

# Mansbridge visits DC students



Christopher Burrows

**SAGE ADVICE:** Durham College journalism students were treated to a Q and A session with CTV correspondent Peter Mansbridge last Tuesday. Mansbridge answered questions about his career and offered up his best advice to the room full of budding reporters..

## Courtney Williams

The Chronicle

Journalism can be exciting, it can be funny, and it can be incredibly emotional, CBC’s ‘The National’ anchor Peter Mansbridge told DC’s journalism students on March 18.

Mansbridge is one of the most recognized faces and names in Canadian journalism.

He came to Durham College’s North campus to speak with Journalism students about his career and to offer advice to the aspiring writers, broadcasters and reporters.

There wasn’t an empty seat in the South Wing classroom set aside for the hour allotted for his Q & A period.

The dean of the School of Media, Art and Design, Greg Murphy, as well as the president of Durham College, Don Lovisa, were both in attendance for the event.

Mansbridge spoke to students for about an hour, offering pieces of advice and anecdotes about his long-standing journalism career.

“You have to be fascinated by what goes on around you,” he said to the future journalists. “The best quality of any journalist is the ability to tell stories. Learn to be a great storyteller, keep your eyes wide open, and meet as many people as you can.”

He said the key to being a great reporter is to create unforgettable moments within

your stories that will inspire the people hearing them.

“Great reporters have moments in their stories,” he said. “Moments that make you sit up and want to listen.”

First-year broadcast journalism student Sarah Chan said she was thankful for the opportunity to meet Mansbridge and she wouldn’t have missed it for the world.

“There was no question as to whether or not I would come to hear Peter speak,” she said. “I think as a young person who dreams of being as successful as he is in the same industry, you have to take an opportunity such as that one without hesitation.”

She went on to say that she thinks the Q & A was a complete success for her and her classmates.

“I think we all had a great time just sitting there soaking in everything he said and seeing how he interacts off camera,” she said. “I found every little thing he said to be helpful and full of knowledge. When I left the room, the one thing that stuck with me was when he said he had failed three times before making it to a place in his career he was proud of. I think it’s good for students to hear that even the people we look up to struggled along the way, so it’s totally okay if we do, too.”

Mansbridge ended the day by staying behind for handshakes and photo-ops with excited students.

# U Pass to stay

## Brad Andrews

The Chronicle

The U Pass, and its higher costs, are here to stay.

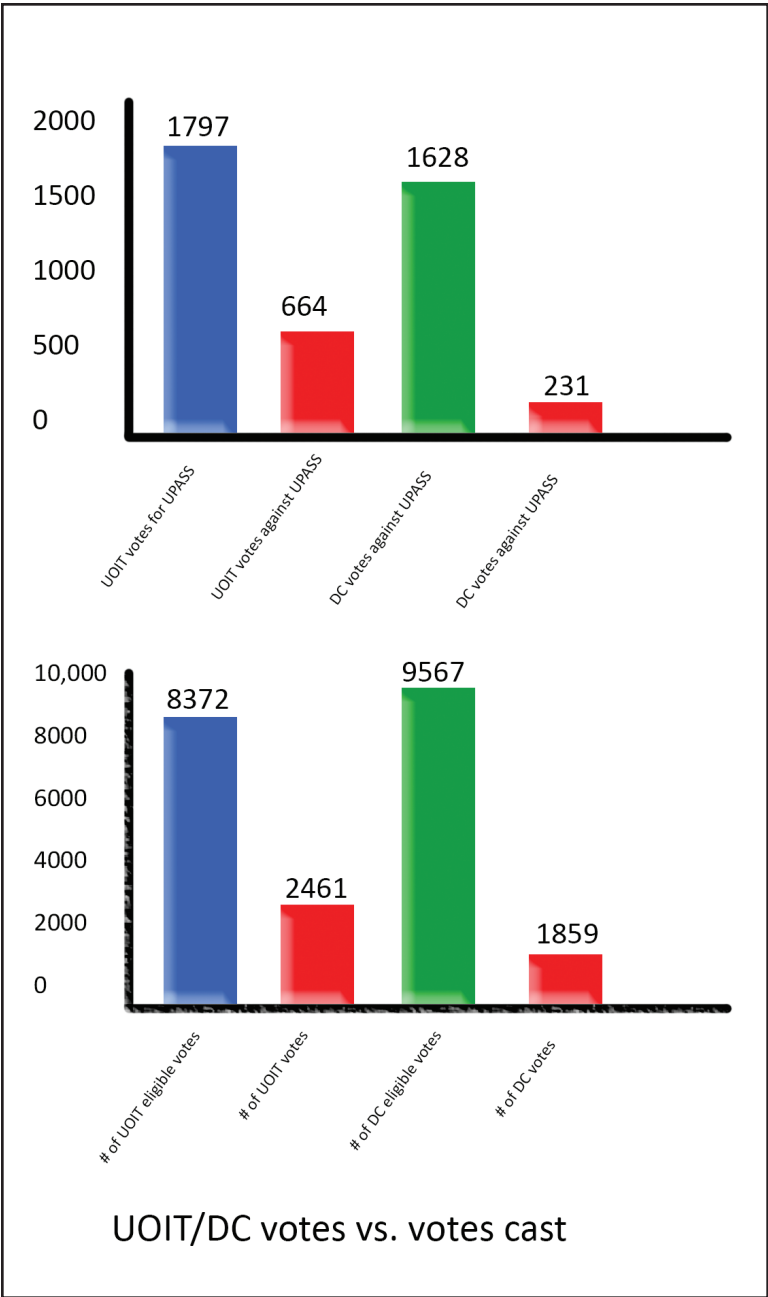
Students voted overwhelmingly to keep the transit pass following a referendum organized by Durham College and UOIT. According to results announced by organizers of the referendum from both schools, voter turnout was higher than previous student votes and clearly favoured keeping the U Pass. Out of 8,372 eligible students at UOIT 2,461 voted in the referendum, with 1,797 in favour of keeping the pass and 664 against. The college had a slightly lower turnout, 1,859 students voted of the 9,567 eligible to, with 1,628 voting to keep the U Pass.

Students were given relatively short notice of the vote prior to it beginning. Voting began Monday, March 10 and UOIT announced its referendum the Friday before while college students received an email announcing the vote midway through the referendum. Despite the lack of notice,

voter turnout far surpassed that of the two previous SA elections, with last year’s only drawing 1,797 votes and 1,259 for the year before.

The referendum was organized without the Student Association’s involvement and required the college to seek special permission from the provincial government to undertake. Representatives from the institutions said the vote was in response to the increase in U Pass fees full-time students have to pay. That cost will increase 16 per cent a year for the next three years. Durham Regional Transit proposed the increase with little to no notice or debate and Durham Regional council approved it only weeks later, while students were on their winter break.

Currently students pay \$77 per semester for the U Pass with no option to opt out of the fee. That cost will increase to \$89 for the new fall term and will continue to rise over the next two years to \$120 by September 2016, an increase of almost 64 per cent over the current rate.



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## Incumbants running on the same slate, four acclaimed

They are all on the same slate, Students United, along with board vice-chair Baker Baha and a crop of fresh faces. Together they form the largest slate with ten candidates, including four acclaimed director candidates.

Despite the dominance of the incumbents, there are a series of new faces to choose from, especially in the much more competitive UOIT races and the presidential race. The complete list is available on the SA website, however candidates this year are not required to have a platform present at polling stations, meaning it is up to students to actively seek out information about candidates during the election period.