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Less than half the picture: In defence of the heave-ho



By Richard Bercuson

Without resorting to a single swear word to italicize his argument, a member of a minor hockey board once groused that “half” his colleagues were in it only for their own kids and were unwilling to undertake the myriad of jobs needed to make the organization run. Those invariably fell to “the rest of us.” “Nothing to be done about it, he added.”

That association had what most such groups have: a clause in its constitution stating that a board member who missed half the monthly meetings could be removed. During decades in the

game, I’ve never seen it happen. But, believe me, there have been plenty of instances when board members had richly earned an unceremonious heave-ho. Yet no one had attempted to create a heave-ho process similar to impeachment.

The idea of having one that’s stronger than mere censure raises interesting questions. Some would undoubtedly include the value judgments we employ to describe elected officials who act erratically, are disruptive “crap” disturbers, or dabble at the edges of idiocy.

Ontario already has a process to deal with untoward situations in municipal politics, though it lacks muscle. Under Section 258 of the Municipal Act, there are ways to “disqualify” a member. However, Premier Ford’s intended Bill 9 plans to deal with problematic individuals on a broader, deeper

level under the virtual banner of “bad behaviour” in order to hold council members more accountable.

There would be a formal course of action involving an integrity commissioner and a unanimous council vote. Translation: a single dissenter - say, a sympathizer or even a fellow “crap” disturber - could blow up the procedure along with whatever transgressions the accused was deemed to have committed. Therein lies one major holdup.

To reach a point where a Bill 9 is even required suggests voters need to wonder what’s caused politics to devolve. Whatever happened to the decorum of a civilized and appropriate discourse and debate on municipal matters?

I can confidently state that, back in grade six when I was elected class librarian, it never dawned on me to deny my loser opponent J.F. copies of his favourite comics just to tick him off. That he was bigger and possessed an intimidating sneer did not factor into my decisions. Whatever he became, I trust he knows how to read - thanks to my magnanimity. We didn’t

need legislation back then. The threat of spending recess in the classroom was plenty.

Whether or not Ford’s bill passes before October’s election is unclear. Still, I remain puzzled over what can be done about “softer” misdeeds, peccadilloes, and annoying idiocies which invite headaches and gag reflexes but don’t stoop to heave-ho levels. My guess is, not much. Hoping for human behaviour to correct itself isn’t much of a plan. Then again, it’d be a start.

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Next Issue: Friday, April 17, 2026
Deadline: Friday, April 10, 2026

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Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club welcomes spring

By Rahe Richards

The Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club is back after two months of winter break. The first meeting was February 25 over zoom with a presentation by a climatologist/ meteorologist on "Weather and climate smart gardening." There was information on the weather changes throughout the years and how farmers and gardeners can manage with different ways for better yields in our time zones.

At the March 25 meeting, the speaker presented on "Invasive or Aggressive? What's the Difference?" The Club had show and tell activities leaders of the various activity groups. The Club also began its membership drive. Cost of membership is \$20 for a single person or \$30 for family members from same household while it is \$50 for a corporate sponsor.

The April 22 presentation will be on "Unexpected Pollinators"



and, on May 27, "The Importance of Food Security," also sponsored by the Town of Whitby. The public is invited free of charge to these meetings.

Club members compete in the flower shows at each meeting for prizes. Meetings take place at the Brooklin United Church, 19 Cassels Rd East, starting at 7 pm.

The annual plant sale to the public will occur on May 23. Members of the Brooklin Garden Club will bring plants from their gardens to fundraise for the Club. You will find unusual plants and vegetables seedlings to buy.

The Club is revamping its website to bringing it up-to-date so be on the look out for the changes.

Rahe Richards is past President of the Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club



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*Christensen et al. (2024). Evaluating Real-World Benefits of Hearing Aids With Deep Neural Network-Based Noise Reduction: An Ecological Momentary Assessment Study. American journal of audiology, 33(1), 242-253. *A comprehensive hearing assessment is provided to adults ages 19 and older at no cost. The results of this assessment will be communicated verbally to you. Depending on the province you're located in, an administrative fee may apply if a copy of an Audiological Report is requested. Child hearing tests are conducted at select locations for a fee, please contact us for more information. Offers not valid in Quebec. See clinic for details. Offer expires April 30, 2026.

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Brooklin Family Matters: by Leanne Brown

How I joined her team



Given how my daughter practically vibrated in the kitchen chair, I should have known I was about to blow a golden moment. It wasn't the usual "the world is ending" look. Her face glowed with the adrenaline you earn from a third-period comeback.

She told me about the "Great Power Play Betrayal." A few girls on her hockey team had started a group chat, leaving two teammates in the digital cold. My daughter, acting as the unofficial locker room moral compass,

wasn't having it. She described how she'd stepped in to bridge the gap, her voice rising with pride.

My "Mom Brain" revved up and blew right past the finish line she'd already crossed. Before she could even get to the climax, I went into Full Project Manager Mode.

My genius advice? "Honey, that's great. But what you really need to do is email the coach so there's a paper trail. I know of a fantastic podcast...."

The light in her eyes extinguished

faster than a blackout. She'd come to show me the trophy of her maturity and I'd responded by trying to polish it with a belt sander.

"Mom! I already fixed it! I added those two girls myself. I told the others we don't do that on this team and we're all good now! I just wanted you to say 'good job.'"

Without waiting for a rebuttal, she turned on her heel and marched down the hallway like a soldier on a mission. The grand finale was the sound of her bedroom door slamming hard enough to register on the Richter scale.

What followed was silence. For three hours, the house was eerily quiet, save for the muffled sound of music behind her door and me stress-cleaning the house. I spent the first hour being indignant. Wasn't I merely trying to help her be a good leader? In the second hour, I felt guilt. By the third hour, I was just lonely and sad.

Parenting a teen is 10% guidance and 90% knowing when to applaud, a lesson I'd clearly failed.

At 10 pm, I performed the

"Parental Peace Walk," knocked on her door, and said, "Hey. I'm heading to bed. Want a snack?" A "maybe" was the best I could hope for.

Minutes later, she appeared in the kitchen. I didn't mention the coach nor the leadership podcast. Instead I pulled out a bowl of strawberries, sliced them, and pushed it into the center of the island.

"The way you stood up for those two girls? Total MVP move," I said, dipping a berry into some sugar.

"I just didn't want them to feel like they didn't belong," she agreed, cracking a smile.

We remained there for 20 minutes, eating berries, finally back on the same team.

I didn't fix the problem. She'd already done that; I just listened to the victory speech.

It was then I realized she'd become the person I'd spent 16 years hoping she'd be. She's the captain of her own character and I couldn't be more proud to be on her team.

What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby



Whitby Community Open House – Join Us

You're invited to a community drop-in on Wednesday, April 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Whitby Town Hall, 575 Rossland Road East. Meet Whitby Council, Town staff, and community partners, and share what matters most to you. whitby.ca/Calendar

Calling Young Artists

Show off your creativity this spring in two art opportunities:
Play in Progress – Ages 6 to 18. Submit art inspired by play, sport, or imagination. Selected works will be featured at the newly constructed Fieldgate Sports Complex.

Art Attack 2026 - Ages 12-18. Youth artwork showcased at Station Gallery, May 2 to 31. Event on May 7. Submit your application by April 17. whitby.ca/Youth



Yard Waste Collection is back April 6. Set out kraft paper bags or reusable open-top containers (max. 44 lb) on your regular garbage day. whitby.ca/Waste

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The members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 152 would like to thank our Veterans and their families. We pay tribute to our Comrades who have served and who continue to serve so we may have our freedom today.

Branch 152 would like to thank the residents of Brooklin, Myrtle, Ashburn, and surrounding communities for your continued support throughout the Poppy Campaign. Monies raised are put into a trust fund and used to help Veterans and their families, our youth through bursaries and school awards, and helping others in the communities when needed. Without your help we would not be able to make this program possible.

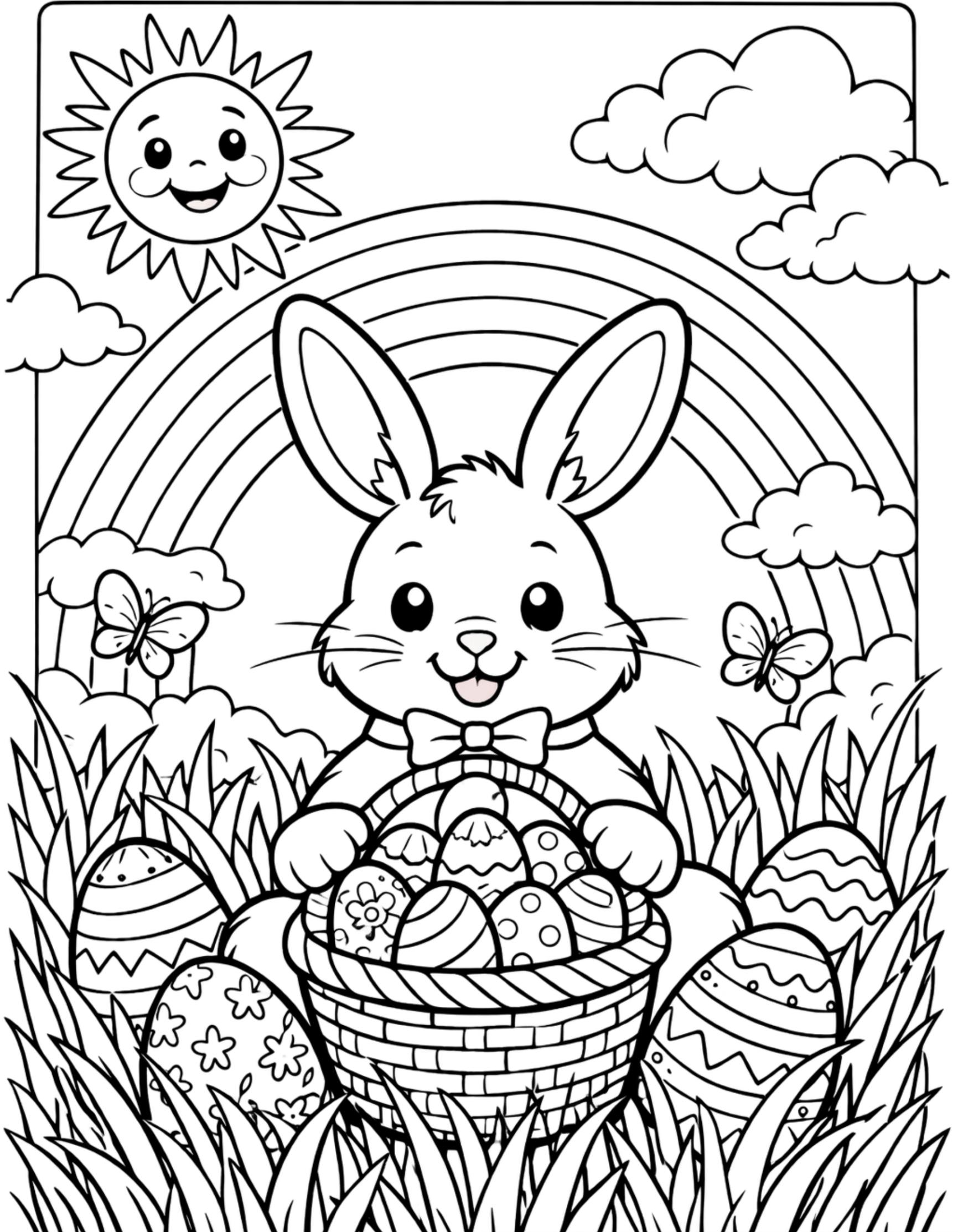
POPPY TRUST FUND STATUS REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2025 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025

Balance as of January 1, 2025	\$38,644.81
Income:	
Poppy & Wreath Sales	\$38,044.86
Total Income	\$38,044.86
Expenses:	
Poppy & Wreath	\$6,459.74
Promotional Material	\$480.25
Stamps	\$28.02
Other Campaign	\$800.54
Chair Lift	\$1,102.50
Youth Education	\$870.00
Total Expenses	\$9,741.05
Donations:	
Air Cadets and Sea Cadets	\$4,400.00
Veterans Support Groups	\$5,150.00
Veterans Long Term Facilities	\$10,700.00
Leave the Streets Behind	\$4,500.00
Operation Service Dogs	\$2,700.00
Grants to Veterans	\$1,248.97
Veterans Dinner	\$630.00
Total Donations	\$29,328.97
Ending Balance December 31, 2023	\$37,619.65

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BROOKLIN'S HISTORY

By Jennifer Hudgins

The evolution of Brooklin's schools



In 1847, school children in Brooklin gathered in a rough log house along a creek, its walls unfinished and its benches worn smooth by use.

Agnes Burns Spencer would recall those early days in her *Rambling Reminiscences*, published in the *Whitby Chronicle* in 1897, offering a glimpse into what was likely the village's first school, located near the site of Francis Mill, about one kilometre south of Winchester Road on St. Thomas Street.

Her account highlights the contrast between home life and early education. While many homes reflected comfort, the schoolhouse itself was built of log with unfinished interior walls.

The ceiling consisted of boards from a nearby sawmill, darkened over time by smoke. The sparse furnishings included plain benches, desks along the walls, a teacher's table, and a large wood stove. Decoration were minimal. There was a portrait of Queen Victoria, a map and the occasional sketch scratched into the walls by students using the stove poker.

Private funding

In those early years, schools were largely supported by private funding, placing a burden on families. The Common Schools Act of 1843 introduced government grants, however communities were still required to match these funds through taxes on parents. This created financial strain, often resulting in poorly equipped schools and under-qualified teachers. The revised Act of 1850 improved the situation by allowing taxes to be levied on all property owners, broadening support for education.

From 1843 to 1861, Reverend Robert Hill Thornton served as District Superintendent of Education for Whitby Township. His role included visiting schools, assessing their progress, and recommending improvements, much like a modern school supervisor. At a time when most teachers had little formal training, Thornton provided guidance and encouragement.

Canadian content

Concerned about the American bias in available textbooks, Thornton authored *Thornton's Series of Common School Books*, offering material better suited to Canadian students. Teacher salaries were

modest, with men earning about \$180 annually and women about \$120, often supplemented by room and board provided by local families.

By the late 19th century, Brooklin's school system had begun to evolve. In a 1953 talk entitled *Brooklin in 1878*, businessman W. A. Holliday described the school as a one-storey building located at the southeast corner of the village, directly across from the fairgrounds. The interior was divided to accommodate beginners and senior pupils, while an attached wooden structure on the west side housed intermediate students. As the population grew, the school became overcrowded. On July 5, 1880, trustees met to address the need for expansion and decided to add a second storey. By September of that year, reports indicated that the brickwork for the enlarged school was nearly complete.

New building needed

In later years, however, the second floor became unstable. Former student Evelyn Elliot Wilson recalled that it would shake noticeably when pupils walked across it. Students were even instructed to move to the outer edges of the room if the floor appeared to give way. Despite these concerns, the school remained in use until 1923. It was demolished and replaced in 1924 by the Brooklin Continuation and Public School at the southeast



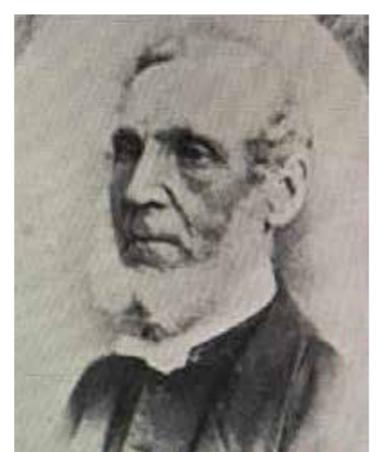
corner of Winchester Road and Baldwin Street.

Mid-20th century growth brought new subdivisions and schools. Meadowcrest Public School, opened in 1969, reflects this transformation, far removed from the small schoolhouses once inspected by Rev. Thornton.

From a log schoolhouse along a creek, Brooklin's schools now serve the community with five public schools, including a French immersion one, a high school, and three Catholic elementary schools, all reflecting the village's steady growth and its educational needs.



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Summer Company Program Aiding Business Students

The Business Advisory Centre Durham (BACD) is helping make entrepreneurship possible for students in Durham Region. Applications are now open for BACD's Summer Company program, offering support and funding to students interested in launching their own business.

What: Applications are open until April 30. Successful applicants to the Summer Company program receive up to \$3,000 in funding along with hands-on training, coaching and mentoring from BACD experts to start and operate their own business. The Summer Company program is managed in Durham Region by BACD

Spring Fair Theme

The theme for the 2026 Spring Fair will be "Barnyard Boogie."

The annual parade will be on Sat., June 6, beginning at 10:30 am from Brooklin High School

and funded by the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

Who: Eligible students must be:

- 15 to 29 years old (those under 18 require a parent or guardian signature).
- Currently attending school and returning in the fall (this includes full-time, part-time, homeschooling, e-learning, distance learning, apprenticeships, trade schools, etc.).
- Starting a new business.
- Not working another job or attending school for more than 12 hours per week during the program.
- A Canadian citizen or a permanent resident who lives in Ontario.
- Individuals who have not previously received a Summer Company grant.

Note: Full eligibility requirements for students

and businesses are available at BACD.ca/SummerCompany.

When: The Summer Company program generally runs from June to Labour Day (Monday, September 7, 2026). Students must commit to an average of 35 hours per week to run the

business:

- High school students complete a minimum of eight weeks in a row.
- Post-secondary students complete a minimum of 12 weeks in a row.

Why: The Summer Company program provides invaluable hands-on entrepreneurial experience. Participants will launch their own business, develop marketing strategies, manage sales and handle bookkeeping. These skills not only give students a real understanding of running a business but also prepare them for long-term success in any career.

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