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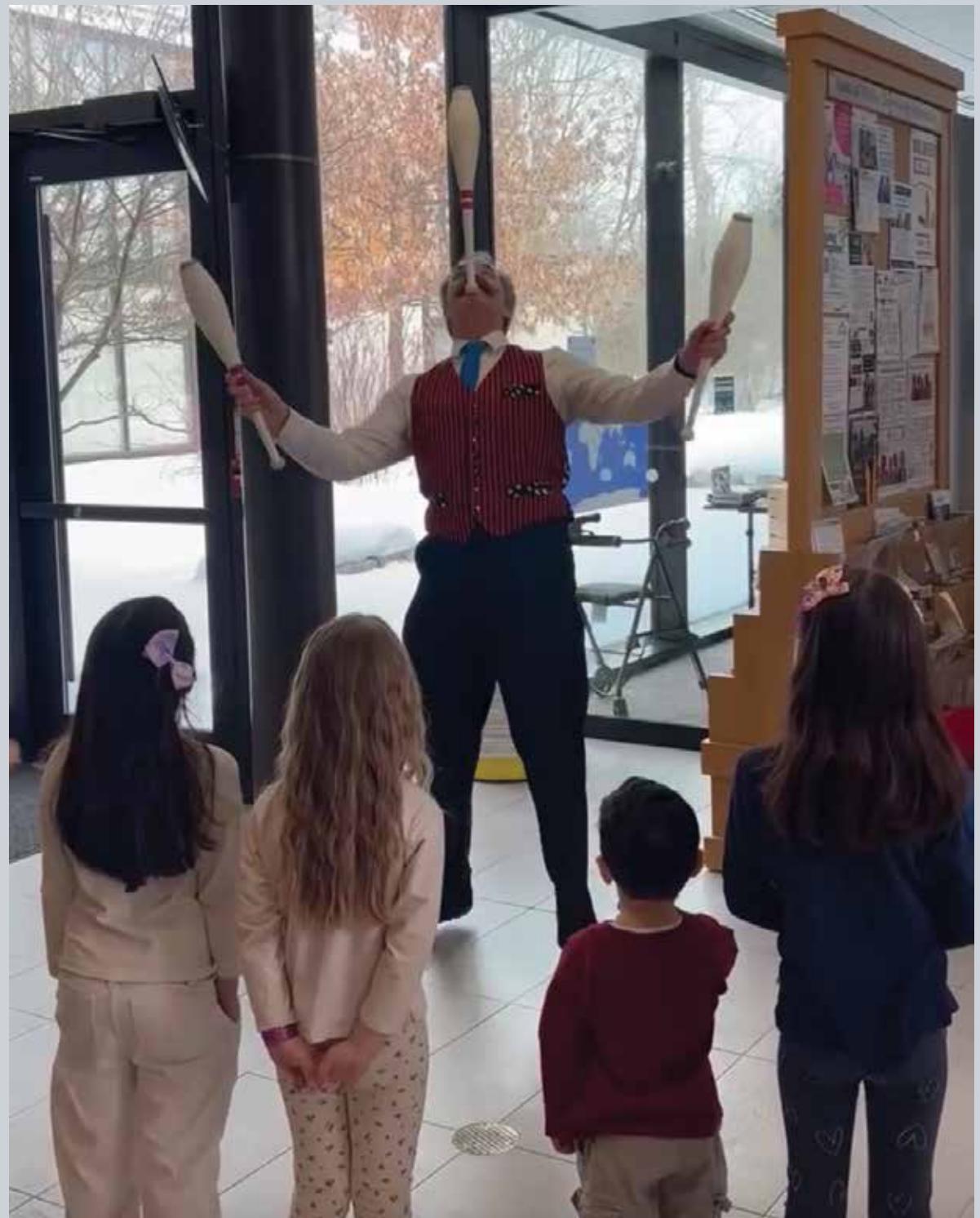
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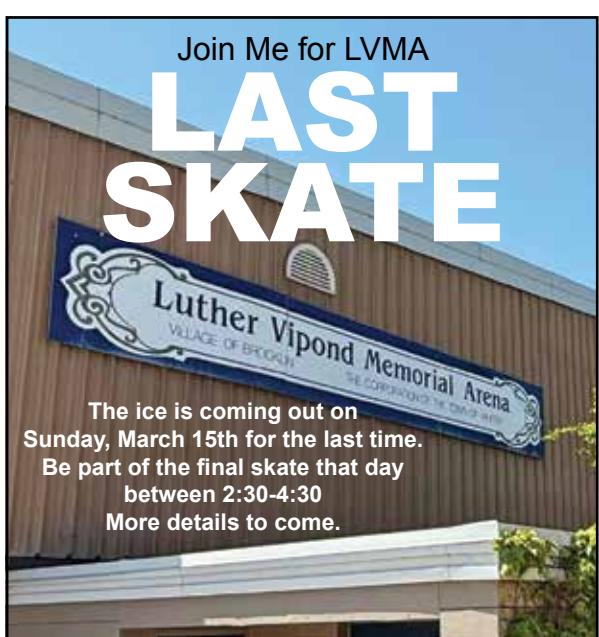
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Entertaining Kids Is A Balancing Act



Family Day at the Brooklin Community Centre and Library had a large turn out for children's crafts and entertainment.



Join Me for LVMA

LAST SKATE

The ice is coming out on Sunday, March 15th for the last time. Be part of the final skate that day between 2:30-4:30 More details to come.

 **Rhonda Mulcahy**
Regional and Town Councillor
mulcahyr@whitby.ca
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Less than half the picture: Coming soon to a ballot box near you

By Richard
Bercuson



By a great measure, the importance of municipal politics and elections outweighs the occasional fatuousness that leaves heads shaking. I've come perilously close to being concussed by some of the goings on myself.

Nevertheless, my take on it is that we know our local politicians, seeing them around our communities while they function like normal residents doing what

we all do. We're able to put faces and voices to names. And, if you wish to blather to your elected rep about whatever burns your butt, a phone call, text or email is likely to be answered, and not by an office administrator. After all, they're supposed to be in a service role, not to mention keeping a job. True, some are more accessible or helpful than others. Note to yourselves on that come October.

We don't have anywhere near the similar connections with our provincial or federal officials for a host of reasons, most of which are not their fault. The word "consequential" to define certain elections is too often tossed about without people having a firm grasp on exactly why it might be so. For instance, the last federal election could be seen as such. So, too, Premier Ford's third victory last March.

Let's set them all aside for now as the spotlight will be local in eight months.

Come October, we will face yet another. Its impact on how Whitby and Brooklin will fare in the coming years cannot be overstated. The town is undergoing a massive rebirth and demographic shift. Up here in the north ward, we're surrounded by residential construction; the downtown is about to see new businesses sprout up; the Fieldgate Complex is about to open; the arterial bypass is into phase 2; and yours truly remains flummoxed as to why, after a snowstorm narrows our streets, drivers insist on parking directly across from driveways.

Whitby should not be proud that neither the 2018 nor 2022 municipal elections included voter turnouts of more than 26%.

In fact, Whitby's 2018 turnout was the second lowest of any of Durham's eight municipalities. Four years later, it dropped by 3%.

This election will feature a singularly impactful new twist: Regional councillors will now be voted on for their wards meaning there will be

a local ward councillor as well as a ward regional councillor. It means greater representation both locally and regionally.

It also means that residents need to pay much closer attention to those they elect and why.

Jockeying for pole positions and increased profiles has already started. Better start paying attention for this will be a consequential election.

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Next Issue: Friday, March 6, 2026

Deadline: Friday, February 27, 2026

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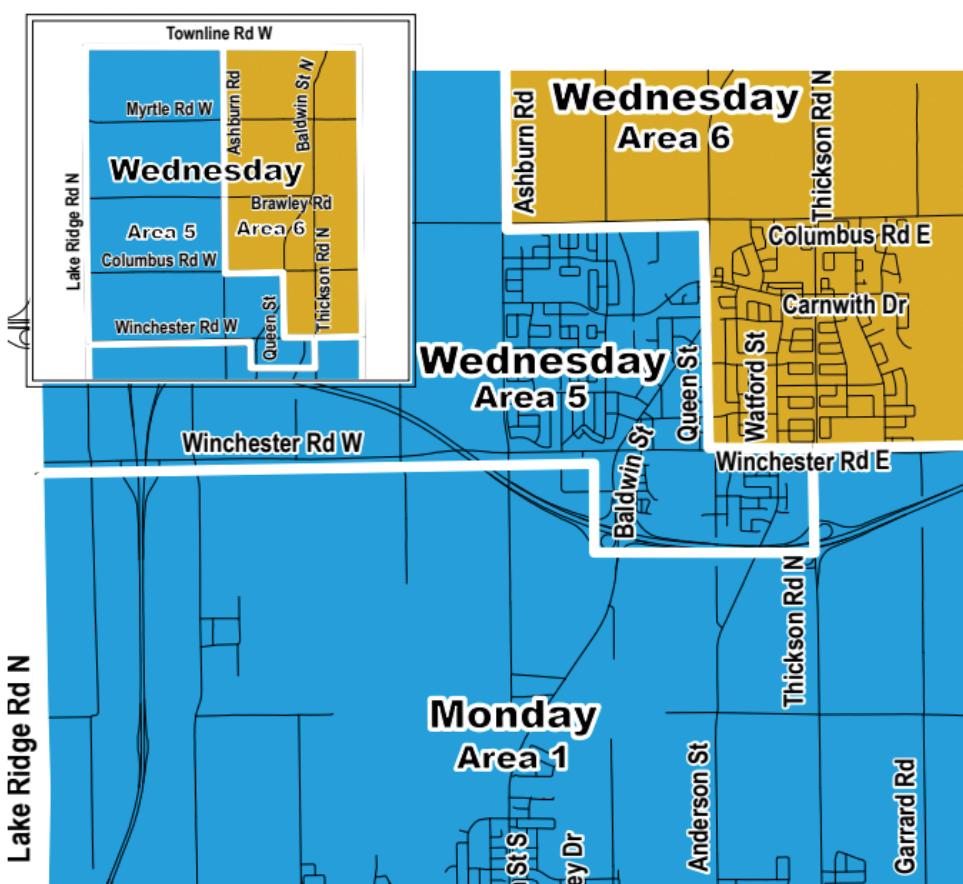
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Important: Waste Collection Schedule Changes Coming March 23



The Town of Whitby is updating waste collection boundaries to keep service efficient and effective as our community grows. Starting March 23, some households will have a new collection day, find out if your schedule is changing at whitby.ca/collectionlookup. Questions? Contact Service Whitby at 905-430-4300.

What are your memories of the Luther Vipond Arena?

"The Last Skate" at the Luther Vipond Arena will take place on Sunday, March 15 at 2 pm. The arena will later have its ice removed and the building no longer used for ice activities. With the opening of the new twin pad facility at the Fieldgate Sports Complex on the horizon, the Vipond building will be repurposed.

However, we'd like to know about your memories of the Vipond Arena and we invite you to send us those remembrances. We will print them in the March 6 edition of the BTC.

Please limit your comments to 100 words or less and include your name. If you have a good photo to accompany the memory, kindly add it. It must be clear, in jpg

format and at least 400 x 400. It does not need to be in colour.

Email the memory and the photo as an attachment to: editorofbtc@gmail.com

Deadline for the March 6 issue is Feb. 27.

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BROOKLIN'S HISTORY

By Jennifer Hudgins

Our own “Mr. Hockey”



Known throughout Brooklin and the surrounding area as “Mr. Hockey,” Clifford Johnston was one of the individuals who helped shape the sport locally. His influence was built not through professional ranks nor national attention, but through years of tireless dedication to youth sport and community life during the 1940s and 1950s.

War vet

He lived in Oshawa with his wife Jessie and their sons until enlisting in the Canadian Army in 1944. Johnston served until the end of the Second World War in 1945. The following year, he purchased a small acreage in



What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby



Do You Know a Snow Angel?

The Town is celebrating Whitby's Snow Angels: residents stepping up for one another, clearing driveways, checking in on neighbours, and lending a hand without being asked. Know a Snow Angel? Nominate them at whitby.ca/SnowAngels

Registration for 2026 Spring Recreation Programs Opens Soon

Add your favourite activities to your Wish List on ACTIVENet now so you are ready for spring program registration:

March 3 - 9 a.m. - Aquatics Programs (Residents)
March 5 - 9 a.m. - All other recreation Programs (Residents)

March 11 - 9 a.m. - Non-resident registration

Information on this year's summer camps will be available in March.
whitby.ca/Active

Waste Collection Schedule Changes Coming March 23

As Whitby continues to grow, the Town is updating waste collection boundaries to be efficient. Starting the week of March 23, some households will have a new waste collection day. Only about 10 per cent of residents will be affected, primarily those living in Brooklin and West Whitby. Check if your collection day is changing: whitby.ca/CollectionLookup



Community Grant Applications Now Open

The Mayor's Community Development Fund (MCDF) is now accepting applications for Lead Grants up to \$25,000 and Community Grants up to \$5,000. Due to the fact that it's an election year, applications will be accepted until March 31, 2026. Learn more at whitby.ca/CommunityFunds

P: 905-430-4300
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whitby.ca


Whitby

Brooklin, which he hobby farmed, while continuing to work at General Motors. He also rented a 100-acre farm in Raglan, raising cattle alongside his industrial work.

It was after settling in Brooklin that Johnston made his most lasting mark. For more than a decade, he devoted enormous time and energy to youth athletics,

continued on page 5

Do you know a Snow Angel?

The Town of Whitby is celebrating the everyday kindness that makes a difference in winter, with the launch of its new Snow Angels Program.

After a long and challenging winter, the Town has been hearing many stories of residents stepping up to help one another — clearing driveways, checking in on neighbours, and lending a hand without being asked. The Snow Angels Program was created to recognize and celebrate these simple acts of kindness that have been happening across Whitby all season long.

Do you know a Snow Angel who deserves a thank-you? Residents are invited to nominate a Snow Angel at whitby.ca/SnowAngels.

Once a nomination is submitted, a certificate of appreciation is automatically emailed to the nominator to print, share digitally, or present in person. For those unable to print at home, certificates can also be printed at Town Hall (575 Rossland Road East).

“Whitby is a town known for its strong community spirit and caring residents—and the Snow Angels program is a wonderful example of this,” says Whitby Mayor Elizabeth Roy.

Matt Gaskell, Whitby's CAO added, “Snow Angels remind us how much neighbours matter. This program recognizes residents who step up — often without being asked — to help others in our community feel safe and supported when they need it most.”

continued from page 4

organizing hockey programs in the winter and softball teams in the summer. During hockey season, he frequently coached and managed as many as three teams at once, covering divisions from pee wee (ages 11-12) and bantam (ages 13-14) through midget (ages 15-16), juvenile, and junior.

Johnston's teams consistently performed at a high level in Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) competitions. According to the Whitby Sports Hall of Fame, his accomplishments included OMHA Bantam "D" and Midget "D" championships, back-to-back OMHA Midget titles, a Juvenile "D" championship, and an OHA Junior "D" championship. His teams also received numerous finalist and semi-finalist finishes at the Junior "C" level between 1950 and 1958.

Softball, too

His impact extended beyond the rink. The 1958 Mount Zion Softball Club, a dominant team in its division, traced its origins to Johnston's earlier pee wee programs. Many players who came through his teams, including his own son, went on to compete with the Brooklin Intermediate "C" Ontario Champions and other high-level teams.

Johnston travelled thousands of miles in all kinds of weather, transporting players to games, practices, and OMHA playoffs. He devoted much of his leisure time and a significant amount of his own money to ensure that young athletes from Brooklin and surrounding communities had opportunities to compete. His sportsmanship was widely respected, and his teams were known not only for success, but for the standards he set both on and off the ice.

Clifford Johnston's life and community service were cut short by a tragic fatal accident in 1958. In recognition of his contributions, the Clifford Johnston Memorial Trophy was established for junior hockey. His lasting influence was further acknowledged in 2005 with his induction into the Whitby Sports Hall of Fame.

Though neither a professional hockey coach in the NHL nor major junior ranks, he was a highly influential figure in Ontario minor hockey from the late 1940s through the 1950s, particularly in Brooklin. His years of coaching and managing teams helped develop grassroots hockey talent and shaped the sport within his community.



Brooklin Family Matters: by Leanne Brown

From then to now



It's Friday afternoon of a tournament weekend. As is par for the course, I am in a rink though I don't mind.

Tournament weekends always have great vibes. There's the optimistic outlook that the team could win the championship. The players are pumped and enjoying the moments on and off the ice as well as time spent with friends.

However, this one hits a little differently. At U18, it's the last tournament for the players who are aging out. While there will be games to be played after this weekend, it won't be the same. This is one of the last times to bring home a medal.

I watch the girls warming up before their first game. There's carefree banter, a little teasing and then it's down to serious pre-game talk. The girls are ready to play, and to win.

While I wait for the game to start, I wander over to an adjacent rink. The stands are packed with parents, grandparents, siblings, and fans.

On the ice are some of the youngest and smallest players in the tournament in their first season playing "rep" hockey. The kids shuffle down the ice in a pack. One falls, wiping out two

others as onlookers react in every manner. The kids return to their feet searching for the puck. One of them was sitting on it. Another finds it and pushes it towards the net. The fans are cheering.

A tiny goalie whose helmet doesn't even reach the cross bar awaits in the massive net. The player with the puck trips just as she reaches the net and the puck trickles over the line. The crowd cheers like it's a Stanley Cup game.

Behind me stands the team I came to watch, their warmup done. They've paused to watch the little ones. The young women teetering on the edge of adulthood cheer on the tiny goal scorer so enthusiastically that she looks up and waves. The big girls wave back and shout encouraging comments. The little one beams as she skates to her bench.

As the older girls head off to don their own gear, I hear two of them saying they couldn't believe that "we were once that small."

How true. Nary a blink ago they were those little ones discovering the game that has given them so much.

That is why I love tournament weekends. They're good for the soul. Whether they win a medal or just come home with great memories, they're still winners.

Off I go to cheer on my no-longer-so-little kid. We are making the most of the two seasons we have left.

February is AMD & Low Vision Awareness Month

What is AMD?

AMD is Age-Related Macular Degeneration, which is a process of degradation and damage that occurs in the macula, the part of the eye which gives us sharp, central vision.

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Whitby Strategic Plan in final year with process on 62 items

The Town of Whitby is delivering real, measurable results on the priorities that matter most to residents as it enters the final year of its 2023–2026 Whitby Community Strategic Plan.

community through major road upgrades and construction, including on Columbus Road and the Mid-Block Arterial Roadway; and,

- partnering with community and government partners to address local priorities like access to healthcare and supports for those in need.

Collectively, these actions move us closer to achieving the vision for Whitby captured in the Community Strategic Plan – naturally beautiful green spaces, a vibrant waterfront, thriving downtowns, a safe community, and an exceptional place to live, work, and explore.

The final Community Strategic Plan progress report will be presented to Council in May 2026.

Quick Facts

- More than 8,500 people visited the Connect Whitby project page and over 3,000 completed online surveys or took part in virtual and in-person engagement sessions to help inform the CSP.

- The Plan includes four pillars, 13 objectives, and 62 action items to achieve this Community Vision.

Read the full 2025 Community Strategic Plan Progress Update or visit whitby.ca/PlanInAction to learn more. Subscribe to the Town's news feed to receive all Town news and updates.

Income Tax returns for low income seniors

Whitby 55+ Recreation coordinates income tax return preparation for low income seniors from March 1 to April 30 each year.

Basic returns will be processed by 55+ Centre volunteers who have been trained by Revenue Canada.

This volunteer service is designed for seniors with an income of less than \$35,000 or a couple with a combined income of less than \$45,000.

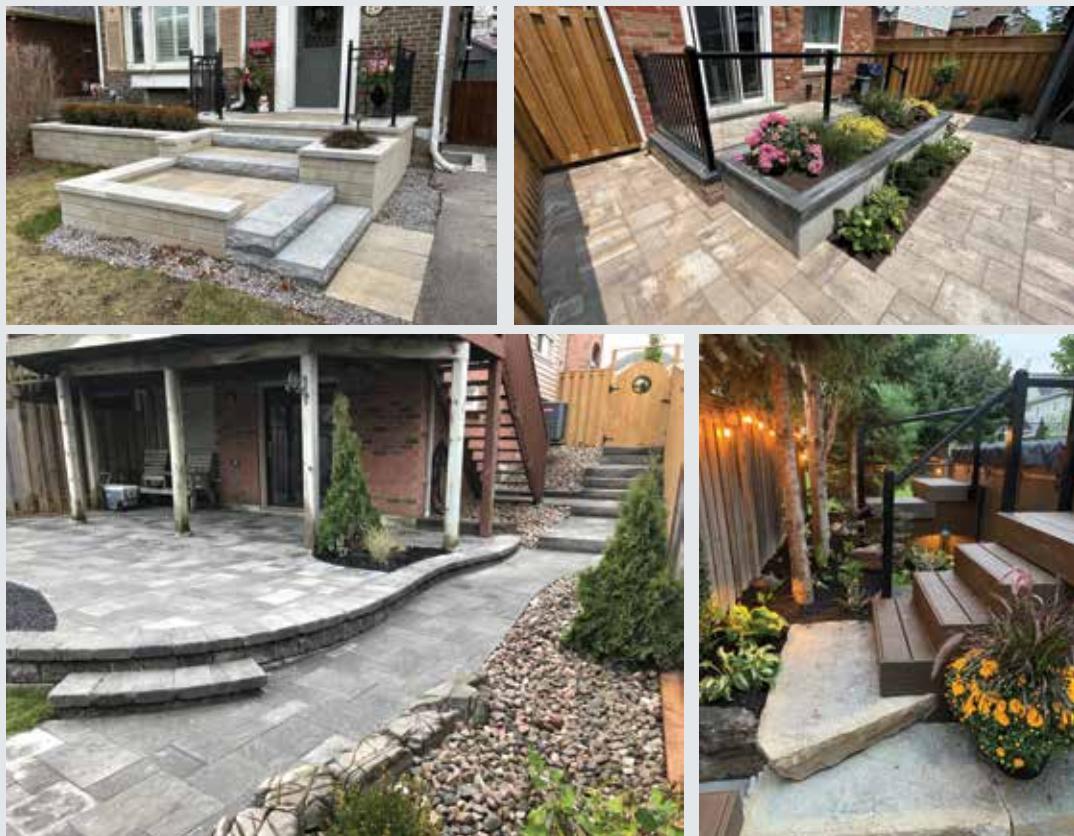
This Program is currently being run as a Drop off Clinic - Those qualified drop off their tax information to the front desk of the 55+ Recreation Centre only. Volunteers work on tax forms at home and call participants to review any information. Participants will then receive a call when their tax forms are completed and ready for pick up.

For more information contact: 55Plus@whitby.ca, or call 905-668-1424

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Compared to this time last year, lower borrowing costs, stable or softening prices, and an increased selection of homes have created conditions that are putting buyers in the driver's seat. According to the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board's 2026 Market Outlook and Year in Review report, home sales and prices in the Greater Toronto Area are expected to remain stable this year. The Central Lakes Association of Realtors® (CLAR) – which covers Durham Region – echoes those findings, pointing to areas of emerging price stability in its January 2026 Housing Market Statistics. New listing activity remained active, supporting steady inventory levels and providing buyers with continued choice. "With sales and prices adjusting across much of the Region in January, the data points to a market that is creating opportunities for those who are well prepared," CLAR President Christine Riley tells us. "As inventory levels remain healthy, realtors are well positioned to help clients assess value, pricing strategies and timing as the market moves into the new year."

Durham recorded 382 home sales in January, down from 455 in December, reflecting the typical seasonal slowdown at the start of the year, according to CLAR. The average selling price eased 2.7 per cent month-overmonth to \$821,410, while remaining significantly lower than January 2025's average of \$896,611. New listings totalled 1,085, down 10.6 per cent year-over-year, while active listings increased to 1,480, providing buyers with more choice. Homes spent an average of 39 days on the market, up from 30 days last year, underscoring the importance of strategic pricing and professional guidance in today's evolving market, CLAR notes. So, how can you ensure you're well prepared for the opportunities today's market presents? The King Home Team: Royal Heritage Realty offers the following tips: Assess your financial readiness. Before beginning your home search, have a solid understanding of your finances, mortgage options and the market in which you're interested.

Understanding your credit score, debt-to-income ratio, savings and overall financial well-being can help guide you to a home that is right for you and your budget. Get

pre-approved for a mortgage. When shopping for a mortgage, compare options offered by various mortgage lenders. Based on factors like your credit rating, down payment, income and debts, the lender will determine the maximum amount they're willing to lend you and at what interest rate.

While important, the interest rate is just one consideration. Be sure to also understand the terms of the mortgage. A pre-approval will estimate your mortgage payments and lock in an interest rate for 60 to 130 days, depending on the lender.

Maurice King transitioned from a career in architecture to working in the mortgage industry. He opened his own mortgage brokerage before moving into real estate and is happy to guide you through the process. The King Home Team will explain the process and your options before referring you to your bank's mortgage specialists and mortgage brokers to secure the best rates and service.

Finding an agent you're comfortable with and who's knowledgeable, professional, responsive and knows the area in which you want to buy a house is crucial. Consider meeting with several different agents and ask for references.

The King Home Team takes pride in our well-earned reputation and has experience negotiating in every type of market. We know Durham Region and the surrounding area like the back of our hand. If you have been considering a move, there has rarely been a better time to act. Contact The King Home Team today!

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