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Historic Legion Needs Major \$\$\$ For Renos



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 152

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Brooklin Highland Dancers To Perform in Scotland



Samantha (left) and Hanna Inkpen

A Canadian highland dance team, under the direction of Dana Robitaille from Pride of Stewart Highland Dancers, will be joining the 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band for the Pre-Worlds Concert "True North Strong" at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow on August 12.

To be invited by the pipe band to join them is a huge honour and a career high for a highland dancer. Every year in Glasgow there is a World Championship for pipe bands with the pre-championship concert hosted by a different band each year. This year is the 78s from Canada.

Three of the team of 10 dancers are from Brooklin: Hannah

Inkpen, Samantha Inkpen and Jillian Leitch.

While in Scotland, some of the dancers will compete in highland games while two will compete in the Highland Dance World Championships.

Dana Robitaille, born and raised in Brooklin, is the dance studio's owner/teacher and a long time teacher at Winchester Public School

For lesson or performance information or sponsorship from the community, email Dana Robitaille: prideofstewart@hotmail.com.



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Thickson Lane Restrictions

Durham Region is advising residents of lane restrictions on Thickson Road North (Regional Road 26) in Brooklin, ongoing until July 31, to safely install a watermain in support of new development. Unfavourable weather conditions may impact the work schedule.

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Brooklin's Legion Needing Major Renos



By **Sophia Luciano**

Historical charm comes with a cost, as our downtown's Legion is discovering.

Constructed in 1883 as a hotel and well known in later years as a watering hole and restaurant, it only officially became a Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 152, on June 6, 1970, the 26th anniversary of D-Day.

But today it faces new and expensive challenges. Martin Stephenson, a British veteran who moved to Brooklin in 2022, says necessary renovations will cost around \$300,000 to \$350,000. Overseeing the project, he says there are plans to replace a deteriorating kitchen annex with a new kitchen and meeting space.

Because the legion is a non-profit organization, fundraising and community support will be vital to fund the renovations which include structural issues.

Kitchen issues

The Legion's kitchen is slowly becoming unusable. While it still has a fire permit, he predicts it will be inoperable in 12 to 18 months. "It is there to support local events, senior lunches, veterans' lunches, barbecues, and so on," says Stephenson. "We're getting to a point where it's just not functional as a kitchen. It's really not safe to be doing anything in there."

Multiple meetings have been held to discuss the project, says Stephenson, adding that a local architect is helping with initial designs. Following a motion passed to move forward with the renovations, he predicts the project will perhaps begin later in 2027.

Although renovation plans are in place, there is a major roadblock. "The Canadian legion itself is a non-profit organization," he adds. "So it would be unusual for us to have that type of money.

"We basically reinvest any profits that we have into the local community to support individuals and local veterans. So we're going to have to undertake quite an intensive engagement around fundraising."

He admits this is quite a big endeavour for the branch.

"It's sort of a chicken and egg discussion. If we don't have the kitchen, we can't raise money. If we can't raise money, we don't get the kitchen."

Promote fundraising

Stephenson says that the legion's Canada Day festivities will promote upcoming fundraising for the next year and a half. "We'll use classic social media engagement to announce our plans. It will be a blend of approaching local businesses,



Martin Stephenson

looking for corporate sponsors, looking for government funding, local provincial funding, town and district funding, and then raising funds within the branch itself."

He also plans to expand social media engagement during the month of June, possibly venturing outside of Facebook and onto Instagram or Tik Tok to harness more support.

The Legion announced earlier this month that food and bar prices are being raised, but Stephenson assures it is a minimal amount. "We do look to try and open our doors at cost effective prices to allow the local community and veterans to come in and be a part of the bigger legion picture. That means we have to have a very balanced approach through our sale prices on food and alcohol."

Warm environment

The Legion's "warm, enticing atmosphere" make it different than the regular sports bar. "It gives a little bit of nostalgia to a town that is part of a bigger metropolitan area which seems to be expanding day by day, week by week.

"This allows the locals to come

to a place that's been alive and kicking over the last 100 years. It allows them to meet local people who've been local for a number of years, but also new people who've just come into the area," he adds.

This year, the Royal Canadian Legion program celebrates 100 years of service by allowing new members to join for free.

Stephenson says that final plans will be presented at a legion meeting mid-June, which will be voted on by general members. "Once we have that in place then we can have a more professional approach to correspondence and promoting the idea of fundraising."

In the meantime, people can support by stopping by and experiencing the welcoming environment for themselves. "I think once they're in once... twice, they'll never stop."

NOTE: To become a member, free in 2026, visit: <https://portal.legion.ca/join>

Visit the Legion on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1JNhYXcVVt/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Fire destroys homes under construction



On May 4, four homes under construction were destroyed by fire at the Zancor Homes site off Thicksen Rd, north of Columbus. Another received "significant exposure damage," according to Mark Pankhurst, Whitby interim fire chief.

Approximately 30 firefighters were on the scene of the blaze which appears to have

been accidental, Pankhurst added. There were no injuries to either firefighters or construction workers.

Students at local elementary schools were kept indoors during recess because of smoke drifting from the site.

photo credit: The Event Fotographer



Lucas Barbosa

Brooklin Performers In OLT Musical

Brooklin youth will be among the young performers taking centre stage this month as Oshawa Little Theatre (OLT) presents Disney's "Newsies," a musical inspired by the real-life 1899 Newsies' Strike, when young newspaper sellers stood up to powerful publishers in New York City.

The Brooklin performers (left to right in the photo) are: Logan Smith (role: Les Jacobs/Nunzio); Elise Macri (role: Romeo); Katie Freckelton (role: Henry/ Ensemble); Cat Corrigan (role: Crutchie); and Danielle Zebeski (role: Albert / Morris Delancey). Brooklin's Lucas Barbosa was a member of the show's orchestra. Note: The "Brooklyn" sign held

by Logan refers to Brooklyn, New York.

The production is being brought to life by OLT's Youth Group cast and live orchestra - an educational theatre program unique in Durham Region - with young performers and musicians working together to deliver the show's unforgettable music, high-energy choreography, and inspiring message.

"Newsies" celebrates youth, determination, and the power to create positive change. The

production gives young people valuable hands-on experience in live theatre while giving audiences the opportunity to support local youth and the arts in action.

The show runs until May 24 at Oshawa Little Theatre. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., with select 1:30 p.m. matinees. Best seat availability remains for May 16, 17, and 23.

Get tickets at: oshawalittletheatre.com.



What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby



Get Ready for Summer Program Registration

If your summer plans include swimming lessons or recreation programs, it's worth getting your Wish List ready early. Build it starting Wednesday, May 20. Swimming lessons open for resident registration on June 2 at 9 a.m., and summer recreation programs open June 4 at 9 a.m. Non-residents can register for programs starting June 10 at 9 a.m. An online account is required to register for activities. Create an individual or family account in person at a Recreation Customer Service Desk. For accounts with a Whitby address, photo ID and address verification is required. For more information, visit whitby.ca/Register

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



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Brooklin Family Matters: by Leanne Brown

Mom Burnout



By the time I finally sit down at night, everyone else is asleep. The house is quiet in that suspicious way that makes me wonder what I'm forgetting. The dishes are done and tomorrow's lunches are packed. There's still a mysterious cup under the couch nobody wants to claim because apparently it "wasn't mine," according to every human living here.

My day done, it's time for the one thing I swore would be just for me, a hobby I love. It sits there waiting patiently, slowly realizing it's been ignored for two weeks. Or is it six? I'll get to it later. Or eventually. "Later" is just my euphemism for "never, but with hope."

Modern motherhood already comes with a full mental load that includes schedules, meals, appointments, laundry, school forms, emotional support, and remembering that tomorrow your kid needs a ride to a lacrosse tournament even though nobody mentioned it till bedtime. Moms are also expected to locate missing shoes that were last seen...when?

From the outside, this mom looks capable, organized, and functional. Inside, I'm one teenager yelling "MOM!" away from losing it while I stare at the fridge, aching to remember why I opened it. No, it wasn't snacks. It was something important, now gone forever.

Mom burnout doesn't always look dramatic. Sometimes it's like reheating coffee three times and still forgetting to drink it. Other times it's sitting in the driveway for an extra five minutes because going inside will feel like clocking into another shift. And there are moments when it's hiding in the bathroom while people

knock on the door asking urgent questions such, "Do we have hockey tape?"

Still, I keep going because life doesn't pause nor do the needs. Nor the moms.

During the day, I'm at work. After work, I'm a chauffeur, chef, therapist, maid, dog walker, and professional finder of missing hockey socks that were definitely just here a second ago. By night, I'm exhausted, often trying to remember if I already started a load of laundry or just thought about starting one.

Somewhere in between, I try to protect a small piece of myself that is my hobby, the thing that used to feel like joy and now feels like a scheduling conflict.

But burnout isn't laziness. It's what happens when someone carries too much for too long without enough space to be a person instead of a function.

Society loves to praise moms for "doing it all," but rarely checks if "all" is slowly flattening them. When they can't do it all, it's treated as failure. That's because no one is built to run 24/7 on noise, responsibility, and snack distribution.

So if mom sits in the car for before going inside, listening to "Burn" from Hamilton as if it's a sacred ritual of survival, that's not avoidance. That's a strategy.

And yes, I know where your missing hockey tape is. That's why I opened the fridge! It's sitting next to your half finished smoothie.

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BROOKLIN'S HISTORY

By Jennifer Hudgins

The Brooklin Mill

In bygone days, communities grew up around flour mills. Such was the case with the Brooklin Flour Mill at 25 Cassels Road East.

Built in 1848 by brothers John and Robert Campbell, it replaced a wood-framed mill that had burned down the year before. A cedar swamp originally covered the area and had to be filled in with trees, brush and stone that was tamped down so the foundation could be built on solid ground.

Sonley's brickyard on the 4th Concession (highway 12 and Taunton Road) provided the brick. Evidently Mr. Sonley intended the building to last a long time since he made the outer walls at the base two feet thick. A year

after the mill opened, a large crack running from the eaves to the foundation appeared in the center of the south wall. It was feared the six storey mill would collapse. But 178 years later, it's still standing.

Shallow pond

The power to run the 18-foot wheel came from a pond near the Meadowcrest subdivision and passed through a mill race along Pearl Street. The pond was too shallow and frequently ran dry. Charles Wilson, who learned the trade in his father's mills in England, moved to Greenwood in Pickering Township in 1905 to manage the Greenwood mill. It was here he met and married Christine Trimble and produced a family of seven children.

The Wilsons moved to Port Colborne where Charles worked for the Maple Leaf Milling Company. Five

years later, the family relocated to Brooklin. The mill's owners had changed a few times before he bought it on September 17, 1919. A couple of years later, determined to make his mill the best equipped in Ontario, he installed a self-contained roller mill called the Midget Marvel.

Popular flour

The brands of flour Charles marketed were "Marvel Pastry" and "Brooklin Bread," both of which were very popular. During this time, the mill had competition from various other mills in the region. Three of his sons, Alfred, Winston and Vernon, worked

with their father until World War 2 when Winston left to join the services. During the war, the electric motors were converted to diesel power and ran 24 hours a day.

Charles later purchased the milling rights from Hampton Mill to produce their famous XXX brand of flour. Winston returned from the war and took up his job again to work with his dad and brothers. In 1952, they returned to electric power, producing 75 barrels of flour a day, serving customers from Kingston in the east to as far as Bobcaygeon in the north. By the 1970s, apart from the Vanstone Mill in Bowmanville, the Brooklin Mill was the only operating flour mill in Durham region.

A Landmark

A unique architectural landmark, it is one of the few buildings in the area with a date on the structure (west wall under the peak of the roof). The mill is featured in the book "Rural Ontario" and ranks high among the finest landmarks in the community. Today, it's home to the Brooklin Mill Montessori School.

Charles Wilson died on December 15, 1968, at the age of 83. His sons continued to operate the mill until September 5, 1978, when they sold the property, thus ending an era of flour milling at the Brooklin Mill.



Letter to the editor

I was very interested in the article about the nip and tuck railway that once traversed the countryside from Whitby and north.

I once knew a person who rode on this transportation from Brooklin to Whitby. That person was Pearl Ashton who was a neighbour of mine when my husband Frank Gardiner and I bought their farm. This was in the old township, Lot 6, Concession 1, old Reach township, now Scugog.

Pearl went to high school in Whitby and eventually was a teacher at a rural school just north of us on the 2nd concession.

My husband and I farmed on their farm for 17 years in an interesting life together until he sadly died in a farm accident.

I still live on the corner of their farm and have done so for 40 years. Once upon a time, we knew everyone in the Ashburn area through visits to the Ashburn store to get our mail and that was wonderful till the government changed the scene!

PS. I think the person who went with Pearl for education was Gwen Lade, if I remember correctly

Betty Gardiner-Cincurak

St. Bridget Continues Theatre Tradition With "Annie Jr."



St. Bridget Catholic School mounted performances of "Annie Jr." from April 20 – April 24 with students with two matinees and two evening shows each day. Approximately 3,200 community members attended the performances of students in Grade 4-8 who comprised the

cast and crew.

Rehearsals began in September and ran during recesses, lunch hours, after school, and even some Saturdays to prepare for the shows.

St. Bridget has put on an annual musical theatre performance for

20 years and has a rich history in the arts. Former students have returned to help with acting, choreography, sound, and prop construction.

Special thanks go to Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Gisana-Gay, Mrs. Lawrence, and Madame DaSilva for their hard work towards creating a production that left an impact on the students; Mr. Bell, for his support towards the arts; Mrs. Morrison, for her organizing behind the scenes work; the school community, for supporting our production; and to the students, for putting hard work and willing to take risks to showcase their talents to everyone.

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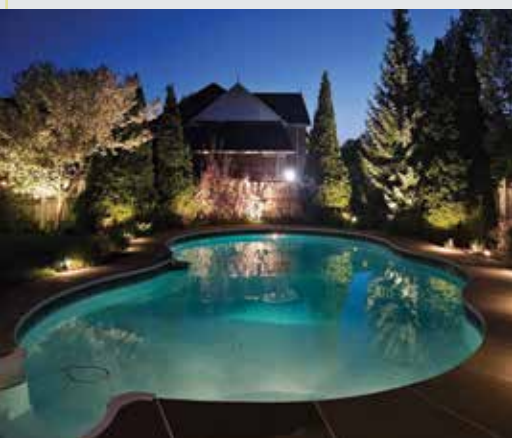
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Garden Club Spring-like Activities

By Rahe Richards

The Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club membership has started spring activities although the weather does not seem to be cooperating.

The first three months were used for planning, recruiting new members, and renewing returning members status. There was a membership fair in March when new volunteers were recruited for the planned activities and the first of the Town's sponsored speakers made a presentation on the topic: "Invasive or Aggressive? What's

the Difference?"

April's speaker presented on "Unexpected Pollinators" while May 27's speaker will discuss "The Importance of Food Security."

Members will have started on maintaining the three gardens in Whitby and Brooklin. Another will be added with participation in the Durham integrated King Street Cooperative garden in downtown Whitby.

As part of the Club's community presence, volunteers will assist Court of Brooklin retirement home

residents on planting pansies for their rooms, embracing the 2026 Garden Ontario's theme on "Therapeutic Gardening."

The Club's annual plant sale will be May 23, 9 am to 1 pm, at Grass Park where there will be a selection of perennials, annuals and vegetables for sale. This will be a way to see some of the plants club members grow as most will be donated from their gardens.

The June 10 speaker will present on "Introduction to Vegetable Gardening." The June 24 presentation will be from the Club's Flower Show team making a Flower Design workshop for

members to learn the skills involved with designing and presenting flower arrangements.

There will be a break in July while members do their own activities. The Brooklin Garden Club will assist in the Ontario Horticultural Association annual convention at Durham College, July 24 to 26.

Meetings and activities will resume on August 26.

For more information, visit brooklinwhitbygardenclub.ca

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

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'Dynamic environment' in Durham Region

If you're looking to upsize, the spring market could be your opportunity, as selling prices in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) edged lower on average last month compared to April 2025, the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board (TRREB) reports.

"We have experienced an uptick in homebuying activity so far this spring. Buyers have taken advantage of more affordable housing market conditions on the back of lower home prices," TRREB President Daniel Steinfeld tells us. GTA Realtors® reported 5,946 home sales through TRREB's MLS® System last month – an increase of seven per cent compared to the previous year. New listings entered into the MLS® System totalled 17,097 – down by 9.3 per cent year-over-year.

That suggests overall market conditions in the GTA tightened during the first full month of spring. "If market conditions continue to tighten and home prices level off, this could be a signal to intending homebuyers who remain on the sidelines," Steinfeld adds.

"Lower home prices and borrowing costs over the past year have been a catalyst for some homebuyers this spring," according to TRREB's Chief Information Officer Jason Mercer. "However, we still have a substantial amount of pent-up demand in the marketplace. More certainty on the trade front and an easing in geopolitical tensions would result in further improvements in market activity."

On a seasonally adjusted basis, April 2026 home sales and new listings were up month over-month compared to March 2026. Sales were up by a greater monthly rate than new listings, potentially suggesting more competition between buyers in some neighbourhoods.

The MLS® Home Price Index (MLS® HPI) Composite benchmark was down by 6.6 per cent year-over-year in April 2026, TRREB reports. The average selling price, at \$1,051,969, was down by 4.9 per cent compared to April 2025. On a month-over-month seasonally adjusted basis, the average selling price edged up compared to March 2026. The MLS® HPI Composite was flat over the same period.

The April 2026 housing market statistics released by the Central Lakes Association of Realtors® – which covers Durham Region, Hastings County, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland County, Peterborough County and Prince Edward County – highlights month-over-month increases in both the number of sales and average prices across all regions, alongside steady inventory levels as the spring market progresses.

"The Bank of Canada's decision to hold the overnight lending rate at 2.25 per cent provides a level of stability that is helpful for both buyers and sellers navigating today's market," CLAR President Christine Riley notes. "As we move further into the spring market, we're seeing increased activity across our region, with more sales and steady listing levels creating a more dynamic environment. While affordability challenges remain, this momentum is helping to bring more balance to the market and giving buyers and sellers greater confidence in their decisions."

Durham Region recorded 686 home sales in April, up 15.1 per cent from 596 in March. The average selling price here increased slightly to \$845,361, up 0.9 per cent month over-month from \$838,190. New listings rose 22.1 per cent to 1,920, with homes spending an average of 24 days on the market. The average selling price in March 2025 was \$913,500.

CONTACT THE KING HOME TEAM The King Home Team: Royal Heritage Realty is pleased to see that buyers are taking advantage of more affordable housing market conditions. Whether you're a first-time buyer or would like to upsize, or if you're in the market to sell, we're here to help you understand what evolving market conditions mean to you. If you find yourself in a financial bind when it comes time to renew your mortgage and are considering downsizing, please know we'll provide valuable advice and will work with your budget to meet your needs. Contact us today!

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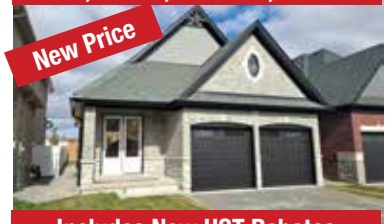
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Eleanor King
REALTOR

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**Photo similar to house being built Not intended to solicit those under contract.