

CIVIC ELECTION 2006: CAMPAIGN NOTEBOOK

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Scandal in Scarberia? Paul Ainslie, a former aide to budget chief **David Soknacki**, has been the stand-in councillor for Scarborough-Rouge River since **Bas Balkissoon** fled to greener provincial pastures.

When his boss announced he, too, was quitting, Mr. Ainslie signed up to replace him in nearby Scarborough East.

But democracy activist **Dave Meslin**, who organized a City Idol contest to attract neophytes to run for council, lambasted Mr. Ainslie last week for campaign bumph that asks voters to "return" him to city hall. (One of Mr. Meslin's winners, **Amarjeet Chhabra**, is running in Scarborough East.)

"You should be ashamed of yourself for disregarding the principles of the agreement that gave you the privilege of being a temporary City Councillor in Ward 41," Mr. Meslin writes in an open e-mail to Mr. Ainslie, accusing him of giving a "false impression of elected incumbency."

He adds: "No one has ever voted for you, so you should be at the starting gate with the rest of the rookies."

Mr. Ainslie is unrepentant, arguing it is factually accurate to say he will be returning to council (assuming voters back him). He says he nixed overzealous campaigners from using the word "re-elect," since it was councillors who voted for his interim appointment. "I said, no, no, that's really pushing it."