



Councillor Bas Balkissoon

Ward 41 – Scarborough Rouge River

Toronto City Hall
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Toronto, Ontario
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Biography

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

- 2000– present: Toronto City Councillor, Ward 41
- 1997-2000: Toronto City Councillor, Ward 18
- 1999-2000: Chairman, Scarborough Community Council
- 1988-1997: Scarborough City Councillor, Ward 13

Member of the following City of Toronto Committees and Boards:

- Member, Works Committee
- Past Member, Toronto Police Services Board
- Chairman, Audit Committee
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Metro Toronto Housing Authority

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

- Golhawk Community Association
 - 1986-1988, President
 - 1984-1986, Treasurer
- Founding President, Scarborough Homeowners Alliance for Fair Taxation (SHAFT) – a Scarborough residents group that led the fight to reform the province’s outdated system of property tax assessment. A new system of property assessment was eventually implemented, resulting in reduced property taxes for 80% of residents in northeast Scarborough.

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE:

- 1971-1998: Bell Canada, various management positions*.
 - Manager, Human Resources and Salary Administration.
- 1981-1984: Advisor to Saudi Arabian Ministry of Post, Telephone and Telegraph.
 - Manager, Network Maintenance.
- * 1988-1998: On leave from Bell Canada to assume public duties as a City Councillor.

PERSONAL:

- Married to Tahay. Children: Denise, Ian and Tony
- Born in Trinidad and emigrated to Canada in 1970.
- Resident of the Scarborough community for more than 20 years.
- Involved as a coach in local youth soccer.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Endorsed by the environmental group “Save the Rouge Valley System”, for his work in preserving the Rouge Valley as Canada’s largest urban park.
- Currently leading the fight to get a third, much needed, police division for the Scarborough community.
- As a member of Toronto’s Oak Ridges Moraine Steering Committee, Bas is involved in efforts to stop development on this environmentally sensitive stretch of land north of Toronto.
- As a member of the Budget Committees of Toronto and the former City of Scarborough, Bas has been instrumental in freezing City property taxes for six years in a row.
- As Chairman of the Traffic Safety Coalition, Bas joined with the Honourable David Tsubouchi, Solicitor General for Ontario, in launching an anti-drinking and driving campaign for our community.
- Worked with the community to get a new Community Centre built at Milliken Park.
- Bas has earned the reputation as someone who gets results for the community, working with concerned residents to get crosswalks installed, holding community safety meetings, getting approval for a new ambulance and fire station in our community.
- As a member of the Toronto Budget Committee Bas worked to secure funding for 73 more front-line police officers, 64 more paramedics, 675 more hostel beds for the homeless and new programs for children and youth.

CONTACT:

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