### At A Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Key Themes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Environmental Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>TD Friends Of The Environment Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Parks Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Evergreen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Overall Challenges of Partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>In Closing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

The University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) has experienced unprecedented growth over the past decade and has developed into a vibrant centre for learning, discovery and engagement. UTSC is evolving into the intellectual, research, cultural and sporting hub of the Eastern GTA; a place in which the community can take pride and experience positive change.

Community engagement is an integral part of the development of UTSC in enriching student experiential learning experiences, creating research opportunities, and actively participating with governments, business and residents by expanding our role as a city building, anchor institution. Through the establishment of academic and co-curricular service opportunities that respond to community defined priorities, students and the citizens they serve will enrich their learning of the social, cultural, ethical, environmental and political dimensions of civic life.

Our university is a critical piece of social infrastructure – one that opens up opportunities for students, faculty and the community and provides them with the foundation they need to thrive and contribute to the economic and social well-being of the GTA and Canada.

We are committed to seeking out new opportunities to open up our campus to the city around us, using our physical spaces to convene public discussions of the most pressing urban issues of the day. By doing so, the University will generate more opportunities for our students and faculty, and more benefit for our local partners – public, private and non-profit. By working more closely with local groups to meet challenges and seize opportunities together, we will make this region a better place in which to live, work and prosper.

Community Development and Engagement Vision:

To deliver excellence in community development and engagement by building and strengthening relationships in the community, while playing a distinctive role in the development, application and exchange of knowledge.
Values & Principles:
Our “guiding principles” give shape to the commonality of UTSC’s diverse communities. Though institutional boundaries exist, we seek a set of common principles that sustain academic, social, economic and environmental growth and responsibility. Our principles define our culture, guide our decision-making and demonstrate how we work collaboratively with each other and our community. The principles that guide UTSC’s community development and engagement strategy are consistent with our vision and Academic, Strategic and Campus Master Plans. UTSC’s participation in the community aligns with the institution’s core values (Strategic Plan, 2014):
• Holistic Student Experience;
• Supportive Environment for Students, Staff and Faculty;
• Research and Scholarship;
• Diversity and Equity; and
• Partnership and Outreach.

It is clear that the forms of experiential learning that work best are those that arise naturally in the departments and communities and enjoy the support of faculty members, business, students and community members and agencies and have a clear academic rationale rooted in the needs of programs.

Community Development & Engagement Priorities:

1. A partnership database has been developed for greater coordination of outreach initiatives and UTSC events. The database will be implemented this year with participation among different UTSC departments
2. City Building: Producing a positive community impact by increasing the opportunity for staff, faculty and students to work with the community and share their knowledge and expertise with broader networks
3. Maintain, leverage and build upon UTSC’s role in multi-sectoral partnerships.
4. Increase the capacity for faculty, staff and students to promote their stories and share their knowledge base of university-community programs and initiatives (Partnership E-Newsletter and website)
5. Provide a point of contact for post-secondary education to the broader community.
6. Participation in community events to promote UTSC reputation, image and visibility

In 2014, our Community Partnerships and Engagement Update provided a general overview of our community engagement strategy and initiatives in many diverse areas. This 2015 Update will focus on sports and the environment.

2014-15
Key Themes:

Physical Activity, Sport and Play for Community Development

Overview:
UTSC’s role in sport for development stems from being an anchor institution in the Eastern GTA. In partnership with students, faculty members, the local community, businesses, agencies, community champions, politicians and provincial organizations, UTSC is working to create strategic programs that support the campus’
Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre (TPASC)

There is no better example of this than the new Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre (TPASC) which opened in September of 2014. The landmark facility was built for the Toronto 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games (Games) and is co-owned by the City of Toronto and UTSC. Before and after the Games, this world-class complex will create a powerful legacy of inspiration, recreation, education and transformation for the community and the entire Eastern GTA. TPASC will offer sports and physical activity programming for residents of the community, UTSC students, faculty and staff, in addition to recreational and high performance athletes.

The new facility is Canada’s premier aquatics centre, as well as, a state-of-the-art training and competition venue, and is home to the Canadian Sport Institute Ontario.

Mission:
To establish world class facility with a powerful transformative legacy that brings together the local and university community with high performance athletes in sports and recreation activities.

Partners:
- University of Toronto Scarborough
- City of Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
- Government of Canada
- Ontario Government

Goals:
- Puddle to Podium: To create an environment where the community, university and high performance athletes participate in sports and recreation activities under one roof
- Academic Focus: Health and wellness, sport, recreation, sports management
- Provide students and community with access to a world class facility that would not be possible without the collaboration of partners

Accomplishments:
- Home of UTSC Athletics & Recreation Department and Scarborough Campus Athletics Association (SCAA)
- The Canadian Sport Institute Ontario is the anchor tenant and Wheelchair Basketball Canada launched its National Academy at UTSC, and moved into TPASC
- Diving Canada, Swimming Canada, Synchro Canada and Water Polo Canada moved components of their high-performance teams and training programs to TPASC
- Successfully hosted a number of test events (provincial and national championships)
- 2000+ members (staff, faculty, students and community)

Moving Forward:
- The Pan Am Games will take place from July 10 to 26 and the Parapan Am Games from August 7 to 15
- After the games, the facility switches over to “legacy mode” and there will be significant opportunities to engage the primary users (community, university and high performance athletes)

UTSC is taking an inclusive intercultural approach where each sport/play/recreation experience is of high quality and helps to develop great life skills. The success of this collective effort will allow for sustainable programming with strong local leadership and collaboration and educational opportunities for our students and faculty.

Strategic direction and the community. These initiatives build capacity, assist in developing community and increases knowledge mobilizing all via the development of sport and physical recreation activities. The intent is that these activities will enrich experiences, knowledge, networks and world views and improve physical literacy skills, confidence and sense of community.
L.I.F.T. – Let’s Inspire For Today

L.I.F.T. is a youth led initiative, composed of youth from the community ranging in age from 13-29. The group gives youth a platform to share their voice with their communities through leadership, advocacy, and empowerment. L.I.F.T is seeking to have East Scarborough designated at “Youth Friendly” through Play Works, a non-profit organization recognizing Ontario communities. Play Works has established a designation program that recognizes communities who have, support, and grow youth friendly development and services.

In order to obtain this designation, Play Works requires communities to work together in evaluating existing assets within the community. Play Works has defined 16 criteria for communities to research. Satisfying all 16, the community will be recognized with a platinum status, 14-15 for gold, 12-13 for silver, and 10-11 for bronze.

Since the summer of 2012, UTSC has been partnering with L.I.F.T by providing leadership support and undergraduate research. Students in Dr. Ahmed Allahwala’s undergraduate, Human Geography class “CITCOI Urban Communities and Neighbourhoods Case Study: East Scarborough” have assessed if East Scarborough meets Play Works’ criteria, such as:

- The community is dedicated to youth play
- Youth have access to facilities of play
- The community commits funding to youth play
- The community celebrates and recognizes youth
- Youth play is inclusive
- Youth have options for play
- The community supports public youth events
- Youth feel valued in their community
- Youth can get the programs that are offered
- Schools support the youth friendly approach
- Youth feel welcomed in the community
- Facilities are dedicated to youth play

Using a variety of community-based research methods, students in partnership with community agencies, residents and organizations, research, document, survey, interview and host focus groups regarding the criteria, as well as, examining policy issues linked to transit and funding. Over the past three years, UTSC students and the L.I.F.T. table have completed research on 15 of the 16 criteria outlined by Play Works.

Mission:

L.I.F.T. promotes and empowers young people with the capacity and abilities to actively address community needs, concerns and issues related to play which is defined as any non-school activity that has elements of choice, leads to satisfaction, and encourages progressive learning and enjoyment.
L.I.F.T Partners:
- East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club
- University of Toronto Scarborough
- Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- East Scarborough Storefront
- Mornelle Court Community Hub
- Scarborough Village
- City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Goals:
- Dialogue amongst young people around issues of “play” within East Scarborough
- Provide young people with an engaging experience
- Community building skill development and awareness of how to change perspectives
- Redefine community through collaboration
- Provide neighbourhood-based community opportunities for capacity building
- Build and inspire young people to make changes in their community

Accomplishments:
- University of Toronto Scarborough, City Studies’ class (75-100 undergraduate student participants) partnered with the initiative and completed research that has assisted to identify strengths and areas of improvement regarding youth and play
- L.I.F.T. youth council was developed as a result of working on the youth friendly designation project. The committee consists of Kingston-Galloway Orton Park youth and UTSC students and recent alumni
- Dr. Susannah Bunce’s service-learning students from the “CITCO2: Learning in Community Service” class have collected supporting documentation that illustrates that East Scarborough is youth friendly and has also helped to develop a leadership development program curriculum

Moving Forward:
- Implement in September 2015 the leadership development program/curriculum to recruit and retain youth leaders
- Establish a “Youth Friendly Community” designation through Play Works, to be submitted in December 2015
- Engage broader community in discussions of “play” (expand the number of communities involved)
- Create opportunities for youth i.e. leadership, professional development, physical literacy, arts-based community initiatives etc.
- Utilize the research conducted by UTSC students to develop a recommendations document to be positioned to local politicians
- Foster youth-led advocacy initiatives and empower and educate peers of their role in civic engagement
The East Scarborough Multi-Sport Collaborative focuses on providing experiences in different sports at the “Fundamentals”, “Learning to Train” and “Training to Train” stages of the Canadian Long-Term Athlete Development model. The experiences derived from the collaborative will be based on developing physical literacy for the pursuit of excellence in all areas of life, a desire to make a contribution to greater society and a lifetime commitment to physical activity as part of the community culture.

Mission:
ESMSC is designed to provide opportunities for residents in the East Scarborough community to become physically literate by participating in sport/recreation/play. The intent of the collaborative is to build life skills, resiliency and community through sport/recreation/play.

Participants who are engaged in the partnership and have a passion or pre-disposition for a particular sport/recreational activity will have the opportunity to continue to participate in that sport/recreation/play. This inclusive approach will ensure that affordability or individual differences will minimize the barriers to participation.

The ESMSC aim is threefold: integrate the Canadian Sport for Life Long-Term Athlete Development framework into community practices; provide all children and youth (and residents) in East Scarborough with the opportunity in sport to develop physical literacy, learn life skills and reach personal athletic potential; and gather evidence that supports the theoretical concept that sport/recreation/play makes a positive social impact in the community.

East Scarborough Multi Sport Collaborative (ESMSC)

Participants who are engaged in the partnership and have a passion or pre-disposition for a particular sport/recreational activity will have the opportunity to continue to participate in that sport/recreation/play. This inclusive approach will ensure that affordability or individual differences will minimize the barriers to participation.

The experiences derived from the collaborative will be based on developing physical literacy for the pursuit of excellence in all areas of life, a desire to make a contribution to greater society and a lifetime commitment to physical activity as part of the community culture.

Mission:
ESMSC is designed to provide opportunities for residents in the East Scarborough community to become physically literate by participating in sport/recreation/play. The intent of the collaborative is to build life skills, resiliency and community through sport/recreation/play.
Partners:
• City of Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation
• University of Toronto Scarborough
• East Scarborough Boys & Girls Club
• East Scarborough Storefront
• Malvern Family Resource Centre
• The Multi-Sport Collaborative Catalyst Group
• Toronto Community Housing
• TAIBU Community Health Centre
• Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre
• Local Organizations and Agencies
• Toronto Sports Council Provincial and Local Sport Organizations

Goals:
• Ensure community members have the opportunity in sport to become more physically literate and active through quality multi-sport experiences
• Develop personal resiliency, learning and life skills, and to reach their personal athletic potential
• Provide opportunities for the children and youth that are more equitable and encouraged
• Utilize multi-sport experiences to build and develop community connections, networks and understanding
• Strengthen the collective mandate for each partner organization
• Increase the % of youth who have the skills, opportunities and pathways to lead quality multi-sport programs
• Establish connections between existing youth leadership, sport skills and coaching development opportunities to create sustained youth sport leadership program
• Reduce the barriers that prevent participation in quality sport leadership programming
• Establish a shared understanding by community program providers (sport and other) of community needs, interest and barriers to participating

Accomplishments:
• Creation and production of ‘Your Child in Sport’ video (now available on YouTube)
• Offers opportunities for youth and children to try a variety of different sports under one roof i.e. lacrosse, cricket, soccer, baseball, tennis, rugby, basketball and camp and developing a "learning to run" tool kit for the Kidd’s run
• Increased access to sports facilities, education of physical literacy and recreation programs for youth
• UTSC is the leading academic partner and as such supports the facilitation of a ESMSC Research table involving researchers from UTSC, U of T St. George, Queens and Vancouver Island University
• Has helped nurtured and encouraged relationships from agencies and community members from Wards 42, 43 and 44

Moving Forward:
The ESMSC will facilitate opportunities for residents to enjoy the positive benefits of a quality sport/recreation/play experience by making sport/recreation/play more accessible to more people. ESMSC will facilitate community pride and will encourage and develop athletes to remain active for life, attain the fundamental skills needed to participate in a variety of sports and facilitate the self-awareness of the skills needed to achieve excellence in life.
**Partners:**
- Toronto Foundation
- P4K
- East Scarborough Boy & Girls Club
- Mornelle Court Community Hub

**Community Partnerships and Engagement Update 2015**

**Moving Forward cont...**

- Develop the “RBC 5 C Leadership Development Program” thereby, will provide quality training for children and youth
- Develop high-quality academic experiences for UTSC students and faculty and community residents
- Host a Canadian Sport For Life Mini-Summit in November 2015
- Implement collaborative programming such as the Kidd’s Run with ESMSC partners

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**Playing For Keeps (P4K):**

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<th>Playing for Keeps is a social legacy program of the 2012 Ontario Summers Games in Toronto, and is now a collaborative program led by more than 35 community organizations, with the Toronto Foundation as lead partner. Since 2012, P4K has made it possible for 1000 newcomers, youth, and long-time residents to participate in special training facilitated by George Brown College (GB Community-Leadership Training).</th>
<th>The training curriculum includes civic engagement, leadership, event planning, citizenship, and communications. Equipped with these new skills, the Volunteer Ambassadors organize “P4K Neighbourhood Games” in their communities to bring people together across generations to share an experience, have fun and play.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015 marks the first year the University of Toronto Scarborough is a community partner and a Playing for Keeps (P4K) neighbourhood hub. UTSC has successfully recruited 45 volunteer ambassadors - a combination of student and community members.</td>
<td>This group meets to design ways to get the community up and moving and to educate the community through neighbourhood games about how easy it is to be active. The hope is that through planning the games, working together collectively and breaking down barriers through sport/recreation/play.</td>
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**Mission:**

As a Playing for Keeps neighbourhood hub we aim to use active, fun, team-building challenges to promote critical thinking and community engagement around healthier, more active and better-connected communities through sport/play/recreation. This opportunity allows our volunteers to lead and participate in engaging local neighborhoods through play, tapping into their passion and commitment towards making a difference in their communities.
Goals:

• Build the capacity of individuals to strengthen community organizations through their participation as volunteers, which will build the capacity and vitality of the community

• Provide pathways and opportunities for residents to become more active, better connected, and leaders in their communities

• Increase civic engagement, understanding of physical literacy and volunteering in our community, connecting UTSC and the larger community and the city-wide Playing for Keeps movement

• Aim to nurture a network of volunteers who will become leaders and agents of change that are capable of influencing their peers and the community towards healthier, active and better connect communities

• Improve and increase the awareness of physical literacy

• Increase awareness of Pan Am and Parapan Am Games and provide opportunities for developing social legacies

• Solidify UTSC’s place as a cultural, sporting and educational hub in the Eastern GTA

Accomplishments:

• UTSC has recruited and successfully steward 45 newcomers, youth and/or long-time residents to fully participate in the Playing for Keeps/George Brown College Community Leadership Training (at no cost to volunteers).

• Received a $7500 grant and a $1000 micro-grant from Toronto Foundation to administer neighbourhood games

• Hosted a neighbourhood name in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough and Malvern Public Library for March break. Over 100 youth and teenagers attended

• Facilitated physical and math literacy initiative in partnership with St. Martin de Porres Catholic School for their “Mathletics” Family Night (an evening that combines learning about math and athletic literacy to k-8 students and their families). Event had attendance over 200 people

• Provided eligible UTSC students with confirmation of volunteer hours for the co-curricular record

Moving Forward:

• Continue to mentor and steward community members and Volunteer Ambassadors to host neighbourhood games on campus or in their respective communities

• Participate in the Torch Relay Celebration on July 5, 2015 and the Pan Am Path launch for zone 12 in the UTSC valley on August 4th and 5th, 2015

• Host Try-A-Sport Neighbourhood Games

• Participate in the re-opening of the TPASC facility in the fall of 2015

Kidd’s Run will be a full day 5km run, hosted by the East Scarborough Storefront in conjunction with University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) and Toronto Sports Council, as well as neighbourhood retailers and UTSC students. Starting at East Scarborough Storefront residents and students will make their way down Morningside Park, through the Kingston-Galloway/Orton Park (KGO) community and end at the UTSC outdoor sporting facility, known as The Valley. The event will be the culmination of extensive outreach efforts and learn-to-run training aimed at engaging residents of the KGO and Mornelle Court neighbourhoods who are not as physically active.
UTSC students and the East Scarborough Multi-Sport Collaborative will also assist with developing a “learn to run” toolkit and document learnings that can help neighbourhoods around the GTA replicate the Kidd’s Run in their own communities. The event will end with a cultural programme showcasing local businesses and the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan American Games. The run is named after former Olympian and current Vice-President, U of T and Principal, UTSC, Dr. Bruce Kidd. Honouring Dr. Kidd’s work in improving access to sports and using athletics and recreation to address social equity and justice issues, the run will invite visitors from across the city, however focuses on residents of KGO, Mornelle Court and East Scarborough neighbourhood.

Objectives:
Scarborough has the highest concentration of social housing in Ontario, and according to Toronto Foundation’s 2014 Vital Signs Report, increasing rates of obesity and diabetes, as compared to other neighborhoods in Toronto. Kidd’s Run will achieve the following objectives:

• Provide an affordable healthy physical activity which will bring together residents to get active, socialize and learn about healthy lifestyle options
• Increased connection between KGO residents and the new Pan and Parapan Am facilities, and celebrate upcoming sporting events to be held in East Scarborough in 2015
• Encourage use of Morningside Park and other public spaces in the Valley for athletics, exercises and recreation, as well as the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre, thus building upon the City’s Parks, Forestry and Recreation’s Parks Plan 2013-2017 priorities
• Showcase and honour Dr. Bruce Kidd’s work in sports and social justice, to inspire and engage with community members
• Promote locally owned businesses, highlighting the positive and diverse culture that thrives in East Scarborough

UTSC’s Role: Both the community backbone organization and the foundational partners - such as UTSC - will support youth leadership; the goal is for youth to have the tools and analysis that will allow them to actively influence the systems that are designed to support them. The strategy will look at the neighbourhood of Kingston Galloway Orton Park as an eco-system, drawing on the knowledge, expertise and understanding of both youth and partners. The strategy will be executed based on an in depth knowledge of community development practice, collective impact theory and complexity theory. Funding for this project will go towards the demonstration projects that UTSC is involved in: L.I.F.T. and multi-sport programming

• Facilitate project development and decision making processes among youth in the project
• Organize capacity building opportunities for youth and help youth to identify areas for capacity building
• Connect youth to demonstration projects, demonstration projects to each other and ideas and opinions generated by youth throughout the neighbourhood
• Collect quantitative and qualitative data from demonstration projects
• Share knowledge and learnings gleaned from the demonstration projects to neighbourhood eco-system reflection and evaluation processes

Research Opportunities
Confirmed Grants:

2 | Youth Opportunities Fund Demonstration Project

Lead:
East Scarborough Storefront
Goals:

- Create a co-ordinated and youth friendly KGO
- Increase youth ability, capacity and opportunity to lead and engage in the civic life
- Increase the sense of social inclusion within the KGO neighbourhood
- Provide evidence to the sector that a neighbourhood collaborative "eco-system" approach works and has potential as a new way of working in marginalized communities

Objectives:

- To improve opportunities for and access to: wrap around service supports, leadership and civic engagement and employment, sports and recreation, for youth and their families in KGO
- To ensure that grass roots youth led initiatives are intentionally part of the neighbourhood eco-system, supported and connected to lead in new ways
- To explore, document and share a systems approach to neighbourhood organizing that integrates community development and collective impact theories to facilitate better outcomes for youth

Partners:

- East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club
- University of Toronto Scarborough
- Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities
- Joseph Brant Public School
- Progress Career and Planning Institute
- Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
- Community Living Toronto

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pending Grants:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community legacy initiatives</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>grant -social determinants of health</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>for racialized bodies programming and research</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Lead:
TAIBU Community Health Centre

Toronto’s Latin American, South American and Caribbean community leadership who are working with relevant stakeholders and institutions (e.g. business, government, educational institutions, advocacy groups, research and policy bodies) on initiatives that are broad based, build capacity and will contribute to longer-term economic and/or social benefits.

This initiative will consist of a strong community capacity building component where youth will receive sports leadership training and development thus, enhancing their employability skills.

Additionally, the collaborative partnerships created through this program will enable organizations to understand the unique needs of the community and can therefore improve their ability to target populations from marginalized communities specifically Caribbean populations. Through solid partnership development, this initiative will not only increase social capital of the networks within the Caribbean communities but also increase program sustainability.

The collaboration will ensure that the outcomes of the project will address social justice issues and provide equitable, accessible and affordable healthy living programs for the Caribbean community. Training and staff development for the project will increase economic resiliency for the community as the intention is to train and develop citizens from the community as peer leaders to implement this project. Physical literacy will also be enhanced through participation and engagement by improving access services offered. Moreover, this project will contribute multiple social benefits including assisting to develop and maintain a sustainable, vibrant community.
Partners:

• Ophea (Ontario Physical Health and Education Association)
• ParaSport Ontario
• Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport (CAAWS)
• University of Toronto Scarborough
• East Scarborough Multi-Sport Collaborative

UTSC’s role

TAIBU and UTSC have been working on a number of initiatives together to develop and implement healthy living programs to racialized and marginalized populations. UTSC continues to build and partner on initiatives that combine sport/recreation/play, health and wellness as a way to build community and partner with community agencies and organizations to examine social justice and equity issues.

Objectives:

• Improve representation of Caribbean population within the Canadian sport system through community engagement, leadership training and mentorship
• Build the capacity to offer diverse programming to the Caribbean community inclusive of persons with disabilities
• Establish community connections through programming, community forums, and other established networks
• Network and build awareness of facilities, programs and resources available to Caribbean diaspora
• Train and provide variety of life skills for advisory boards, staff, program leaders along with participants

Pending Grants:

2

SSHRC Grant - The Role of Later Life Transitions for Increasing Physical Literacy and “Sports” Participation

Leads:

Prof. Michelle Silver from Health Studies in the Anthropology Dept. and Scott McRoberts, Director of Athletics and Recreation, Lecturer in the Anthropology

The main objective of the study is to understand better the barriers to and facilitators of exercise and sports participation for older adults in the 60+ group who live in culturally diverse communities. The goal is to understand their likes and dislikes when it comes to participating in exercise and sport activities and what helps or hinders their use of and participation in sports centres such as the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre (TPASC).

Prof. Silver and Scott McRobert’s perspective is drawn from the Life Transitions model which sees life transitions such as retirement as having both negative and positive impact on people’s lives. For this study, the focus is on the positive potential of retirement for increasing exercise and sports participation. The study also makes use of the concept of physical literacy drawn from the Sports for Life model. It assumes that physical literacy is important for leading a healthy, enjoyable mobile life well into advanced years. Moreover, the study aims to understand better, community members from diverse cultural backgrounds -- their particular interests when it comes to developing physical literacy and how best to promote the use of spaces like TPASC by their members.

Partners:

• TAIBU Community Health Centre
• Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities
• Malvern Family Resource Centre
• Mornelle Court Community Hub
• Toronto East Quadrant - Local Immigration Partnership
The University of Toronto Scarborough hosted the final event of the season for the Blue Jays Baseball Academy Rookie League teams throughout the Greater Toronto Area. The event features youth ages 6-13 from Toronto Community Housing (TCH) while accompanied by 200 of their staff.

This is the first year of this partnership and the Blue Jays Community Foundation is looking to expand this at UTSC in following years. UTSC at a discounted rate permits the Miller Lash House (Retail and Conference Services) and play fields (Athletics and Recreation).

The Blue Jays Baseball Academy Rookie League uses the game of baseball as a foundation to teach the importance of teamwork, discipline, respect, responsibility and self-confidence. Rookie League is a year-round program that is offered at no cost to participants and their families.

Rookie League provides programming during the important summer and after school hours in under-served neighbourhoods to promote positive development. It continues to build healthy communities by using baseball as an ambassador to provide physical activity, instil confidence, and develop leadership skills. Toronto Blue Jays players serve as Honorary Captains for each of the Rookie League divisions and Toronto Blue Jays manager John Gibbons serves as Honorary Coach. All Rookie League sites are provided with shirts, hats, equipment and baseball coaching to facilitate programming.

The Blue Jays Baseball Academy Rookie League provides programming during the important summer and after school hours in under-served neighbourhoods to promote positive development.

UTSC’s Athletic & Recreation Sport and Community Programs:

Rookie League provides programming during the important summer and after school hours in under-served neighbourhoods to promote positive development.

KGO Kicks Soccer Club works in partnership with the UTSC Department of Athletics and Recreation and Eat Play Learn to provide an opportunity for children and youth between the ages of four (4) to 19 from the local community to engage in soccer games and practices with peers. The goals of the program are to instill a positive attitude toward physical health and well-being by engaging youth in fun and rewarding physical activities and to promote teamwork, leadership and sportsmanship. The program serves approximately 25 participants per week, year round.

Eat. Play. Learn. (EPL) is run for and by the parents of the ‘KGO Kicks’ program. Its purpose is to cook and serve nutritious meals to participants and their families in hopes of bringing individuals out of isolation and facilitating access to healthier foods. Through a series of hands-on workshops and the act of cooking and eating together, EPL aims to create an engaging community conversation about nutrition and health, help participants to develop practical life skills, and facilitate networking to improve community safety and cohesion.

Partners:

Toronto Community Housing, Jays Care Foundation, Dept. of Athletics and Recreation, Students, Staff, Faculty and Miller Lash House

Partners:

UTSC Department of Athletics and Recreation, Eat Play Learn, Kingston-Galloway Orton Park and East Scarborough Storefront
Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association (MLBPAA) Legends for Youth clinic series teamed up with UTSC in 2013 to host the first Legends for Youth clinic in Canada at UTSC’s Dan H. Lang Field. The Alumni Association has conducted dozens of free clinics and helped thousands of children over the years.

Four Canadian MLBPA players took part in the day long clinic including former Toronto Blue Jays Rob and Rich Butler, Florida Marlins Greg O’Halloran, and Atlanta Braves pitcher Mike Remlinger. The quartet’s mission is to provide a fun, positive baseball experience for children in the KGO community with positive role models at their life skills station where they talk to them about substance abuse, stress the importance of education and help them recognize that they have the ability to make positive decisions and to teach young ballplayers the game’s fundamentals in a multi-station format.

**Partners:**
Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association and University of Toronto Scarborough

The Henry Norrington Tennis Program was created from the Henry Norrington Endowment to implement a tennis program for youth in priority neighbourhood surrounding UTSC. The program enables youth to learn a sport that they may never have had an opportunity to play. The eight-week spring and summer program is held on the UTSC Tennis courts located in the Valley. The two sessions engaged 130 boys and girls ranging from ages seven (7) - 14.

The children learn techniques and game play from certified instructors that followed Tennis Canada’s Progressive teaching modules. Over the course of both sessions, a remarkable improvement in skills and love for the game of tennis is exhibit in the children. Certified nutritional consultants from UTSC engaged with participants to educate them on the benefits of healthy eating by following the Canada Food Guide. UTSC students provide mentorship, coaching supports to the program.

**Partners:**
UTSC Department of Athletics and Recreation, estate of Henry Norrington, Kingston-Galloway Orton Park, Mornelle Court and East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club

The eight week Midnight Madness Basketball program brings 70 children, ages 14 - 16 to UTSC for basketball clinics and a series of workshops focusing on leadership development, community building and healthy active living, managing and avoiding conflict and violence, and financial literacy. Participants come from social housing neighbourhoods including Alexandra Park, Flemingdon Park, Jane and Finch area, KGO and Rexdale. UTSC alumna worked as a summer program assistant at the athletics and recreational centre help to plan the program. This program also allowed the centre to remain open later, thereby providing employment opportunities for students.

**Partners:**
Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Police Services, Ascot Co-Op, Concrete Roses Youth Services, the East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club and University of Toronto Scarborough

TIRF Rugby (Toronto Inner-City Rugby Foundation) - similar to the Norrington program in providing youth in the community a chance to learn the game of rugby for free. This program is funded through the foundation and organized by retired Toronto Police Officers. This program will take place on the Valley Playing fields. A UTSC student in the Rugby program will be hired and paid through the Department of Athletics and Recreation to coach as part of the program through the Alumni Dollars raised. 25 youth from the community and one UTSC student and five community volunteers partner in this program.

**Partners:**
Toronto Inner-City Rugby Foundation, Retired Toronto Police Officers and University of Toronto Scarborough
Native Child and Family Services program involves providing a week of camp through money raised by Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council with Department of Athletics and Recreation to provide 65 youth from Native Child and Family Services of Toronto a week at UTSC camp.

Furthermore, we provide the baseball facility and fields for Lacrosse and Baseball programs throughout the season. Some of these programs are in partnership with KGO Storefront. These programs provide valuable coaching and mentoring opportunities for UTSC students, currently six students lend their skill-set to the program.

Environmental Partnerships

Overview:

Environmental Science is one of the growing areas of study at UTSC as demonstrated by the recent introduction of the Ph.D in Environmental Science. The Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences has some of the world’s leading experts among its faculty and is a natural area of study with our backyard consisting of the Highland Creek Watershed and UTSC being situated so close to Rouge National Urban Park. UTSC’s faculty and students regularly utilize these natural features as a classroom and study/research opportunities.

Opening this July, the new Environmental Science and Chemistry Building (ESCB) will define UTSC as the environmental hub of the University of Toronto tri-campus system. The 110,000 sq. ft. (9,290-square-metre) facility provides innovative design solutions for sustainable and highly flexible research and study space. It will house two disciplines in the Department of Physical and Environmental Science, with research and teaching laboratories, an analytical instrumentation centre, office and meeting space.

The ESCB will also include student study space, a librarian office, a police office, seminar rooms and multi-purpose space. UTSC’s Department of Physical and Environmental Science and its chemistry program have a history of highly respected teaching as well as innovative water and environmental research. This building will enable UTSC to remain at the forefront of preparing students to work in the interdisciplinary context of environmental science. It will also help train the next generation of experts to address the scientific challenges presented by environmental issues such as groundwater pollution in urban settings, restoration of degraded environmental systems, climate change and rising sea levels.

Developing environmental partnerships is therefore a priority and major focus of our partnership and engagement strategy.

Partners:
Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, East Scarborough Storefront and University of Toronto Scarborough

Sport/Recreation and Environmental Initiatives
TD Friends of the Environment Foundation was founded by TD Bank Group in 1990. It is a national charity that funds environmental projects across Canada; it has provided more than $42 million to over 16,000 grassroots projects that directly benefit the environment in your community and across Canada.

The foundation is involved in number of projects and supports a wide range of environmental initiatives with a primary funding focusing on environmental education, urban greening and enhanced biodiversity and energy conservation. TD Friends of the Environment Foundation wants to make a difference to the community by directly investing in environmental programs in that community.

Area of Contribution:

The University of Toronto Scarborough is dedicated to supporting environmentally conscious initiatives and sustainable approaches. Ultimately, the institutions goal is to improve social engagement with our local community, both, on and off campus. Moreover, the objective is to embed sustainable approaches in all aspects of campus life, while finding new opportunities to engage government and community partners. In 2013, the TD Bank Group made a $1 million gift and a TD Friends for the Environment Foundation provided a $75,000 over three year grant, helping the University of Toronto Scarborough build on its reputation as a leader in the field of environmental and biological science. The gift and grant supports UTSC’s role in primary research and educational partner of the Rouge National Park. The gift will create: A limited Term Professorship in Urban Forest Conservation and Biology, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Fellowship, Graduate Research Scholarships in Environmental Science, and the grant has provided funding for community and campus engagement initiatives.
Programs:

1. Youth Environment Day

Goals:
The goal of UTSC Youth Environment Day, sponsored by TD Friends of the Environment was to bring youth from across GTA together at the UTSC campus to participate in environmental education and leadership training. As an environmentally based initiative, UTSC’s Youth Environmental Day uses practical, hands-on and participatory workshops and projects to promote critical thinking and community engagement around environmental and sustainability issues and their local connections. The day included a number of workshops, different activities including inspiring discussions facilitated by Evergreen and Parks Canada.

The program provided opportunities for youth to lead and participate in environmental activities, tapping into their passion and commitment towards their environment; thereby, empowering youth to take positive action for a healthy, environmentally friendly world.

Accomplishments:

• Over 190 grade eight students, ages 12-13 participated
• Eight (8) UTSC Eco Ambassadors
• Over 300 trees planted in UTSC’s Valley
• Seed Balling  630 wildflower seeds used to make 300 seed balls that were distributed around the campus creek 300
• Facilitated nine (9) nature walk and talks through Rouge Park with students and teachers
• Completed stewardship on this site and mulching

Impact on UTSC:

• Connecting up an coming environmentalist with nature and importance of connecting to the larger eco-system
• Greening the campus, educating and connecting students with nature and demonstrating how they can contribute to their own eco-systems
• UTSC Eco Ambassadors learn more about the environment as they are preparing, educating and connecting with local youth, they also learn and enhance their leadership and presenting skills
• Communication skills/style development teaching youth and fostering understanding of concepts

Testimonials:

“...I had such an amazing day, I didn’t expect to. It was so much fun to spend the day outside, planting trees and learning about the environment, and it was cool that I was able to do it with my friends.”

Nicholas D.  September 30, 2014  Student, Joseph Howe Senior Public School

“This trip was an amazing experience, and I really hope that other kids get to have this kind of opportunity, because it wasn’t some person just lecturing to you, it was knowledge combined with an equal amount of fun! I learned lots about the environment, and what we can do to help it flourish. I hope that the event will go on for years to come, so future generations can understand how important our environment is, and realize that we need to give back what we take. It wasn’t just educational, it was interactive and fun!”

Laksami A.  November 7, 2014  Student, Joseph Howe Senior Public School
2. TD Tree Days

Launched in 2010, TD Tree Days provides TD employees, their families and friends, and members of the community the opportunity to volunteer in the communities where they live and work, and to demonstrate their commitment to forest stewardship.

With the assistance of the UTSC Sustainability Department and Business Operations and Strategic Affairs, this year’s TD Tree Day event brought out over 60 volunteers and resulted in the planting of 360 trees in our valley lands.

3. UTSC School Pollinator Garden Program

The Cadotte lab at UTSC will oversee the installation and maintenance of a proposed pollinator garden in front of William G. Davis public school (hereafter WGD).

The purpose of the garden is two-fold:

1) to make the grounds of the school more environmentally friendly and to support local pollinator diversity;

2) provide unique experiential learning opportunities to WGD students. This test project may be extended to other local schools and there is great interest in this project from the schools.

The project is anticipated to commence this Spring.

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Parks Canada:
Rouge National Urban Park

Parks Canada protects and presents nationally significant examples of Canada’s natural and cultural heritage. It is an agency run by Ministry of the Environment, whose mandate is to foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure their ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.

Parks Canada manages 44 National Parks and including seven National Park Reserves, four National Marine Conservation Areas, one National Landmark, and 167 National Historic Sites of Canada. The agency also administers the Canadian Register of Historic Places, a registry of historic sites in Canada.
Objectives:

With an agreement with Parks, UTSC has taken a very leading role in the transformation of the Rouge Valley into Canada’s first national urban park. In 2012, UTSC and Parks Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) positioning UTSC as the primary research and education partner and serve as a platform for collaboratively initiatives in the Rouge National Urban Park. At 47 square kms, the current Rouge Park is 10 times larger than New York’s Central Park, 30 times larger than London’s High Park and its location on the border of Scarborough and Pickering puts it within driving distance for 20% percent of Canada’s population.

UTSC faculty conduct research in the park, while co-op and service learning programs provide students experiential learning opportunities. UTSC has hosted workshops for the parks and for the federal government on vision for youth.

This past year a new MOU was executed between the parties that recognizes the potential of the future Rouge National Urban Park to contribute to the university experience at UTSC and to serve as a platform for youth leadership, research and innovation and for the activities of the University to address the objectives of Parks Canada; in particular:

- University initiatives that propose to examine the human-nature interaction in near urban places are enhanced by the proximity of the park. Rouge National Urban Park is a natural laboratory where research on the interaction between urban areas and surrounding natural areas can be undertaken;
- The Hub Ideation & Experiential Learning Centre provides opportunities for students to apply their learning and skills to real world challenges. As a park that seeks to educate and provide opportunities to experience nature, culture and agriculture, Rouge National Urban Park is the ideal arena for new, innovative uses of technology that benefit future park visitors in real-world settings;
- Through its management planning process for the future Rouge National Urban Park, Parks Canada will help define research priorities in the field of environmental and biological science for the TD Gift program.
- Rouge National Urban Park is the ideal location for recreational, learning and stewardship activities for young Canadians, providing opportunities for the students and other members of the university community to experience being healthy people in a healthy park.

Accomplishments:

- **Youth Workshop: Rouge National Urban Park Initiative**
  - Parks Canada has collaborated with the University of Toronto Scarborough to achieve common goals related to youth engagement and, as such, hosted a dynamic young group of students on campus. As only a first engagement activity for this important target group, more opportunities will be provided to involve them in the broader consultation discussion.
- **Youth Environment Day**
  - Park Canada staff participated in the event by conducting nature walk and talks for the students

Eco Summit

Parks Canada played a significant role in UTSC’s Eco Summit aimed to link research, teaching, and institutional practice to community initiatives that foster partnerships with government and community members in the Eastern GTA. The two-day event had six components over two days: 1. Master of Environmental Science (M.Env.Sc.) students conducted research presentations; 2. PhD poster session; 3. keynote address; 4. eco-partners reception; 5. breakout sessions; and 6. the eco-fair. The summit featured panel discussions with faculty and community leaders, an eco-fair, and networking opportunities for all. Several Parks Canada staff took part in the event, including Carol Sheedy, Parks Canada’s Vice President of Operations in Eastern Canada, who delivered the summit’s keynote address on the opening night.

The reception and breakout sessions focused on UTSC’s external partnerships, with the breakout sessions being specifically designed to centre discussion on environmental themed partnerships between UTSC faculty and external partners.
Partnership Activities:
• UTSC has partnered with Evergreen since 2006 to conduct a variety of initiatives around renaturalization, environmental stewardship, and organic gardening
• Initiatives are manifested by a series of weekly events co-led by UTSC and Evergreen staff, and largely aimed at engaging UTSC students, though staff, faculty, and community members are also encouraged to participate
• No academic departments are formally involved, although some faculty members from DPES have participated in and led events over the years
• The Sustainability Office, the Chief Administrative Office have contributed $8k annually to the partnership, and the vice-dean, graduate has contributed a further $8k for the past four years, which specifically carries the condition that a student from UTSC’s M.Env.Sc. program will be hired for an 8-month work placement related to the partnership
• Evergreen provides an event coordinator for each event, additional expertise where necessary, all plant material (seedlings, whips, etc), and tools
• UTSC and Evergreen collaborate to host a variety of annual events:
  - tree, shrub, and wildflower plantings
  - planting and maintaining an organic food garden in the Valley
  - environmental stewardship activities
  - nature walks
  - workshops on various conservation related issues

Accomplishments:
• 500+ faculty, staff, students, and community members over three years
• Creation of an Eco Summit report for each year of the event
• Expansion to the Durham Region

Partners:
TRCA, Evergreen, Malvern Family Resource Centre, Parks Canada, Toronto Zoo, TD Friends of the Environment, TELUS, EllisDon, Urban Strategies.

Accomplishments:
• 500+ faculty, staff, students, and community members over three years
• Creation of an Eco Summit report for each year of the event
• Expansion to the Durham Region

Evergreen is a national not-for-profit that has been working since 1991 to restore the connection between Canada’s cities and the natural environment. Focusing on four program areas Greenspace, Children, Food and CityWorks Evergreen builds partnerships with diverse groups and engages key influencers and the public to inspire local action and create sustainable urban development.

UTSC (Sustainability Office) and Evergreen work together to conduct events that green the campus and help connect the campus community with the natural environment. Evergreen and UTSC sign an annual agreement every year that outlines the financial and in-kind contributions of each party to the partnership.

Accomplishments:
Since 2007 we have:
• engaged over 1,250 people
• planted over 2,000 trees & shrubs
• planted over 2,250 garden plants (veggies and flowers)
Overall Challenges of Partnerships

- Building networks - recognition of the value of going beyond the organizations and people you know
- Community work is a process - it will take some time for systems to shift and relationships to be built
- Realizing relevancy - often times organizations or people do not realize that the significant contribution they make
- Engagement - difficult to manage competing priorities and identify reciprocal partnership opportunities

In Closing

Sport for community development and environmental partnerships have created high-quality curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular experiences for our students and faculty members and have played an integral role in UTSC’s community development model. By providing high-quality academic experiences for students and faculty and increased access to sports facilities, education of physical and environmental literacy and environment and recreation programs for youth and community members we have been able to see communities who historically have not partnered begin to identify the possibility of partnership across borders.