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Friday, May 1, 2026



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## Whitby Scores Sports Fields in Brooklin



See page 4 for more.

Wishing all the Moms Out there a Very Happy Mother's Day!



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Regional and Town Councillor  
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## Less than half the picture: The Frozen Cub



By Richard  
Bercuson

Herewith a tale of uncommon courage in the face of winter's grip.

It was a typical frigidly cold Montreal January. Below zero in whichever temperature one chose. Some snow covered the sidewalks, just enough to make them slithery, even for a sure-footed kid. Just days before, the local outdoor rink hosted yet another collection of wannabes. It might have been eight versus nine though a few boys took turns as goalies which skewed the numbers on attack. Plus, in the unending snow flurries, bodies came and went.

The game continued for a couple of hours before a brief lunch break and promises that everyone would return. Only a dozen did which made dippy doodling much easier. The kid returned home wet, shivering yet content having scored somewhere between three and nine goals plus knocking one kid, Dougie, into a low snowbank. A great neighbourhood moment as Dougie was the local doink.

An evening later, at cub scouts, the kid played basketball (poorly), gym soccer (decently), and floor hockey (excellently). Under the leadership of "Akela," a man named "Bunny," the boys shared stories of how they got their most recent badges. The kid embellished somewhat. Well, a lot. He had seven now in just three months. Dad helped with the model airplane, but everyone

got help with something. Fredo's mom helped him with a craft. Everyone knew it. No one cared.

At the end of the evening, parents picked up their boys. Akela Bunny cleaned up the equipment, told the kid to wait at the door for his Dad and then he, too, left.

The kid waited. And waited. The janitor told him to stand outside the school doors so he could lock up. It was night cold, biting and mean. The boy's father was nowhere to be seen. No watch and besides, his sense of time was already dulled by the previous day's outdoor hockey marathon, fatigue, and the winter.

Oh well, he'd walk. It wasn't that far. Maybe ten blocks. He pulled the long wool green sleeves of his cub scout jersey over his hands and tugged on the beany cub scout cap on his head. But the shorts? Now there was a problem he couldn't fix.

He strolled, jogged, marched, and sometimes slid the eight blocks home. His father, who'd forgotten to pick him up, opened the door to a half frozen boy with red legs. Mom threw him into a hot bathtub where he languished for what seemed like an hour. It took just 10 minutes for him to thaw out.

And in those minutes, as his legs and feet hurt from the unfreezing, he smiled at how much fun being a cub scout was anyway. Despite basketball, Fredo's plagiarized craft and cruel Montreal winters.

**What:** This community-focused expo event is designed to help residents understand how to participate in the energy transition and save on household costs by shifting to electricity-powered homes and transportation.

Attendees will have the chance to connect with contractors, home energy advisors, solar installers and EV experts, hear first-hand from homeowners about costs, challenges and benefits, and get behind the wheel with EV test drives.

Learn more about taking the next steps toward a cleaner, more efficient future at [durham.ca/HomeEnergyandEVExpo](http://durham.ca/HomeEnergyandEVExpo).

### Coming Soon: Durham Home Energy and EV Expo

Looking for quick and helpful ways to make your home more energy-efficient? Open to everyone in the community, Durham Region's free Home Energy and Electric Vehicle (EV) Expo offers a clear, fact-based look at electrification—covering heat pumps, home retrofits, solar options and more—while helping residents learn more about available rebates, grants and incentive programs.

**Who:** Hosted by the Region of Durham.

**Where:** Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, in Whitby.

**When:** Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Brooklin Family Matters: by Leanne Brown

## The Tracker



"You've ruined my life," she said, leaning against the kitchen counter, her phone in her hand.

"All I said was you can't stay out past midnight on a school night," I replied.

She didn't even blink. "Exactly." Then, "You've ruined everything."

"Everything is a lot."

"Start with this," as she pointed at her phone.

"This being...?"

She finally looked up, dead serious. "The tracking app."

I knew where this was going. I asked anyway. "What about it?"

"You don't trust me."

"That's not what it is."

"Then why can you see me buying gum at a gas station three towns over?" Before I could utter a sound, she added, "And why does it notify you when I leave the house like I'm a package?"

"It's for safety."

"It's for stalking," she snapped.

It landed heavier than I wanted. "It's for peace of mind."

"For who?" She looked at her phone again, her voice steady. "I get why you started it," she said. "Stranger danger, emergencies, all that. But now it's just... constant."

She raised her gaze from the phone. "I can't go anywhere without a silent report of my location being sent to your pocket." She leaned back against the counter, the barrage

continuing. "You don't even ask where I am anymore. You just check the dot."

That one sat differently. She grabbed her bag and went out the door. An hour later, as I wandered around Longo's, I got a text.

"You're at Starbucks," it said.

I texted back. "Yeah. I was meeting a friend."

Another text. "Bring me a vanilla iced latte. Oat milk. No foam. Light ice. And don't forget this time."

She was watching me through the app, like this was normal communication. I phoned her. "You're ordering through the tracking app now?"

I felt her shrug through the phone. "Efficiency," she said.

"So let me get this straight. You're mad I can see where you are, but you're also using it to send me coffee orders."

"Yes."

Hard to argue with her on that point.

"And," she pointed out, "don't pretend you don't zoom in when I stop moving for more than five minutes."

"I don't—"

She hung up. I peered down at my phone. The app was still open. A little dot at Starbucks. Another one heading home.

Two people, tracker and trackee, arguing over curfews and caffeine.

She wasn't wrong. Except it wasn't just me watching her anymore. She'd learned to watch me back.

## Brooklin TOWN CRIER .com

Brooklin's Community Newspaper

*Proud to be a Brooklinite*

Since 2000. Published 24 times per year.

Editor, Richard Bercuson

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Next Issue: Friday, May 15, 2026

Deadline: Friday, May 8, 2026

# Scouting: Providing Youth With Key Skills



**By Sophia Luciano**

With summer around the corner, many Brooklin families race to register for another season of sports. But Brooklin's scouts encourage parents and kids not to overlook the fulfilling adventures of scouting.

Brooklin's scouting group, 2nd Division Brooklin, is facing declining numbers despite scouting standing out as a

Venturers, so those wishing to be with Venturers join 12th Division Whitby. The group has three venturer scouts who will all be graduating this year, leaving a large gap in membership, according to Lewis Williams, a Venturer scout leader for 20 years.

Williams reports that the declining numbers are due to the lasting effects of Covid restrictions and the overwhelming variety of sports programs in the area. Morgan adds that most people do not really know what scouting is.

### Needs volunteers

More volunteers are also needed to keep up with the ratio of kids, say Richard and Michelle Davies, volunteer scout leaders for 2nd Division Brooklin.

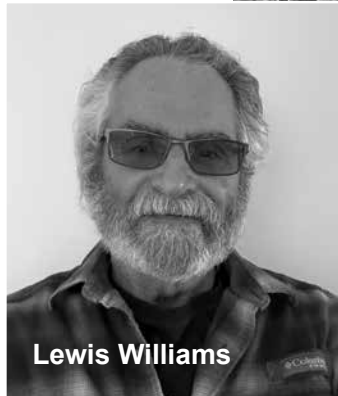
The Davies' believe scouting has something special to offer. From challenging camping trips in Ontario's provincial parks to indoor rock climbing or winter snow shoeing, one thing that stands out is that everything is youth-led.

"Our scouts tell us what they want to do," Michelle Davies says, "and we plan it." She adds that the older Venturer scouts determine what they want to do weekly - like outdoor activities, bowling or movie nights - and they call venues and book them themselves.

### Life lessons

Williams notes that kids learn important life lessons and practical skills in the process, such as how to pack, grocery shop and collaborate with others while planning for trips. "Our leaders have a terrific amount of experience in scouting and working in the outdoors... we guide them toward independence."

"We're really trying to get kids off of the screens," says Michelle Davies. "What can we teach them with their hands and the tools? We have some kids that we've just seen blossom over



Lewis Williams



uniquely youth-led, year-round opportunity for kids to experience the outdoors.

"With scouts, I've found that no matter what, the people are always so nice... that really is just the driving force," says Tyler Morgan, a 17-year-old Venturer scout for 12th Division Whitby. "It truly feels like a community when I'm with my scout group. It feels like a second family almost. And that's just not something that I was able to personally find in sports."



Tyler Morgan

### All age groups

Scouts Canada is a national organization focused on helping young people build independence and leadership skills through outdoor challenges and guided learning activities. The program is structured by age, starting from Beaver scouts (ages 5-7) to Venturer scouts (ages 14-17). The groups participate in weekly activities and monthly weekend trips.

Brooklin does not have its own

doing certain things we never thought would have made such an impact."

Morgan recalls a scout trip climbing Cascade Mountain in the Adirondacks as one of the most fulfilling and hardest things they've ever done. "I found that, through overcoming hardships, especially on camping trips



where you have challenges - like, you've got to deal with the weather...the physical exercise - it really brings people together.

"The thing with scouts is that it's something that gives you what you need when you need it. It also encourages kids to go outside more, talk to new people, and it also, for me personally, gave me such a big confidence boost."

### Three free activities

"Every non-registered youth or volunteer is allowed to attend three functions without registering," mentions

Michelle Davies. "So come and see it. Talk to the scouters. While people can register at any time, open registration starts at the beginning of June."

The 2nd Brooklin scouts will host a pizza booth at the Brooklin Fair this June, Michelle Davies adds, and they also participate in frequent garbage cleanups around Brooklin. Other upcoming activities include a summer canoe trip and a social barbecue held each summer.

She notes, too, that the scouting crew wants to thank the community in Brooklin. "They've been really good to us."

For information:  
Visit: [scouts.ca](http://scouts.ca)

Marg Williamson,  
Group Commissioner,  
2nd Brooklin Scouts:  
[2ndbrooklinscoutsgroup@gmail.com](mailto:2ndbrooklinscoutsgroup@gmail.com)

Lewis Williams,  
Contact Scouter, 12th Whitby Company - Venturers:  
[paddlesong9@gmail.com](mailto:paddlesong9@gmail.com)



# Whitby Secures 60+ Hectares for Future Sports Fields

(From whitby.ca)

Building on the momentum of the upcoming opening of the Fieldgate Sports Complex, the Town of Whitby is taking another major step to expand recreational space and meet growing community demand – securing more than 60 hectares of land in North Whitby for a future outdoor sports field complex.

concept builds on extensive feedback gathered through **Whitby’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan**. Future additional engagement with residents and user groups will be planned to help refine the design, amenities, and programming.

**Subscribe** to “All News” through the Town’s online newsroom to stay informed on project updates and future engagement opportunities.

### Quick Facts

- The site is planned to accommodate six baseball diamonds, six soccer fields, and two full-size cricket pitches. The final mix will be refined over time based on community needs and input.

Located on the east side of Duffs Road, north of Brawley Road, the site will expand field capacity and support increasing participation in cricket, soccer, and baseball as Whitby continues to grow. The Town will develop the lands through a multi-phase, multi-year approach, with construction timing aligned with Whitby’s growth and budget planning.

A **draft site concept** released on April 7 outlines how the space could be designed to meet community needs. The

- The Town selected the site for its size, flexibility to support multiple field types, and proximity to growth in North Whitby.

## What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby



Do you know a **Community Champion**? Recognize them today!

### Nominate a Community Champion

Do you know someone who make a difference in the community? Take a moment to nominate them as a Community Champion and help celebrate the everyday kindness that strengthens our neighbourhoods. Whether they’re organizing a community clean-up, helping a neighbour, supporting local food drives, or volunteering with community organizations, brighten their day by recognizing them.

[whitby.ca/CommunityChampions](http://whitby.ca/CommunityChampions)

### Visit the Farmers’ Market

The Whitby Farmers’ Market opens its 2026 season on Wednesday, May 13, running Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Celebration Square (in front of the Whitby Public Library). The Brooklin Farmers’ Market follows on Saturday, June 13, with markets every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. through October. Pick up your local favourites, including fresh produce, baked, and handmade goods. [WhitbyFarmersMarket.ca](http://WhitbyFarmersMarket.ca)



### Thinking about running in Whitby’s next election?

Nominations are now open for Whitby Council and school board trustees. Have ideas for Whitby’s future? This is your opportunity to get involved.

Learn more at [whitby.ca/VOTE](http://whitby.ca/VOTE)

P: 905-430-4300  
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[whitby.ca](http://whitby.ca)



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**BOARDING PASS**

• Securing this land advances key priorities in Whitby’s Community Strategic Plan, including expanding recreation opportunities and delivering on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**A Proud Supporter of the Town of Whitby and the Fieldgate Sports Complex**



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# Council Secures Vipond Arena's Future

(From whitby.ca)

Whitby Town Council has approved **next steps** for Luther Vipond Memorial Arena, expanding local play and training space for floor-based sports like lacrosse, ball hockey, and soccer.

As ice sports prepare to move to the future **Fieldgate Sports Complex**, the programming shift will help create more year-round

space for floor-based sports, providing more developmental opportunities locally. The Town will continue to monitor and evaluate use to ensure it is meeting community needs.

The site will also continue to host long-standing community events, including the Brooklin Spring Fair.

A longer-term vision for the site will be explored through a new

Brooklin Memorial Park Master Plan planned for development in 2029.

### Quick Facts

- The Luther Vipond Memorial Arena located on Winchester Road East has served as a community gathering space for recreation and the iconic Brooklin Spring Fair since 1973.

- More than 1,300 people participated in an online survey, with several hundred more taking part in

in-person and virtual engagement sessions. Results showed strong support for repurposing the space for activities like ball hockey, lacrosse, soccer and other recreational uses, while maintaining access for local events.

- Under the approved plan, the Town will continue to run the facility, handling bookings, permits, and scheduling.

## United Church Yard Sale

Brooklin United Church  
(19 Cassels Rd. E.)  
will host a yard sale  
in the church hall on  
**Saturday, May 2, 8 am - 2 pm.**  
All are welcome

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## BROOKLIN'S HISTORY

By Jennifer Hudgins

# The Nip 'n' Tuck Railway



Brooklin once had a railway that became something of a local legend, remembered as much for its struggles as for its service. Officially known as the Port Whitby & Port Perry Railway (PW & PPR), it was humorously called the "Nip and Tuck" by passengers and those who lived along its route.

Conceived in the late 1860s, communities across Ontario were eager to secure rail connections to larger markets. The sod-turning ceremony took place on October 6, 1869, and was performed by Prince Arthur, son of Queen Victoria, an event that reflected the optimism surrounding the project. By 1872, the first train reached Port Perry, linking it with Port Whitby on Lake Ontario and passing directly through Brooklin.

### Early issues

Yet from the outset, the line faced serious challenges. The most pressing difficulty was in the withdrawal of promised financial backing. Those who had undertaken to support the enterprise failed to meet their commitments, leaving the company in a precarious position.

Its funds were quickly exhausted, including two bank loans obtained under questionable circumstances.

One such loan, amounting to \$10,000, was secured from the Dominion Bank through James Holden, who at the time served as a director of both the railway and the bank. An independent audit of the company's finances for 1871 and 1872 revealed further concerns. Although more than \$448,000 had reportedly been spent on construction, only \$165,000 could be supported by documentation. The substantial discrepancy was attributed to mismanagement and suspected fraud, though no individual was ever formally held accountable.

### Tough terrain

The railway also contended with difficult terrain. Running north from Whitby through Brooklin and into the Oak Ridges Moraine, the line encountered steep grades that tested both engines and crews. A report in the Oshawa Vindicator of January 25, 1871, noted that some sections rose as much as 100 feet to the mile, remarking that any locomotive capable of managing such inclines "would have to be built like a goat."

It was this uncertainty - whether the train could successfully complete the climb - that gave rise to its enduring nickname, the "Nip and Tuck." The challenge was especially evident when the locomotive hauled its full complement of three passenger cars along with an equal number of freight cars.

Brooklin had its own station, built in 1871 on the south side of Winchester Road, west of St. Thomas Street. Like many rural stations, it was a modest wooden structure serving both passengers and freight. Around 1900, it was replaced by a newer building on the opposite side of the tracks, offering improved facilities, including a waiting room and baggage area. For many years, the station



was a focal point in the village, linking residents with surrounding communities.

### Money troubles

Despite its usefulness, the railway was never financially successful. It carried farm produce, lumber, supplies, and

rail lines gradually reduced its importance.

By the early twentieth century, traffic had declined significantly. In 1937, the section between Port Perry and Manila Junction was abandoned as service from Lindsay was redirected westward to the Toronto & Nipissing Railway. That same year, on April 19, the Brooklin station was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. Passenger service ended soon after and, by 1941, the remaining tracks were removed, with the steel repurposed for Canada's war effort.

As children, my siblings and I would wander along the old rail bed on the east side of Queen Street, once called Railroad Street. Though the tracks had long since disappeared, the raised path still marked its route. We collected discarded railway ties to build a makeshift fort, where apple trees had grown wild.

Today, no physical trace of the railroad remains, but the story of the "Nip and Tuck" endures. It helped connect Brooklin to the wider world, and left a legacy preserved in historical records.

**WHITBY & PORT PERRY R. R.**  
**TIME TABLE.**  
TAKES effect on Monday, the 25th August, 1873.

TRAINS GOING NORTH.			
Stations.	Mail No. 2.	Mixed No. 4.	
	A.M.	P.M.	
Whitby Junction.....	Depart 9.00	7.23	
Whitby.....	9.07	7.30	
Brooklin.....	9.29	7.52	
Myrtle.....	9.49	8.12	
Summit*.....	10.02	8.25	
Manchester.....	10.12	8.35	
Prince Albert.....	10.21	8.44	
Port Perry.....	Arrive 10.30	8.53	

TRAINS GOING SOUTH.			
Stations.	Mail No. 1.	Mixed No. 3.	
	A.M.	P.M.	
Port Perry.....	Depart 6.00	2.30	
Prince Albert.....	6.09	2.39	
Manchester.....	6.18	2.48	
Summit*.....	6.28	2.58	
Myrtle.....	6.41	3.11	
Brooklin.....	7.01	3.31	
Whitby.....	7.23	3.53	
Whitby Junction.....	Arrive 7.30	4.00	

\* Platform Stations—Trains stop on Signal only. Passengers can make connections, East and West, by leaving Port Perry at 2.30 P. M.

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passengers, but persistent difficulties, including its initial debt, construction shortcomings, ongoing repairs, and changing economic conditions, limited its long-term viability. Competition from newer and more efficient

For those interested in learning more, photos of the railway can be found through the Whitby Public Library Archives and further details are explored by Paul Arculus in his book The Nip 'N' Tuck.



## Brooklin Village School's "Beauty and the Beast"



Brooklin Village Elementary school mounted a production of "Beauty and the Beast" from April 20-24, featuring 190 students from grades 1 through 8, over four days. The school's Primary choir performed the opening number in matinee performances.

Thanks go to teachers Mrs. Slessor, Mrs. Leombruni, Mr. Ferguson, Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Witzel and Ms. Dunn.

Additional thanks go to Noah Webster and Carol Salamone from "The Travelling Stage."

## Region-wide Compost Giveaways Until May 30

To thank residents for their participation in leaf and yard waste collection programs, Durham Region is once again partnering with local municipalities to provide free compost at special events across the region.



Green bins and backyard composters will **not** be available for sale or exchange at these events. Purchase new Green Bins, kitchen containers or backyard composters or exchange broken Green Bins and kitchen containers online with free home delivery. Visit [durham.ca/NewBins](http://durham.ca/NewBins) for more information.

### When and where:

(south of Highway 2)

### Saturday, May 2 from 8 a.m. to noon (rain or shine)

- Whitby Operations Centre, 333 McKinney Drive, Whitby

- Rick MacLeish Memorial Community Centre (parking lot), 91 Elliot Street, Cannington

### Saturday, May 9 from 8 a.m. to noon

- Clarington Operations Depot 42, 178 Darlington-Clarke Townline Road, Bowmanville

### Saturday, May 23 from 8 a.m. to noon

- Don Beer Arena (parking lot), 940 Dillingham Road, Pickering

- Scugog Community Recreation Centre (parking lot), 1655 Reach Street, Port Perry

### Saturday, May 30 from 8 a.m. to noon

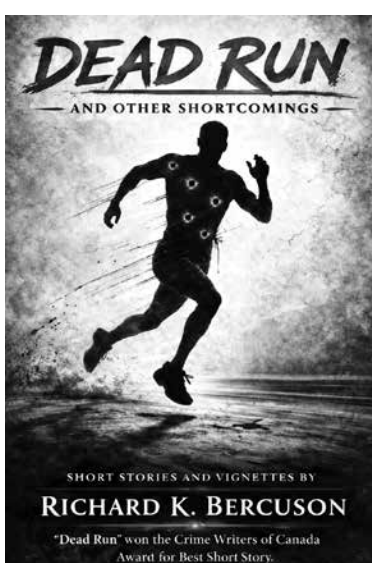
- Uxbridge Arena & Recreation Centre (parking lot), 291 Brock Street West, Uxbridge

**Why:** In appreciation of a continued community-wide commitment to the Region's leaf and yard waste collection programs, residents are invited to our complimentary compost giveaways.

**Note:** These are self-serve events. Residents must bring a shovel and containers to carry their compost. Quantities are first-come, first-served and limited to four reusable containers of compost per vehicle.

Let's make a big impact together! Residents are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to a local food bank (please check that boxes and cans are not damaged, opened or expired).

For more information, including tips for preparing to attend a compost event, please visit [durham.ca/WasteEvents](http://durham.ca/WasteEvents) or download the **Durham Region Waste App**.



## Book Launch at The Goodberry

Richard Bercuson's short story collection, *Dead Run and other shortcomings*, will have its official launch on Sat., May 2, 1-3 pm, at The Goodberry, 55 Baldwin St. in downtown Brooklin

He'll have copies of the book on sale for \$10 along with his two recent novels *The Burden of Guilt* (\$16) and its sequel, *The Shadows of Doubt* (\$14).

The anthology includes *Dead Run* which some years back won the Crime Writers of Canada (Arthur Ellis) Award for Best Short Story. Another story, *The Geezer*, was once named one of the year's best mystery stories by an American listing.

Bercuson turned two of the selections, *Dead Run* and *The Cellar*, into plays at the Ottawa Fringe Festival. *The Cellar* is a

fictional confession of the last surviving member of the Russian Romanov family's execution team.

The collection also includes a previous winner of a regional humour award, a magazine piece about skin cancer set during the days of *Macbeth*, and four vignettes linked to the two novels.

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## TIME TO PLAN AND ORGANIZE YOUR LANDSCAPE PROJECTS



Elephant Construction and Landscaping is a local design build company specializing in creative landscape designs. We are qualified in working with interlocking stone, natural flagstone, wooden structures and garden planting. We are experienced, full-time landscape professionals, living and working in the Durham area. Elephant Construction and Landscaping looks forward to meeting and working with you.

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CONSTRUCTION & LANDSCAPING

Interlocking Stones	Arbors
Steps & Pillars	Patios & Walkways
Custom Woodwork	Retaining Walls
Foundation Planting	Fence & Decks
Natural Stonework	Residential Design/Consultation

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