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# The Chair, The Burn, and the Wardrobe

My burnout didn't arrive dramatically. It snuck in in the form of a folding chair conversation on the way to my daughter's softball game, the family equivalent of a stress test.

When we left, I'd completed my "invisible jobs": the laundry that somehow becomes clean, the flawless schedule management, and the emotional labour of keeping everyone alive and where they need to be.

As we're driving, I ask the important question. "Did anyone put the folding chairs in the car?"

My husband says he packed his chair. Not "the chairs." His chair. I'm preparing to sit on a hard metal bleacher before he casually adds, "Yours, too."

Relief. Till he lists what he packed, delivered as if he's deserving of a lifetime achievement award.

From the back seat, my daughter

says, "Do you want, like, a trophy? Mom does a lot of stuff nobody sees." It lands hard because she's right. I didn't realize how badly I needed someone to say it.

I'm no longer emotionally regulated. Instead I am emotionally buffering, like a browser with 47 tabs freezing at once. It's not because of the chair. He lists his contributions and I'm thinking about my own list.

Now I'm aware of what gets done sight unseen. I'm doing everything, my brain browser keeping extra tabs open in case something important slips through.

It's draining because nothing I do is especially dramatic. Just chores and the scanning of what might be needed next. It doesn't feel like it counts because it doesn't get finished so much as it just keeps happening, a stream of essential tasks that only get

noticed when they are missed.

What I didn't understand is that I more than tired; I was burnt out.

Something had to change. So, I do something completely reasonable and not at all impulsive. I volunteered to direct a community theatre production.

Most might choose yoga. I chose melodramatic actors, sound cues, costume changes, props, scheduling conflicts, and organized chaos.

I discovered, unexpectedly, that I loved it. And, I am good at it.

While others saw stress, I saw momentum. Suddenly, my brain, the same one that loses my phone, became useful in real time. I saw patterns and fixed problems amidst mid-chaos. I managed to hold multiple moving pieces without dropping them.

For the first time in a long while, my busy brain was not the problem. It was the engine.

One night as I hummed show tunes, my daughter eyes me. "You seem happy," she says. Again, she's right.

The burnout though hasn't just vanished. Life is still loud and busy, my tabs remaining open. But I learned something important in a softball parking lot breakdown and a theatre full of moving parts.

Burnout is not a failure; it is what happens when a brain like mine has been carrying too much for too long. Perhaps what saves you isn't less chaos. It's better chaos, the kind that feeds your soul.

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### Correspondences related to Coffee truck in Grass park

The BTC is publishing the following two letters. Tip Top Creamery owner Larry Brual had originally written two other letters to the mayor and council when the Jacked Up truck first appeared in Grass Park. However, space limitations prevent us from publishing them here. So we have put them on our website in their entirety at [brooklincrier.com](http://brooklincrier.com).

#### Letter to the editor

As a Brooklin resident who values and supports local businesses, I found this article disheartening. The concern is not that a coffee truck was serving customers in Brooklin, but rather that a local small business owner was publicly criticized for simply trying to make a living.

This particular business owner operates a brick and mortar location in downtown Whitby and contributes to the local economy through commercial property taxes.

The coffee truck is operating with the proper permits and within existing regulations. This is not an informal advantage, but rather a business thoughtfully

expanding its operations while continuing to contribute to the broader local economy.

No single business holds exclusive rights to coffee or ice cream, nor should new ventures be discouraged simply because they introduce competition. Healthy entrepreneurship is built on earning customer loyalty through quality and service.

At the same time, it is understandable that changes like this can feel challenging for established businesses, and those concerns deserve to be acknowledged and heard. In this case, it appears that the proper processes have been followed and that no one is acting outside of the rules.

At their best, additions like this can contribute to increased activity and foot traffic in our downtown areas, creating more opportunities for all local businesses to benefit.

Thank you to all the small business owners who invest their time and passion into making our community such a wonderful place to live and for giving residents more choice.

Sincerely,  
Giannetta Hall

#### Letter to the editor

**Editor's Note:** This letter was sent to the mayor and council and to the BTC by Larry Brual, co-owner of Tip Top Creamery on Roebuck St. subsequent to Mayor Elizabeth Roy's meeting with the owners of Tip Top and The Goodberry on June 3.

Dear Mayor Roy,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with us – Sheila, Glen, Marcy and myself on Wednesday, June 3, regarding the community's serious concerns over the current Refreshment Vehicle "Pilot Project" at Brooklin Grass Park.

As a follow-up to our discussion, we want to reiterate our formal objection to this project. While we understand the Town's intent to explore new initiatives, this specific placement directly conflicts with two core priorities for our community:

**Protecting Local Small Businesses:** Bringing mobile refreshment vehicles into this specific area introduces direct, subsidized competition for the brick-and-mortar small businesses that line our historic downtown. These locally owned independent shops pay commercial taxes, maintain permanent storefronts, and rely heavily on foot traffic to survive in

an already challenging economic climate.

**Preserving the Integrity of Grass Park:** Brooklin Grass Park is a treasured, historic green space intended for community gathering, relaxation, and heritage events. Introducing commercialized refreshment vehicles alters the park's public character, leaving families, students, local organizations, campers and musical groups unable to freely utilize the Gazebo and the already limited Grass Park community space.

We love seeing vibrant community spaces, but this pilot project is achieving the opposite effect by straining local business owners and eroding the historic charm of our park.

We highly value your support to this request and strongly urge the Town to reconsider the location of this pilot project to protect our local economy and heritage spaces.

Thank you again for your time, leadership, and continued engagement with the Brooklin community. Appreciate an update on how the Town plans to address these formal objections.

Sincerely,

Larry Brual  
Brooklin Resident

#### Error in column

In last week's "Less than half the picture" column, columnist Richard Bercuson referred to Jacked Up Coffee as a Toronto-based business.

This was incorrect as the company's ownership is in Whitby.

We apologize for the error.

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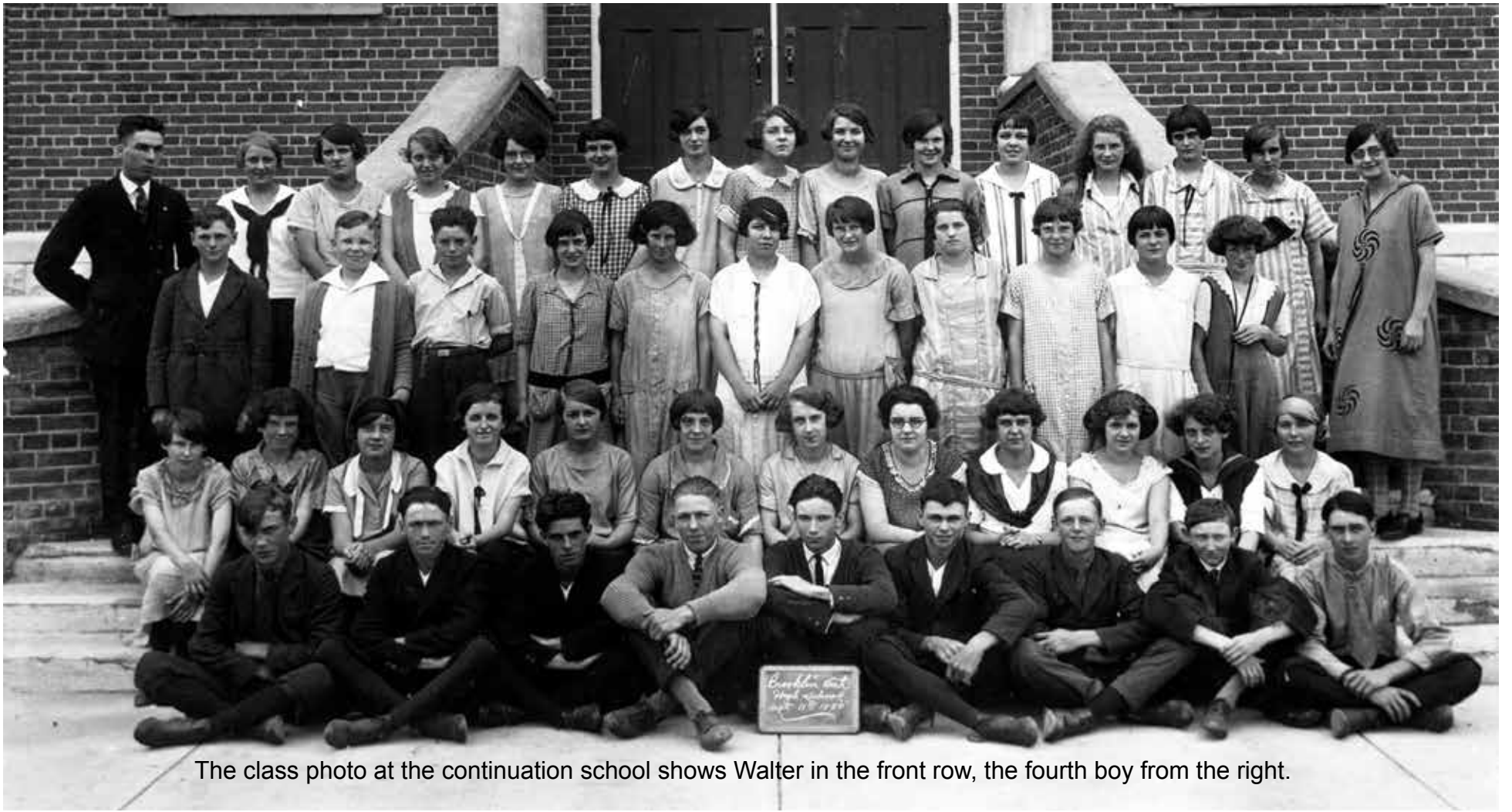
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The class photo at the continuation school shows Walter in the front row, the fourth boy from the right.

**BROOKLIN'S HISTORY**

*By Jennifer Hudgins*



**The Spring Fair's Longtime Guardian**

Few individuals have been as closely connected to the Brooklin Spring Fair as Walter Marcus Holliday. Born in 1909, just 18 months before the fair was established, Walter would spend more than three-quarters of a century helping to shape the event. His commitment made him one of the longest-serving and most dedicated members in the fair's history.

Walter began life on his father's farm on Winchester Road, almost directly across from where the fairgrounds are now. He attended Brooklin Public and Continuation School, once located at the corner of Baldwin and Winchester, growing up within sight of the fair that would shape his life.

When he joined the Fair Board in 1924 at the age of 15, he began a lifetime of service that would span more than 75 years.

**A one day Fair**

As a young man in the Junior Farmers Association, Walter showed and judged cattle, herding them to the fairgrounds. In those early years, the fair was a very different event. It lasted only one day, and if it rained, there was no fair at all. Most exhibitors came from nearby farms because transporting livestock over long distances was impractical and prize money was modest. There were no traffic jams; visitors simply tied their horses to the nearest fence post. Extra police protection was

unnecessary as vandalism was virtually unheard of.

In those early years, there was no beer tent. In a November 25, 1982, Oshawa Times article, Walter recalled that people managed quite well by bringing their own refreshments. The beer tent was not introduced until 1978, when it was organized for the Fair Board by the Brooklin & District Kinsmen.

Over the years, the fair evolved. What began as a small local gathering eventually grew into one of Ontario County's largest agricultural fairs. It expanded from a single day to a four-day celebration and changed locations several times. The first was at Grass Park, then the Vipond farm, and finally to its present site adjacent to the arena. Walter not only witnessed these changes, he helped make them happen.

**No rain!**

In 1968, he became Secretary-Treasurer of the Fair Board, a position he held until 1982. During those years, he guided the fair through a period of steady growth. A local story holds that it never rained on fair weekend while Walter served as secretary. Whether coincidence or not, the year he stepped down, the fair experienced rain

for the first time in many years.

Even after retiring from executive duties, Walter remained deeply involved. He continued attending planning meetings and assisted with the year-round work of preparing for each new fair. In the 1990s, he took on responsibility for the antiques display, sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm with visitors and exhibitors alike. Beyond the fairgrounds, Walter was a farmer in Columbus, where he raised cattle on his 35-acre property. His commitment to the community extended into public service, including seven years on the Township School Area Board, five years on the Township Planning Board, two years as a Township Councillor, and three years as Deputy Reeve on Whitby Township Council from 1960 to 1962.

**Held other roles**

He later ran for the position of Reeve in 1964 but was defeated. Walter also served the Independent Order of Odd Fellows as District Deputy Grand Master of Ontario District No. 41 and was a member of Beethoven Lodge No. 165 in Brooklin. In 1935, he married Evelyn Prouse and they raised four sons.

Walter never missed the Brooklin Spring Fair. When asked why, his answer was simple: it was still a place to meet old friends, and perhaps make a few new ones.

He passed away in 2001 at the age of 91 and is buried at Groveside Cemetery alongside his wife. His legacy remains woven into the history of the fair he helped guide for most of his life.

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Reeve for 1964 Township of  
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## Happy 100th Birthday Stephen Cosgrove!

Regional Councillor Rhonda Mulcahy poses with veteran Stephen Cosgrove at his 100th Birthday Party at the Brooklin Legion on June 6th. Stephen arrived by side car on a motorcycle and when asked how he liked it he said, "I liked it. I'm going to get one!"

### Bridge Repairs Coming

The rehabilitation and widening of the Lynde Creek bridge on Winchester Road is due to begin shortly with an expected completion by November, 2026.

### Durham Region's Environment Days are back!

Durham Region's Environment Days support a circular economy, a model which retains and recovers as much value as possible from resources by reusing, repairing, refurbishing, remanufacturing or repurposing products and materials before they are recycled or thrown out.

**Recycle your electronic waste**  
Residents can also recycle their electronic waste at Environment Days, which helps to recover and recycle valuable resources while keeping toxic materials out of the waste stream. Examples include cell phones, audio and video players, VCRs, DVD and Blu-Ray players, stereos, computers, televisions, cameras, radios and more. Residents should erase personal information from hard drives and SIM cards before bringing their obsolete, broken and end-of-life electronics for safe and secure recycling.

**Saturday, June 13 from 8 a.m. to noon (rain or shine)**  
Whitby Operations Centre, 333 McKinney Drive, Whitby

#### Donate items for reuse

Residents can donate for reuse, including clean, dry and odourless clothing and textiles, shoes, bedding and small household items and sporting goods in working condition. For a complete list visit [durham.ca/WasteEvents](http://durham.ca/WasteEvents). Materials refused by charities must be removed by residents and may be disposed of at one of the Region's waste management facilities. Standard fees may apply.

#### Safely dispose of household hazardous waste

To help ensure household hazardous waste (HHW) items are safely managed, and to prevent toxic materials from entering local ecosystems and water sources, residents can also bring HHW items to the Environment Days event. Examples of HHW include antifreeze, batteries, brake fluid, motor oil and filters, fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, cooking oil, medication, mercury thermostats and more.

## What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby



### Enjoy the Sounds of Summer

Bring your friends, family, and lawn chairs to Sounds of Summer (formerly Music in the Park) to enjoy free performances on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at our NEW Celebration Square (405 Dundas Street West) location and Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Grass Park in Brooklin (41 Baldwin Street). The concerts run all summer long. Thank you to our sponsor, Brookvalley Project Management Inc. Visit [whitby.ca/Events](http://whitby.ca/Events)

### Final Tax Billing for 2026 Due on June 30

Residents are reminded the first instalment of the 2026 Final Tax Billing is due on Tuesday, June 30, 2026. You have the option to sign up for e-billing for property taxes and receive all future tax bills via email. You can also request property tax statements online. If you have any inquiries regarding tax payments, contact Tax at 905-430-4300 or [service@whitby.ca](mailto:service@whitby.ca). Learn more at [whitby.ca/Tax](http://whitby.ca/Tax)



### FIFA World Cup Watch Party Events

Public viewing parties take place June 12 and 18, bringing fans of all ages together. On June 12, watch Canada vs. Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2-6 p.m. at Civic Park (575 Rossland Rd. E.) on a giant outdoor screen. Then join us June 18 at the Whitby Soccer Dome (695 Rossland Rd.) for Canada vs. Qatar from 5-9 p.m., hosted with Whitby FC. These are outdoor events—bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the game with fellow fans. For more events, visit [whitby.ca/Events](http://whitby.ca/Events)



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Drop-in Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30  
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For more information or to make an appointment email: [glp1musclmassclinic@yahoo.com](mailto:glp1musclmassclinic@yahoo.com)

\*Attendees will be asked to make a small donation to Canada helps in support of Feed the Need Durham\*

Commercial, institutional, agricultural or industrial waste is not permitted.

**Note:** 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 collection event, please visit [durham.ca/WasteEvents](http://durham.ca/WasteEvents) or download the Durham Region Waste App.

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Alan Hogan has personally dedicated time to various charitable organizations over the years including; 100 Men of Oshawa, 100 Men of Whitby, local soccer and hockey and was a Director of Public Practice for the Durham CGA chapter

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# MARKETING YOUR HOME FOR ALL IT IS WORTH!

### IS NOW THE BEST TIME TO BUY BEFORE PRICES RISE AGAIN?

If you've been waiting on the sidelines for the 'perfect' time to buy a home in Durham Region, you're not alone. Like many prospective buyers, you may be asking yourself: 'Should I buy now or wait for prices to fall further?'

For the past few years, buyers have faced rising interest rates, affordability concerns and uncertainty about where home prices were headed. But as we move through 2026, the Durham market is beginning to tell a different story. Certainly, the market has shifted significantly from the frenzied conditions of 2021 and 2022. Today's buyers have more options, more negotiating power and more time to make decisions. Inventory levels have increased across much of Durham, giving buyers more choice than they've seen in years.

At the same time, sales activity has started to recover from the slower pace seen over the last two years. While prices remain below peak levels in many communities, monthly data suggests the market is stabilizing rather than continuing to decline. For buyers, that creates a rare window of opportunity.

**Buyers Have More Leverage.** One of the biggest changes in 2026 is the increase in listings. In many Durham communities, homes are staying on the market longer than they did during the pandemic boom.

Instead of competing against multiple offers on every property, buyers can often include financing conditions, schedule home inspections, negotiate on price, request repairs or credits, and compare multiple properties before making a decision – advantages that simply didn't exist during the height of the seller's market.

**The Interest Rate Factor.** Interest rates remain one of the most important drivers of housing demand. Many economists and market analysts believe that as borrowing costs stabilize, more buyers who have been waiting on the sidelines will reenter the market. History shows that housing markets often move before the majority of buyers feel confident. By the time headlines become overwhelmingly positive, competition has usually increased and prices have already begun to climb. That's why many experienced buyers focus on purchasing when uncertainty still exists.

Durham Region remains one of the most affordable areas within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Communities such as Oshawa, Whitby, Ajax, Pickering, Courtice and Bowmanville

continue to attract buyers looking for more space for their money, family-friendly neighbourhoods, access to GO Transit, growing employment opportunities and strong long-term population growth.

As affordability challenges continue throughout the GTA, Durham remains a destination for both first-time buyers and move-up purchasers.

**Could Prices Rise Again?** While no one can predict the future with certainty, several factors could place upward pressure on prices, including stable or lower borrowing costs, population growth throughout the province, continued housing supply shortages, improved consumer confidence and buyers returning to the market after waiting for better conditions. If demand increases while inventory begins to tighten, prices could gradually move higher over the next several years.

**Should You Buy Now or Wait?** The answer depends on your personal circumstances. Buying today may make sense if you have stable employment, you plan to stay in the home for several years, you have a sufficient down payment, and you find a property that meets your needs and budget. Waiting may make sense if your finances aren't yet ready, you expect a major life change soon and/or you're uncertain about homeownership responsibilities.

The goal should not be to perfectly time the market. Instead, focus on purchasing a home that fits your long-term goals and financial situation.

Contact the King Home Team. Today's market offers something buyers haven't enjoyed for several years: choice. More inventory, increased negotiating power and improving affordability have created conditions that many buyers consider favourable.

The biggest risk may not be buying too soon – it may be waiting until confidence returns and competition increases. If you're considering a move in Durham Region, contact the King Home Team: Royal Heritage. We'll help you understand your options, explore neighbourhoods and determine whether current market conditions align with your goals.

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