

FEED SCARBOROUGH

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

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**FEED
SCARBOROUGH**
Scarborough Food Security Initiative

THANK YOU STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

As the summer comes to an end, we sadly have to say good-bye to most of our students that have helped us out over the last couple of months. We could not have made it through the summer without their time and help. As they head back to school soon, we wish them all the best. From all of us at Feed Scarborough- Thank you and stay safe!



COMMUNITY FARM NEWS

Feed Scarborough is proud to share that both our gardens have been a success! Both gardens have produced so much produce that we've been able to share with our clients through our Food Banks and Farmer's Market. We've harvested a bountiful of yummy tomatoes, hot peppers, sweet peppers, kale, swiss chard, beans and more. Even our Youth Garden Program Leaders were able to join in on the fun when they cooked a delicious meal using fresh ingredients straight from the gardens. If you haven't had a chance yet to drop by our Urban Garden located at 3595 At. Clair Ave E Unit 22, then come by on September 11 between 11am-3pm when we are celebrating the launch of Toronto Urban Agriculture Week! We converted a vacant parking space into a green welcoming space for the community.

Join us on our exciting garden tours and learn more about beekeeping, plant diversity, connecting with the land and food security. You also have the opportunity to make pizzas with kids using our new wood burning pizza oven, and try cuisine from around the world from over 10 vendors that will be on-site. This is not an event that you want to miss, so bring your green thumb and love of gardening down on September 11. We look forward to seeing you then!



Scarborough Junction Community Farm Celebrates the Launch of Toronto Urban Agriculture Week

Sept 11, 2021 | 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
3595 ST CLAIR AVE E, SCARBOROUGH (adj unit 22)

- Learn about diversity of crops and bees in our garden tours
- Composting 101 from experts from FoodShare Toronto
- Make pizza with kids in our wood burning pizza oven
- Food, games, music, dance, arts & crafts, and a whole lot of fun ...

Join us with your friends, family, kids, and neighbours to connect with the land, the shared culture, and each other, while promoting diversity and food security !!!



"...we converted parking space into a green space"



"... farms produce given to our food bank clients"



"... a welcoming space to the community"





CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

Friend and client Susan Fournier, recently donated some of her paintings to put on display at our Cliffside Food Bank.

We decided to sit Susan down for a little Q & A, to learn a little bit more about her.

Thank you Susan for donating your beautiful paintings to Feed Scarborough. How long have you been painting for and why did you start?

I have been painting since I was a little kid, it's something I have always enjoyed doing. It also helps me to relax. I like to paint animals, especially my cat. My cat is the black cat in all the paintings. I would like to paint more people.

How long have you been coming to Feed Scarborough? And how has Feed Scarborough made a difference in your life?

I have been coming to Feed Scarborough for one year in September. I used to go to other food banks but I switched when you changed to the grocery store style. I don't like prepackaged hampers because you get so much food you don't like. I like that I can make my own choice in what I can eat. I like all the volunteers, they are always very helpful.

What else would you like to tell us about yourself?

I am from Newfoundland. I am married. I have no kids. Just one cat, that is my child.



From all of us at Feed Scarborough, thank you Susan for sharing your amazing talent with us.

VACCINATION UPDATE

Over the summer of 2021, Scarborough Food Security Initiative has partnered with local community organizations to help bring more awareness about Vaccinations and COVID-19. Our Outreach Vaccine Ambassador Team has been working with Toronto Public Health to target specific locations in South Scarborough with lower vaccine rates. The team led Information Booths and Pop-Up Clinics within the Oakridge region, where we targeted buildings in Teesdale, Warden Ave, and Fir Valley. The pop-up clinics and engagements were a success, with an overall increase of vaccinations by approximately 100 vaccinations, most being first doses. We look forward to future initiatives in the community, to help eliminate the spread of COVID-19 together.



MY SEAT AT THE TABLE

Images that are used to depict community members experiencing poverty are often presented in disrespectful and degrading ways. These portrayals take away the dignity of the people in the images. In this project, Feed Scarborough will depict visual stories through photographs taken by community members of what hunger and poverty feels and looks like in Scarborough. These visual stories will then be presented to the public at a grand unveiling in December at 3595 St. Clair Ave East.

Feed Scarborough invites you to a...

Register today at: <https://forms.gle/57N9nmESqoIcZ677>



PAID PHOTOGRAPHY OPPORTUNITY

MY SEAT AT THE TABLE

In 10 photos, express what hunger and poverty look like. A picture speaks a thousand words.

Participants are encouraged to use this as an opportunity to show and voice their concerns related to food access. All photos will be showcased at a grand unveiling.

10 photos with captions in exchange for a \$40 GROCERY STORE GIFT CARD



GET TO KNOW THE TEAM

Hello neighbours! I am Sukhmani Singh, also known as Mani. Many of you know me as Feed Scarborough's Volunteer Coordinator which was my original position with the organization. However, now I am the Operations Coordinator for which I handle the operation of our warehouse, volunteers, gardens and vaccine projects. I have been with Feed Scarborough for about a year, and have seen first hand how our organization has evolved. It has been amazing to see our volunteer numbers grow from 60 to 130 volunteers on a weekly basis. I am very grateful for our wonderful volunteers and for the bonds that I have created with them. A project I am very proud of is the Scarborough Community Junction Urban Farm. Over a span of 4 months, I was able to transform our concrete front yard into a blooming Urban Farm that has produced enough veggies and herbs to feed our clients at the Food Bank and Farmer's Market. This would not be possible without the support and dedication of many great volunteers. Thank you!

Outside of Feed Scarborough, I graduated with an MBA from Schulich School of Business, after immigrating to Canada from India in 2018. I have led and managed multiple sustainability projects and am very passionate about food security, sustainability and agri-research. In my free time I like to hang out with friends, watch movies and travel. On my bucket list, I wish to step foot in all continents before I turn 50, swim with a Great White Shark, and try skydiving.

Thank you to everyone who has supported and contributed to Feed Scarborough and our mission. You are all a part of creating a more food secure Scarborough Southwest.



STARTUP SCARBOROUGH

Join us Tuesday, September 7th at 7pm for our monthly FREE public webinar for anyone interested in developing their small business skills.

This month you'll meet Sarah, The Side Hustle Caterer. We'll learn how she got started, how she balances her side hustle with the rest of life and important lessons she's learned along the way.

Do you have a small business you'd like to start? Perhaps you've already started but would like some help. StartUp Scarborough is a FREE service. We can support you with a dedicated Business Advisor, business and soft skills education, and a peer learning event every month.

FREE WEBINAR

LESSONS FROM
The Side Hustle Caterer



Tuesday, Sep 7th at 7pm
Sign up at
StartUpScarborough.ca/Events

StartUp Scarborough
A Scarborough Food Security Initiative



MARKET NEWS

The SFSI market continues to serve the community at three locations. At the very beginning of the farmers market, the fruits and vegetables for sale were from all over the world. However, we have started our own garden at two locations and it is time to harvest! For the last four weeks, we started to present our produce to the community. Though the vegetables and fruits look slightly different than what we normally see at the store, people really like that they are from our own garden; what could be more fresh than that?! Currently, SFSI market is selling only Ontario produce. That way we can help the farmers and the community at the same time.

