to tourists. Toronto is like its waterfront. Beautiful, but hidden.

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 council decision to raise the councillors' wages was the least desirable. Instead of being a role model for their voters, they have sent a clear signal that they feel superior to the electorate by increasing their own wages greater than any justified amount due of the cost of living. Have they earned the raise because they have solved the problems of the city of Toronto? I support a rollback in councillor wages.

The proudest decision was an agreement with the Region of York for the allocation of capital funding by Toronto and York as the municipal share of the proposed extension of Toronto's Spadina subway line. Now, this kind of decision is to be expected and is a basic common sense solution any good government would make for its electorate. However, it is sad that this is the proudest. Where are the grand visions? Where are the inspiring projects? We should be getting more for our tax dollars than this.

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

A: Ideas and energy. While the incumbent may have had some good ideas in the past, the last ones were many years ago. Perhaps after 18 years he has become jaded, but whatever the reason, not much has been heard from him since the last election. I plan to use the "rookie" status to full effect. I have a vision for making the place I call home a great place. I have specific plans to make it happen and I have the energy to pursue them.

UK Foreign Secretary Beckett breaks ranks over Trident

Despite commitments already made by the British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Chancellor Gordon Brown to replace the Trident missile system, Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett is calling for a public debate on the decision.

The Prime Minister has committed to holding a debate in Parliament over the issue.

Beckett told the Sunday Times that it was the Cold War that prompted the Trident programme but that the security situation now is very different.

Though Trident is not due for replacement for 20 years, Tony Blair has promised that there will be decision on Trident this year, due to the long lead time for design and construction. The costs involved may be between 10 and 25 billion pounds.

Beckett said that the public should be informed and should think about the issue themselves.

Her opinion will be welcomed by back bench Labour MPs who are

concerned that any opposition to replacing Trident will be suppressed.

Beckett has also taken an independent line before, on Iraq, by expressing 'regrets' over the war and saying she did not disagree with General Sir Richard Dannatt, who said that British troops in Iraq were provoking trouble.

Sokoto mourns after plane crash that killed Sultan

Thousands of mourning Nigerian Muslims have gathered outside the temple of the late Sultan of Sokoto, Muhammadu Maccido, waiting to pay their last respects following his death in a plane crash on Sunday, along with 95 others on board. He was a widely respected man to whom 70 million Muslims looked to for guidance and leadership.

The crowds are being let into the palace in small groups to meet the surviving family of the Sultan, and other traditional rulers. Figureheads such as President Olusegun Obasanjo paid their respects on Monday, along with a host of other dignitaries, including two former presidents. Among those who died in the crash are former President Shehu Shagari's son, aswell as the son of the Sultan, Mohammed, and one of his grandchildren. A northern senator was also recovered from the site.

The possibility of pilot negligence is now circulating the investigation, however a final conclusion as to what has caused the crash of ADC Airlines Flight 53 is not yet available. The investigation on the Boeing 737 is expected to be concluded over the coming weeks.

Within the next couple of days, the

kingmakers will assemble and draw up a list of three possible candidates to be the next Sultan Sultan. This list is then presented to Sokoto State Governor Attahiru Bafarawa, who will choose the next Sultan from the list of three. He is expected to choose the person who is placed at the top of the list. The list from the Kingmakers could come as early as Tuesday, and a decision by the State Governor by the end of the week.

The crowds outside the palace are expected to increase after the appointment of the next Sultan, and they will mix their condolences with congratulations for the new Sultan.

Canada's Etobicoke North (Ward 1) 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 Etobicoke Centre (Ward 3). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Francis Ahinful, Ted Berger, Anthony Caputo, Suzan Hall (incumbent), Andre Lucas, Rosemarie Mulhall, Brian Prevost, and Sonali Verma.

57-year-old Ted Berger is involved in customer/public relations.

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

A: Crime must be contained and reduced in our community via not necessarily only added police forces but as we must introduce more surveillance cameras in key areas, we must educate the youth and their parents within the schools where I would go to all to have meetings with them with guest speaker and bring forth the effects and hurt crime causes to individuals/victims of crime and

their families and the community as a whole and as well outline the current laws and punishments for the commitment of crime and alternatives available to youth before they commit any violent acts. Also we must introduce more youth facilities where they can gather and socialize. We must have better availability of youth employment and lobby for tougher sentences for the commitment of crime especially the Young Offenders Act with federal government.

The other issues is our environment/garbage in our neighborhoods and transportation with especially easier access to rapid transit/subway at Kipling and Bloor and with the extension of the subway to York U and Humber College must be lobbied for possibly by increasing the 2 cents per liter subsidy from the gasoline tax collected by the provincial government to 3 or 4 cents per liter yearly in order to pay for these added needs without increasing taxes to rate payers.

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

A: The most relevant issue is CRIME as I outlined above.

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

A: I first and foremost care about all the people. I am a humanist and I would work for all the people. I have the past experience in being elected as a Trustee at the board of education at York Region in the City of Vaughan and know how to lobby for what the people need. We need a strong voice in this community to make the necessary changes to give all the people a better life especially a better value for their hard earned tax dollars. I will be councilors of" Action not just Words."

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

A: Etobicoke is where I have lived and been a community activist especially in my neighborhood and watched a how the good reputation of this area has eroded to a point where people are afraid to come to Etobicoke because of the fears of crime and look of our parks and garbage on our streets. I have been in touch with current councilor about these concerns on an going basis in this period.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I am community activist with our property managers in several properties owned by H.R. Developments for past 9 years in trying to improve them and our neighborhoods and as well have been in touch with the current and past councilors with ongoing concerns in our neighborhoods.

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 most proud of would be the passing of the formation of a Greater Transit Authority and the Least the current councilors voted themselves a 10% increase to their salaries, which if I am elected, must be rolled back to maximum of 3% or the rate of inflation yearly and only that, like everyone else who is working.

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

A: I would bring a strong voice and action and my ability to work harmoniously with all members of council to bring about changes that will make my community in Etobicoke and all of the city of Toronto a better place live.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto means to me to be a world class city where the streets are clean, the infrastructure is beautiful and efficient to serve all who come to visit, first class entertainment and restaurants and foremost the capital of multiculturalism and harmony and safety among it people who com from 110 different countries of the world.

Canada's York West (Ward 8) 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 York West (Ward 8). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Hau Dang Tan, Garry Green, Peter Li Preti (incumbent), Abdulhaq Omar, Anthony Perruzza, and Ramnarine Tiwari.

34-years-old, Garry Green is a Contracted Services Specialist (employment programs), Toronto District School Board.

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

A:

1. Housing: I wish to re-design Edgley Village to make it safer. Former Mayor of Toronto and former head of MTHA (now TCHC) John Sewell proposed the redevelopment 30 years ago and it has died off due to a lack of advocacy. I will get this back on the map and get it done. I also want to ensure that all people in the ward live in housing that safe, well maintained and that they know they have a champion if they need help. I will be there to listen and act on their behalf. Adequate housing is critical if we wish to raise healthy children and

if we want to put people in a position to become employable.

2. Employment

I have worked in the employment field for several years and wish to use this experience to help people in our community. I have helped youth, newcomers and even seniors gain employment and it would be my pleasure to help the residents of ward 8. I will encourage employers to hire locally, I will try my best to build a mega-hospital in our ward and I will have an internship program open for youth and newcomers out of my office.

3. Childcare

The local councillor voted against childcare subsidies in 2003. I have one young child and one on the way in November so I know the importance of getting children off to a healthy start. I will fight for families; not vote against them.

4. Crime

I feel that if we improve the housing, employment and childcare needs of residents, crime will be significantly decreased in coming years. The community will also benefit from far more positive press but we first need to heal on the inside before the external forces (press) are supportive.

Q: What one election issue do you feel is most relevant to your ward in this election? Housing. How can we ask people to go out and get a job when their home environment is unsuitable?

A: I am also concerned with the growth of development in my ward. We need a councillor free from the strings that come with accepting dollars from developers. I have vowed not to accept dollars from developers or labour because I want to act in the best interests of my community at all times. I live in ward 8, will raise my family in ward 8 and will always look at the impact of all decisions on our

community.

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

A: I was very discouraged by the fact that our councillor voted against childcare subsidies and with the rise in influence of local developers. I want the community to have more of a say and as a local resident, I feel that I am in the best position to do something. I also grew up in a family that did not have any influence politically. I can remember not getting chosen for hockey teams after winning the Most Valuable Player in house league one year and not making the all-star team the next year because people with more connections made it. This was very troubling to me and I always wanted to be someone who could make a difference for people and to treat all people equally.

My dad is a truck driver and my mom worked with developmentally challenged clients and so seeing their strong work ethic was an inspiration to me. I was the first person in my family to gain a post secondary degree (Masters in Public Admin in local government) and vow to use everything I have learned and experienced for the benefit of my chosen community.

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

A: I worked with Toronto Youth Job Corps serving Jane and Finch, starting back in 1999 (until 2003) and I just loved the sense of community that existed here. Despite all of the negative press, I couldn't see what all the fuss was about. The clients were great, the agencies were fantastic and I just wanted to be a part of the community. As a result, I bought my house in the area and look forward to raising my family here.

Q: How are you currently involved

in the community?

A: I was a member of the Board of Blacksmith Childcare Centre for 2 years, I am still the President of my former condominium board, a former Big Brother and I have started a youth serving agency entitled Big City Youth Services. While it is just starting out, we have already formed some excellent relationships with other local agencies and look forward to expanding the organization in the coming years.

I am also a resident in ward 8 and will be for my entire time in office.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto, ideally, is a place where anyone from any part of the world can come and feel at home. This is the dream that I have for Toronto. However, there are still many issues that need to be addressed such as systemic biases in hiring, lack of representation by minorities and women and the need to improve housing conditions for our residents throughout the City of Toronto. Toronto so far is just a dream. We all know that the waterfront needs to be dealt with better. We all know that developers are having too much say in how our building is done. We all know that parties are playing too big of a role at city hall. We all know that local issues are getting lost in the size of the megacity. We all know that newcomers with excellent experience and knowledge come to our country only to be sent to inferior social housing and to work at jobs well beneath their skill levels. The question is what are we going to do about it?

A group of six council candidates including John Sewell, Adam Vaughan and myself have proposed getting more minorities and women on agencies, boards and commissions, providing more

local authority for community councils and have them meet with greater frequency and our presence together is an example of how people of different political stripes can come together for common goals. I have also proposed the re-design of Edgely Village and many other measures to get housing improved in my community.

Toronto is a dream not yet fulfilled and awaiting new ideas and visions that can make it what we all know it can 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: The bylaw that was actually implemented since 2003 that I agree with is that "all bars, billiard halls, bingo halls, casinos and the racetrack must be smoke-free, or provide an approved designated smoking room".

With what we know about the hazards of smoking today, I feel it is imperative that we protect the workers who work in these environments.

In March 2003, the local city councillor for ward 8 voted against restoring childcare subsidies. This is shameful in any area but in Jane and Finch and surrounding areas, this is a huge need.

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

A: I would bring a passion that has never been seen in this ward before. I would bring equal representation for all constituents. I would bring a fresh approach and an attention to the residents of my area. I would also bring a vision for the area that starts with looking after people's housing, employment and childcare needs

as a means to gaining a safer and more prosperous community in the coming years.

I am also a collaborator and I will work closely with all councillors, regardless of their political stripes in order to bring positive results to our community.

Canada's York West (Ward 7) 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 York West (Ward 7). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Sandra Anthony, Fred Cutler, Giorgio Mammoliti (incumbent), and Larry Perlman.

42-year-old Larry Perlman is a self-employed equities trader.

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

A:

1. The perception and reality of crime in Ward 7 that has resulted in feelings of discomfort in our communities. By initiating a Neighbourhood Watch in my community and eventually connecting all the Neighbourhood Watches within the Ward, I hope to show residents that by participating in their own communities they can make a difference.
2. A lack of connection between residents to their communities, the communities to the Ward, and the residents and communities in the Ward to their local Councillor. By establishing 10 community committees and having one representative from each community part of a Ward committee, I will help connect the residents of Ward 7 together.
3. Voter apathy and cynicism to the political process that has

resulted in low voter turnout and the lack of pride in their communities. A goal of 50% voter turnout within 8 years is one of the visions in my campaign.

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

A: Connecting the residents and communities in Ward 7 together will be the most effective means of identifying the Ward's "quality of life" issues, which will then be used to find the best solutions that can be solved together.

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

A: In the last 3 years living in Ward 7, I have noticed a void in effective leadership from the incumbent Councillor. I took it upon myself to fill that void by getting involved in community organizations, finding solutions to Ward-area problems, and providing City Council committees with ideas that would benefit the City as a whole. My accomplishments are reason enough to go to the next level -- Councillor.

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

A: My wife and I moved into Ward 7 a little more than 3 years ago (our first home). We have a close connection with our neighbours, and as Councillor I would like to make things better in my community.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: I have participated in a number of organizations and initiatives in my community, including the establishment of a Neighbourhood Watch and participation in the Humber Summit Community Resource Centre. I virtually eliminated illegal pocket bike use

in the Ward, minimized garbage dumping in various areas in my community, established speed humps and a review of the City's traffic-calming policy, and voiced my opposition to excessive aircraft noise coming from Pearson Airport. Please go to my website for more accomplishments and initiatives that I have undertaken and will undertake in the future.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is my hometown. It is the City I was born in, raised in for many years and the City I have chosen as my home and place to work after finishing University. I met and fell in love with my wife here, bought a home here and intend on raising my family here.

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 decision to react strongly to the "year of the gun" last summer by recruiting more Police and putting more money into youth programs was the best decision the City made for our Ward (and the City as a whole). There is still more work to do, as the perception and reality of crime is still around us, but the situation is much better than last year. The least desirable decision by City Council was the pay raise given to themselves earlier this year. It was not deserved and resulted in negative feelings towards our City representatives and cynicism among the residents of Toronto towards the political process.

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

A: Passion, Persistence and Fresh Ideas! As a "rookie", I would not

be settling in my position as Councillor, but would be actively bringing new ideas to the table, searching for the best solutions for the Ward, and representing the needs and wants of the residents of Ward 7 with energy and determination. I have shown this with my accomplishments, my promises, my future initiatives and my vision, as stated clearly on my website. No other candidate for Ward 7 Councillor (including the incumbent) can say the same thing.

Canada's Etobicoke—Lakeshore (Ward 5) 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 Etobicoke—Lakeshore (Ward 5). Two candidates responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include John Chiappetta, Joseph Mignone, Peter Milczyn (incumbent), Arthur Roszak, and Bojidar Tchernev.

37-year-old Joseph Mignone is employed in quality assurance.

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

A: The three most important issues in my campaign are the issue of the six point interchange proposal. The city will spend \$35 million dollars on an intersection that already works well. Secondly, not only environmental concerns in general but how pollution and smog might be increased because of the increased traffic lights. Accessibility and accountability at city hall must be addressed. I believe residents should have a voice in matters that concern their neighbourhoods. Too often we see that the community might object to a certain matter, but the matter in question still gets council

approval.

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

A: The one election issue that is most relevant is the one mentioned above. Residents believe that \$35 million could be better spent elsewhere, rather than on intersection that may or not need reconfiguration depending on redevelopment that will occur in the area.

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

A: I have chosen to get involved in the political process because I believe I can make a difference at city hall. Secondly, I believe that representing the people of the ward would be an honour and consequently, their views would be expressed by my voting record.

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

A: This is the ward that I have called home my entire life. How could I represent any other ward?

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: Community is important. I frequent local business to promote their well being. Furthermore, I can be seen at local baseball and hockey games cheering on the kids. I think that local organizations that promote health and fitness for kids is vital for the community.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is the greatest city in the country. It is the city that has it all. There is a reason why half the immigrants that come to Canada settle in Toronto. The diversity that Toronto offers can not be equivocated in any other 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 current work done by city staff and council regarding environmental concerns is commendable. The environmental plan does need some work however, recycling programs are improving and the pesticide ban are a good start.

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

A: If I am elected councillor, I will push the public's issues and concerns to the forefront of my work. My work ethic will produce results that will benefit not only our families today but our children tomorrow.

41-year-old Peter Milczyn is the incumbent for Ward 5, Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

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

A: The three most important issues in the campaign are: Preserving & Enhancing the Quality of Life: This relates to the fundamentals of we should expect from our local government. Clean and safe streets, a healthy environment, adequate public and green spaces, and controls on development.

As the Councillor for the area I have worked with the community on better road design that would help improve road safety and protect the environment. I have worked on improving pedestrian safety through increased sidewalks, improvements to pedestrian crossings, and additional traffic lights. I have helped the community get traffic calming measures installed to curb speeding vehicles near schools and

on residential streets.

I have supported the tree protection by-law and the ban on the cosmetic use of pesticides. I have worked to plant trees along streets and on vacant parcels of City land. I will continue to do so. I have fought to maintain mechanical leaf collection in Etobicoke, and for increased street sweeping and litter pick up. I have supported funds for an additional 250 police officers, and will continue to support ensuring that there are adequate and improved police services in the City.

I have worked to expand and create new local parks. Dalesford/Winslow Park, Chimes Lane Parkette, Shires Lane Parkette, a new park on Islington Avenue, Michael Power Park. I have helped to upgrade park facilities such as in Wedgewood Park, Dalesford/Winslow Park, and Kenway Park. I will be working to create a new park and community recreation centre on the Westwood Theatre Lands. To create a new park on the Queensway near Zorra Street. To upgrade playground facilities in Queensland Park, and refurbish the facilities in Queensway Park.

I initiated a new Roof Top Patio Control By-law for Etobicoke to protect residential communities from excessive noise and disruption. I have spearheaded a crackdown on illegal businesses on The Queensway and strengthening City-wide by-laws to help control them.

Making the City Government Work Better: As Chair of the City's e-City Committee I have spearheaded the use of technology to make government more accessible and efficient, and to boost the productivity of City staff. The City is increasing the number of online services and transaction available to the public to increase

convenience and reduce costs. In late 2007 the City will launch its 3-1-1 Telephone system which allow residents to call City Hall 24 hours a day/7 days a week and always be greeted by a live Citizen Service Representative who will be able to take a complaint, generate a work order, or answer a question. Again the goal is to increase convenience to residents, reduce costs, increase efficiency, and boost productivity.

I have opposed the Councillor pay raise and if re-elected will move to reopen the matter and have the raise rescinded. I have consistently voted to reduce Councillor's office budgets.

As a member of the Budget Committee I fought to reduce costs, control spending, cut staff, and contract out services to the private sector wherever possible. I supported the successful extension of the contract to pick up garbage in Etobicoke by a private contractor.

We need a comprehensive plan to deal with our waste decades in to the future. We must expand and improve recycling and composting programmes, particularly to multi-residential buildings. We must also develop a long-term solution to dealing with our waste. I believe energy from waste must be a significant component of that solution.

Providing a Vision and Planning for the Future: Whether looking at the Waterfront, the Gardiner Expressway, Nathan Phillips Square, or in Ward 5 the City-owned lands in the Etobicoke City Centre planning for the future is central to what local government must do.

Ensuring that the Portlands are developed as a cohesive community with great public spaces, parks, and access to the water is aone priority.

Implementing Design Review

Panels to better control the quality of the architecture in our city is one of the exciting new initiatives that will begin in 2007.

In Ward 5 the comprehensive review of all city lands, public transit, infrastructure, new parkland and community services in the Etobicoke City Centre area is the greatest challenge and opportunity the community faces. The future of the Six Points interchange, Westwood Theatre lands, Islington Subway station, and Etobicoke Civiv Centre has the potential weave neighbourhoods together into an even stronger community with better public spaces and much need facilities. The fision for this community includes office employment, better retail, enhances streetscapes, and a major community recreation facility.

Similarly work on The Queensway will improve the street, create new and enhanced parks and public facilities and bring new mid-scale residential developments.

New zoning by-laws for Dundas Street between Royal York Road and the Humber River will ensure new development will be in greater harmony with the existing stable residential neighbourhood.

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

A: Protecting our quality of life is the most fundamental issue a City Councillor has to address.

Therefore all of those elements which I have explained in the previous question are the most relevant issues which affect the daily lives of my neighbours in Ward 5.

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

A: I became involved in election campaigns as a teenager, at age fourteen in fact. I have always

found politics to be an intriguing and engrossing endeavour. I firmly believe that every citizen has an obligation to engage in the political process to some degree.

After graduating from the University of Toronto with a degree in Architecture and working in architecture, design, and development I realized the fundamental link between the shape and form of our cities and the political process at the municipal level.

I first ran for City Council at age 25, and was first elected at age 28. I believed then, and still do today that I can make a positive impact on the quality of our built environment. Beyond that I have also found public service to be a very fulfilling and meaningful vocation. Helping one's neighbours and fellow residents with their daily problems, and plan for the future is an extraordinary opportunity to contribute to society.

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

A: This is my home. I live in Ward 5, and I have lived in or within a few hundred metres of the ward's current boundaries my entire life. I grew up and was educated in area schools such as Islington Junior Middle School and Etobicoke Collegiate. I want to protect the neighbourhoods in Ward 5 and I want to shape the future of the parts of the Ward that are in transition because I plan to continue to live here.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: As the current City Councillor I am intimately involved with all parts of the community, and the entire range of issues that our area faces.

Q: What does Toronto mean to

you?

A: Toronto is my home. This is a City with wonderful greenery and space. The waterfront (in Etobicoke) provides us with an escape from the congestion of the City with views that stretch to the horizon. I can find rest and relaxation here and also great excitement and activity.

Our city is a city of great opportunities, it is open and free. Within our borders we can experience all that the world can offer through cuisine, language, and interaction with people from all over the globe.

Toronto is still a city of great untapped potential. Our people continue to demonstrate ingenuity and creativity and our city is yet to find its final form.

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 decision I am most proud of, and I spearheaded, is the approval of development of the 3-1-1 Telephone service. This is designed for residents' convenience and to improve the quality of service everyone will receive from the City. It will also drive efficiency and productivity gains in the municipal workforce. Everyone will be able to access City Hall services 24/7 and be connected to a live person. This is a huge step forward in modernizing government. The worst decision has been the lack of decision on a truly long-term plan to deal with all of our waste.

Canada's Etobicoke Centre (Ward 3) 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 Etobicoke Centre (Ward 3). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Doug Holyday (incumbent), Peter Kudryk, Lillian Lança, and Ross Vaughan.

53-year-old Lillian Lança is an Office Assistant, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto.

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

A: Ward 3 in Etobicoke Centre, has one of the largest populations of seniors in Canada. There are many issues unique to seniors. Many seniors are on fixed incomes and are often property rich and cash poor. A better method than the present property tax assessment could be explored for collecting tax dollars easing seniors' financial burdens. Some other ideas such as allowing seniors to work part-time without the government clawing back benefits would enable more seniors to remain in their homes. An improved TTC system would maintain seniors' independence. Community safety is an issue facing most urban communities, not just ward 3. We need to keep our children in school, off the streets and away from gangs. Parks and recreation, and after school programs need to be expanded and more accessible. I have learned of mentoring and tutoring initiatives in conjunction with community organizations, businesses and institutes of higher learning that have proven successful in reducing drop-out rates and absenteeism. A culture of achievement should be encouraged for our children. Keeping our youth in school will turn potential delinquents, criminals and welfare recipients

into good citizens who will earn salaries and pay taxes. Lastly, there needs to be more fiscal responsibility through better planning with our tax dollars, the money is there. Toronto is one of the main engines driving a booming Canadian economy. However, our infrastructure is deteriorating while taxes keep increasing. This is not good for business. Our public services are being eroded while our communities are suffering. Upper levels of government have been downloading responsibilities onto municipalities while decreasing funding, without allowing municipalities a voice in the decision-making process. This needs to change.

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

A: While ward 3, Etobicoke Centre, has one of the oldest populations in Canada, the demographics of this ward are gradually changing. Ward 3 is becoming more ethnically diverse particularly with a growing Somali community. This ward needs to be ready to accommodate these new Canadians with programs and facilities that will better integrate them into the mosaic that is Canada. Housing, English as a Second Language, health care, and so importantly, jobs are only a few of the ingredients needed to enable them to become active participants in making this country great.

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

A: I have been interested in politics even as a child. There were often good political discussions at our dinner table. I have lived most of my life in Etobicoke, graduating from what was then, Royal York Collegiate and after graduation,

spent a number of years traveling extensively. After marrying, I lived in Portugal for five years with my husband and began our family. During this time of traveling and living abroad, I realized more and more how much I loved my country, Canada, warts and all. Upon returning, our family moved back to Etobicoke and I gradually became more interested and involved in politics. Now that our children are old enough to manage themselves I thought the time was right to give back to my community. I am convinced that politicians can once again be trusted to contribute to society and to think beyond themselves. Perhaps I am somewhat naïve, but I have good energy and believe that I, one woman, can at least begin to make a difference.

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

A: I've lived in Etobicoke most of my life. I've married and have raised two sons in this community. We are living in a changing ward and, I understand what work needs to be done in Ward 3 to keep it great. I also believe that it is time for a change and that Ward 3 deserves better representation at Council than at present.

Q: How are you currently involved in the community?

A: A number of years ago, I was involved in what was then called the Youth Line. The Youth Line phone number was broadly posted and was available to young people wanting to talk about anything from pimples to suicide. Later, as my sons were growing and attending Eatonville Public School, I became involved in the Eatonville PTA as secretary, organizing Fun Fairs, Pizza Days, Hot Dog Days, and all those events that brought fun and finances to the school. Presently, I am involved with an

organization in South Africa called 'Mother's Love Foundation'. This foundation feeds breakfast to children orphaned by AIDS. As well, this foundation brings women together and provides them work in beading beautiful, colourful South African jewelry and artifacts available for sale, while at the same time providing these women with invaluable information regarding AIDS prevention and the ability to feed their families and become financially independent.

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 am most proud of the decisions this City Council made towards making our city 'greener'. Toronto has received many awards from organizations and cities across North America for environmental achievements brought by this Council, including the pesticide by-law, the private tree by-law, the Deep Lake Water Cooling Project, the purchase of new hybrid diesel-electric buses and the implementation of the green bin. I would want to continue to make Toronto the 'greenest' city in North America. Although I support the purchase of the new subway cars from Bombardier, and thereby keeping many jobs in Canada, I believe it could have been conducted more transparently.

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

A: I would bring to the table, a better understanding of the realities of ward 3. I would establish a constituency office and make myself available and accessible to the constituents of ward 3. While I believe in fiscal

responsibility, money needs to be spent wisely, to maintain our infrastructure and to keep our communities clean and safe.

Q: What does Toronto mean to you?

A: Toronto is my home. I was born and raised in Toronto. Toronto is the home of my family. I want to keep Toronto great. It saddens me to think of how Toronto once was and yet am inspired to think how great Toronto can once again be. Toronto will continue to be my home for a long while yet.

Canada's Etobicoke Centre (Ward 4) 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 Etobicoke Centre (Ward 4). One candidate responded to Wikinews' requests for an interview. This ward's candidates include Shane Daly, Gloria Lindsay Luby (incumbent), and Sam Mehta.

45-year-old Sam Mehta is in sales and marketing.

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

A: See my platform. (sic)

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

A: Youth Engagement

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

A: I feel our community deserves better

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

A: Lived in this ward 4 for more than 11 years

Q: How are you currently involved

in the community?

A: Actively, member of 24/7 group that helps people in distress

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

A: See my platform, specially Some of my specific actions.

Mehta did not answer the questions "What does Toronto mean to you?" or "Which council decision (since the 2003 election) do you feel the city/your ward should be most proud of, and which was least desirable?"

Lula re-elected as President of Brazil

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has been re-elected with more than 60% of the votes against Geraldo Alckmin in Brazilian general elections, 2006.

61-years old Lula received 58,295,042 votes while Alckmin received 37,543,178 votes, or 39.17%.

Lula was the candidate of Partido dos Trabalhadores (PT) with support from 5 other parties, the Partido Comunista do Brasil (PCdoB), Partido Republicano Brasileiro (PRB), Partido Liberal (PL), Partido Socialista Brasileiro (PSB) and Partido Progressista (PP).

Acklin was the candidate of Partido da Social Democracia Brasileira (PSDB) with support from three other parties.

In a victory speech, Lula said he would govern for all Brazilians and intensify efforts to alleviate poverty during his second four-year term. Silva promised a much better second term than the first. The President-elect has made

income redistribution the priority of his first four years in office.

Lula campaigned on a platform of championing the cause of the country's poor, highlighting a 19 percent decrease in poverty, minimum wage increases and millions of new jobs.

Voting ends in landmark Congo election

The final round of voting has ended in the first free elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in over forty years.

The runoff is between incumbent President Joseph Kabila and Vice-President Jean-Pierre Bemba, who led a field of 33 candidates in the first round of polling held on July 30, but failed to achieve the required majority vote. The voting has been largely peaceful, though isolated incidents of violence and voting fraud have been reported.

Voting was largely peaceful, with isolated incidents of violence in the north-east. Two people were reported killed amidst protests over alleged irregularities in polling. Turnout is expected to be lower than in the last round.

Thunderstorms and a five-hour spell of rain dampened early morning voting in the western Bas Congo province and the capital Kinshasa.

Bemba supporters protested against alleged ballot-stuffing in Lisala, and looted polling stations and burnt ballot boxes in Bumba. Two people are reported killed and four others injured when "naval forces" and police fired on the protestors.

A Human Rights Watch observer estimated that between 15 to 25 thousand people were prevented

from voting by Congolese army troops, who blockaded roads and demanded money from voters going to the polls, in the north-eastern Ituri district.

Polling was open between 6:00 a.m. local time and 5:00 p.m. (0500 GMT to 1600 GMT) in the west, and one hour earlier in the east. Polling was extended beyond the closing time in some areas.

80,000 police personnel and 17,000 U.N. peace-keepers backed by 2,000 E.U. troops were deployed to secure the polling. The peace-keepers staged "flag-marches" in Kinshasa and other cities.

Over 1,000 international and 40,000 Congolese observers monitored the elections in the 50,045 polling stations. Counting is to begin immediately, but provisional results are not expected before November 19.

Kinshasa was reported as "tense", with over 5,000 armed supporters of Kabila and 600 fighters loyal to Bemba reportedly present in the capital. Both Kabila and Bemba voted in Kinshasa, but did not speak to reporters. A joint statement issued by their parties called for people to vote "in a calm, orderly and peaceful manner".

Mineral rich Congo has remained largely undeveloped, despite possessing rich reserves of gold, diamonds, coltan and Uranium.

Following independence from Belgium, Congo underwent a turbulent political history, enduring a 32-year dictatorship under Mobutu Sese Seko. The 1994 Rwandan genocide sparked strife in neighbouring Congo, and Sese Seko was overthrown by Laurent

Kabila in the First Congo War.

Kabila was challenged by Rwanda and Uganda backed rebels, but drew on support from troops from Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia, Chad, and Sudan. The resulting Second Congo War, the deadliest conflict since the Second World War, killed an estimated four million people and displaced another five million.

A peace accord was signed in 2002 and a transitional government set up, with Joseph Kabila as President and two of the rebel leaders, including Bemba as Vice Presidents. A new constitution was approved by referendum held in February this year and the first multi-party elections began on July 30, 2006.

A UN peace-keeping force, MONUC has been deployed in Congo since 2000 and was charged with keeping security during the elections. The elections are conducted by the Independent Electoral Commission, and has been funded by \$460 million of international aid.

Kabila has won the support of third and fourth placed candidates, Antoine Gizenga and Nzanga Mobutu - the son of Mobutu Sese Seko, following the first round of elections. Clashes between Kabila and Bemba supporters have left at least 23 people dead, following the announcement of the results of the last round of elections.

Concerns arise about the new, synthetic NBA ball

Studies conducted by a team of physicists at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) conclude that new synthetic NBA basketballs are less lively, more slippery when damp, and bounce more erratically than the traditional leather balls.

James Horwitz, Chairman of the UTA Department of Physics and UTA physics professor Kaushik De found that the new balls are tackier when dry, but become much more slippery than leather balls when they get damp. Traditional leather basketballs provide more grip when they are slightly wet.

The synthetic balls bounce 30% more sporadically, possibly due to deep embossing, and are less lively than leather basketballs.

Some of these issues could be fixed with a variety of methods, including modification of the embossing, increasing the air pressure in the balls beyond the regulation 8.5 psi, and constantly drying the balls with towels during the game or frequently replacing them with fresh basketballs, say Horwitz and De.

Wikimedia chair Jimmy Wales steps down

Following the Wikimedia Foundation's retreat in Frankfurt am Main, Germany the Foundation made changes to the organization of the Board of Trustees. The board, which consisted of Jimmy Wales, Tim Shell, Michael Davis, Florence Nibart-Devouard and Erik Möller voted unanimously to elect board member Nibart-Devouard as the new Chair of the Wikimedia Foundation.

Founder Jimmy Wales said, "I nominated Florence to be the Chair of the Foundation in recognition of her outstanding service for the past few years and her unsurpassed passion for our goals. Having such a trusted community representative elected as our new chair demonstrates the growth and strength of our organization."

Nibart-Devouard, 38 and currently

living in Clermont-Ferrand, will still be working closely with Wales, who will assume the title of 'Chairman Emeritus'.

Death sentence to Santosh Singh in Priyadarshini Mattoo case

The Delhi high court awarded the death sentence today to Santosh Kumar Singh, who was convicted of rape and murder of a 23-year old Delhi University law student, Priyadarshini Mattoo on January 23, 1996.

The order by the High Court Division Bench comprising Justices R. S. Sodhi and P. K. Bhasin came after three-hour long arguments by defence lawyers and prosecutors over the quantum of sentence. Singh, Mattoo's senior in the law faculty of Delhi University, was convicted on the rape and murder charges by the Delhi high court on October 17, 2006.

The court said, "Santosh Singh had been given many chances to reform by the police when Priyadarshini had complained that he was stalking her. However, he didn't mend his ways and eventually raped and killed her at her Vasant Kunj flat in Southwest Delhi."

The Bench further observed, "We are of the opinion that a case of this kind in which the crime is committed in a pre-meditated approach and grotesque manner, the convict deserves nothing other than death penalty."

Brown promises Britain will lead world in fight against climate change

UK Chancellor Gordon Brown promises that UK will lead the world in the fight against global warming.

The Stern Review, the first about the economic effects of climate change, is published today. Commissioned by the British Government and prepared by Sir Nicholas Stern, former top economist at the World Bank, it forecasts that, if action is not taken now, the world will suffer an economic disaster on an unprecedented scale. 100 million people will be refugees from floods caused by rising water levels, drought caused by the melting of glaciers will affect 1 in 6 of the world's population, up to 40% of present wildlife species will become extinct and the world economy will shrink by 20%.

Sir Nicholas claims that these forecasts are based on the best available scientific evidence about the extent and effects of climate change. He does not claim absolute certainty, only a high degree of probability that the world is facing economic catastrophe if action is not taken immediately. An expenditure of just 1% of the world's wealth now could avert it. Spending £1 now could save £5, or even more, in the future.

The effects of global warming can be contained, says the Review, if about 1% of the world's GDP is invested in reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. This investment must take place over the next 10 to 20 years otherwise the effects of climate change could be disastrous on a scale comparable to the great wars and the slump of the first half of the last century. There has to be action at national, regional and international levels.

The Review concludes that the actions to be taken include emissions trading, doubling investment in research and

development of low carbon energy sources, curbing deforestation and supporting adaptation in poorer countries by developing crops appropriate to the changed climatic conditions.

The Stern Review shows that the scientific evidence for global warming is "overwhelming", said Prime Minister Blair. Chancellor Gordon Brown said that Britain will take the lead in persuading the world of the seriousness of the problem. All the major political parties in Britain have been discussing climate change.

The Review is attracting a great deal of media attention. Salient among the views being reported are those of a number of experts including the following:

Professor Bill McGuire, Benfield UCL Hazard Research Centre who says that Stern has greatly underestimated the effects of global warming.

Martin Livermore, The Scientific Alliance asserts that "climate is not driven primarily by human use of fossil fuels" and that the money to be spent is unlikely to have much effect: it would be better spent on the world's poor.

Pia Hansen, European Commission Spokeswoman says doing nothing is not an option, we must act now.

Simon Retallack, UK Think Tank IPPR - this (Review) removes the last refuge of the "do-nothing" approach on climate change, particularly in the US.

Tom Delay, The Carbon Trust - The Review offers a huge business opportunity.

Richard Lambert, CBI Director Genera says that a global system

of carbon trading is urgently needed.

Charlie Kronick, Greenpeace - now the government must act and, among other things, invest in efficient decentralised power stations and tackle the growth of aviation.

Concurrently with the publication of the Stern Review, the United Nations reports that emissions from the industrialised world are still rising. There has been a 2.4% increase in emissions across 41 industrialised countries in the first four years of this century. Britain, France and Germany are near to achieving their Kyoto Protocol targets, but the US is the biggest polluter and its emissions have been increasing.

The Kyoto Protocol calls for a reduction of 5% of pollutants below 1990 levels. There has been a reduction of 3.3% since then but this has been the result of the collapse of industry in Eastern Europe which has counterbalanced the increases in the rich countries. The Stern Review suggests that the Kyoto targets are too modest.

Winner of New Zealand Idol announced

The winner of the third series of New Zealand Idol was announced by host, Dominic Bowden during a live two hour special at a packed Saint James theatre and the winner was Matt Saunoa from Levin, 21-years-old, who cried when the announcement was made.

Matt beat other finalist, Indira Moala from North Shore, Auckland, who is also 21-years-old.

Matt Saunoa receives more prizes than the other two idols before him, including NZ\$50,000 cash, a

Daihatsu Terios car and a recording contract which includes a guaranteed single release.

Matt said: "I just want to thank everyone so much. I didn't think I would make it past the first round and I won the competition." Matt was lucky to make it past the first round one of the judges, Frankie Stevens, only allowed Matt to progress on in the competition after Matt assured Stevens that he would win the competition. He also didn't make it past the first round in the first season of NZ Idol.

Before the announcement Indira said: "I had no idea I'd make it this far. You have no idea how excited I am. Whatever happens tonight I'm going to rock it out." And then Matt said: "If you make me New Zealand Idol I will work my ass off to make sure there are singles and albums out there that do it justice," referring to past winners, Ben Lummis and Rosita Vai who both had no commercial success.

Centrebet, online betting service, said that their odds on Matt were \$1.90 while Indira's were at \$1.80, the first time Matt hadn't been favoured since September 18.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Helen Clark, made an appearance and applauded the success of the two for getting this far in the competition. And the rest of the final ten also made a brief appearance.

TVNZ, the broadcasters of NZ Idol, are yet to confirm a fourth NZ Idol even though the ratings were excellent. TVNZ will be speaking to South Pacific Pictures of the future of NZ Idol.

Deadly Typhoon Cimaron makes landfall in Luzon

October 30, 2006

Cimaron making landfall

Typhoon Cimaron, known to those in the Philippines as Typhoon Paeng, made landfall today in Luzon at around 1:00 UTC. Winds of 160 mph (1 minute sustained winds) were recorded shortly before landfall. Already, it has killed at least fifteen people, injured 18, and may have left another two missing.

So far, five people have been reported to have been drowned or killed by falling trees in Dinapigue, Isabela province. A further 15 people were injured there. 90% of the houses were damaged in the town of 5,000 residents said Mayor Renato Candido.

One of those deaths may have been when waves spawned by Cimaron swept away a 19 year old female student, identified as Clarissa Otrera, while swimming near the shore, drowning her. Her two companions, one 18 years old, the other 20, were also swept away, and are still missing. Another girl, Gretchen Bautista of 15 years of age, was also swept into the open ocean along with Clarissa.

Otera and Bautista were rescued right away and taken to Magsingal District Hospital, where Otera was declared dead.

A search and rescue is under way for the two missing students.

A farmer of 29 years of age drowned when his boat overturned in Isabella, police said.

In addition, a 28 year old woman was killed along with her 6 year

old child in Aurora province. Their hut was swept away by the powerful currents.

The power in Aurora province was out since Sunday night, but whether or not the electricity has been restored is unknown.

Three more people drowned in the town of Kasibu, Neuva Vizcaya province.

A four year old girl was killed by a landslide in Bugias, Benguet province, as was a man of 53 years of age in Kalinga province.

In Baguio City, a house with a mother and her two daughters was buried in landslide, injuring all of them, according to fire official Senior Superintendent Carlito Romero.

The cause of the fifteenth reported death is unknown, only that fifteen people died.

The the country's Department of Agriculture has said that up to 30% of rice and corn harvests may have been ruined and destroyed, possibly causing up to \$400 million pesos, or \$8 million United States Dollars. The estimates may be over exaggerated and revised later.

Other reports of damage include uprooted trees, fallen electrical posts, and numerous blackouts in Luzon, all of which likely totaled up to less than \$20 million pesos in damage, says Defense Secretary Avelina Cruz. This is if the rice and corn harvests damage isn't included.

At 1800 UTC October 30, the JMA reported the center of Typhoon Cimaron to be near 16.9°N 118.1°E. It had maximum 10-

minute sustained winds of 80 knots (145 km/h, 90 mph), with a minimum central pressure of 950 hPa, and was moving west slowly. At 1800 UTC, the JTWC reported the center of Typhoon 22W to be located about 225 nm (410 km, 255 miles) north of Manila, with maximum 1-minute sustained winds of 90 knots (145 km/h, 90 mph), gusting to 110 knots (205 km/h, 125 mph).

Today in History

1517 - According to traditional accounts, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses onto the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany, marking the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

1863 - The New Zealand land wars resumed as British forces in New Zealand led by General Duncan Cameron began their Invasion of the Waikato along the Waikato River.

1922 - Benito Mussolini became the youngest Premier in the history of Italy at age 39.

1941 - Gutzon Borglum and 400 workers completed the colossal busts of U.S. Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln at Mount Rushmore.

1984 - Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India was assassinated by two of her own bodyguards. Riots soon broke out in New Delhi. October 31 is Halloween, Reformation Day in Protestantism

Quote of the Day

The fundamental article of my political creed is that despotism, or unlimited sovereignty, or absolute power, is the same in a majority of a popular assembly, an aristocratical council, an oligarchical junto, and a single emperor.

~ John Adams

Word of the Day

sinister; adj

1. Evil or seeming to be evil.
2. Of the left side.

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http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Main_Page

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