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Locals Players heading to prestigious Quebec Pee Wee Tournament

A number of local hockey players will head to Quebec City for the tournament that runs Feb. 11-22.



Zoe Rose (left) and Paige Lee play for the Markham Stouffville girls AA team.



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Whitby boys u13 AAA squad. They are (left to right) Isaac Chun, Luke Petrovich, Rory MacNeil, Heath DeCesare and Logan DeKuyper



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BHS students creating a weather drone

By Richard Bercuson

A group of Brooklin High students interested in engineering needed a passion project for university applications.

What they came up with is building a UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) in the form of a drone that will fly on its own from Whitby to Quebec City. Along the route, it will collect weather data. About 30 students are involved in the project though most, and its lead, are in Brooklin.

The project, named Mission Launch, began last November with an idea whose genesis came from last summer's Engineering Create Week for teens put on by the University of Toronto.

The team lead is grade 11

student Haarish Logeswaran who, in December, won Whitby's 2025 Celebrating Youth award.

"The idea is to have a prototype ready by the end of next month and a launch in July," he says.

"We will be taking atmospheric pressure data, precipitation data,



and wind data given to weather channels across Ontario and Canada, to monitor severe weather conditions and weather patterns."

The drone will fly up to 300m (122m without a permit). Anything higher requires an SFOC (Special Flight Operations Certificate, a Transport Canada-issued permit required for non-standard drone operations that exceed the limitations of basic and advanced RPAS pilot certificates.) Monitoring will be handled via sensors on the ground and a team driving to Quebec.

"The SFOC is only required in airspace that is not monitored," he explains. "In monitored ones we can just ask them for permission which is not too hard to get. One of our three university advisors has agreed to get the license and take liability on that part."

The project, however, needs money to fund the prototype. The overall cost will be about \$10,000, though the prototype will require \$2000 for materials, safety procedures, documentation, and emergency procedures. This will be scaled up to \$8000 for the final drone in July to cover the cost of manufacturing, buying parts, travel expenses etc.



Haarish Logeswaran (left) holds the 2025 Whitby Youth award alongside Emma Chester, who is on the Whitby youth council and was the MC at the award event.

Other Brooklin students involved in Mission Launch include Owen Cawthorne, Caleb Rasmussen, Rishaan, Oleg, Dario, James, Greyson Runions, Renee, Shayan Aman, Dean, Abigail Rani and Liam A.

A gofundme page has been set up with a stated goal of \$3000. It can be found at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/dkhjaf-mission-launch>

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Durham youth: Want to become a Water Warrior?

The Regional Municipality of Durham is inviting young residents to take part in its annual Water Report Cover Drawing Challenge. Durham residents aged 18 and under are encouraged to become “Water Warriors” by creating artwork that shows how they help protect water in their everyday lives.

Participants are asked to draw or paint a picture showcasing actions that help conserve and protect water, such as saving water at home or school, protecting rivers, lakes and groundwater, and teaching others about why water is important. Two submissions will be selected as cover artwork for two upcoming Regional water reports!

Completed artwork must be submitted by Sunday, February 15 by email to **WaterChallenge@durham.ca**.

Full challenge details and rules are available at [**durham.ca/**](http://durham.ca/)


WaterChallenge.

The Region of Durham's Works Department treats and distributes safe drinking water across our region. Protecting the surface water and groundwater that supply Durham's municipal drinking water systems is essential to ensuring a sustainable and reliable water system for current and future generations. Learn more about how the Region safeguards its water resources at **durham.ca/Water**.

Mike Hubble, the Region's Director of Environmental Services, says, "Water protection starts with everyday actions, and this challenge empowers young residents in Durham to think creatively about how they can make a difference. By engaging our youth as Water Warriors, we're helping build awareness and stewardship that will benefit our community for years to come."

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A blue graphic with a white border. At the top, it says "WELL Health" with a logo of four dots in a square, followed by "MEDICAL CENTRES" in a smaller font. Below this, a large white rounded rectangle contains the text "FAMILY DOCTOR" and "ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. To the left of the text is a circular image of a male doctor and a female patient smiling and looking at a tablet. To the right of the text is a QR code with the words "SCAN HERE" below it.



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Brooklin Family Matters: by Leanne Brown

Unplug them from the game



I'm a hockey mom. This means I own a parka designed for polar exploration, I can drink rink coffee without asking questions, and I know that every arena sound echoes farther than it should. I've spent a lot of time in the stands, watching kids learn to skate, fall, get back up, and beam like they've won the Stanley Cup.

Lately though, I've been noticing something else. The

microphones. Not broadcast mikes. The tiny ones clipped to jerseys. The phones pressed against the glass, recording every drill, joke, and instruction. My daughter is now a young coach. While she loves it, lately, it's become stressful. Our young coaches, many of them teenagers themselves, are constantly being recorded, often without their knowledge and sometimes without their consent. These young coaches, at 16 or 17 are barely old enough to feel comfortable leading a group. They're learning how to project confidence while still figuring out who they are. They're managing

excited youngsters with cracked voices, nerves, and responsibility all at once. Now they're doing it under surveillance.

I love a good hockey clip. I've laughed at unexpected goals and wiped away tears at firsts. Out come the phones to save memories - tag grandparents. Capturing the joys is part of the culture.

However, somewhere between "that was adorable" and "I'll just keep recording," we crossed a line.

Imagine being 16 years old and every word you say might be recorded by adults. Every joke is replayed and every correction slowed, shared, or perhaps taken out of context. That's beyond coaching. That's performing under pressure you never agreed to.

We talk a lot about the right to refuse unsafe work, imagining physical danger. But safety isn't just about bodies. Psychological safety matters, too. Feeling watched, recorded, and scrutinized creates anxiety, not confidence.

For some teens, the rink is a workplace. They're paid and are responsible for kids. That should come with a basic level of respect.

What makes this even more uncomfortable is the power imbalance. Adults are recording teenagers, S=sometimes through microphones worn

by young children who don't understand what it means to be wired for sound.

Would we accept this anywhere else? Would we secretly record the teenage cashier at the snack bar to "review their tone"? Of course not. It would be invasive. Calling the rink a public space doesn't magically erase boundaries.

I've watched young coaches change over the season. Less joking. Less comfort. More careful language, as if every sentence might be Exhibit A. That's a loss for everyone. Coaching should be where teens grow into leadership, not shrink from it.

Most parents don't mean harm. They want memories, proof of progress, something to share. I understand that.

Intent though doesn't cancel impact.

There's a difference between capturing a fun moment and creating an environment where a teenager feels unsafe. Maybe the line is asking for consent. Maybe it's leaving microphones off during practice. Maybe it's trusting that not every second needs to be documented.

As a mom, my job is to protect kids, the ones learning to skate as well as the ones learning to lead.

Let's keep the rink a place of growth, not surveillance. The game has enough pressure. We don't need to mic it up, too.

What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby



How Can We Serve You Better, Whitby?

The Town of Whitby's 2026 Community Survey is live. Some residents may be contacted by Forum Research to take part in a confidential phone survey. If you're not contacted, you can still share your feedback by completing the online survey by Friday, February 6 at connectwhitby.ca/CommunitySurvey

Get Ready For A Fun Family Day

Celebrate Family Day with your loved ones on Monday, February 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy free skating and swimming, face painting, a balloon artist, and more. Thank you to our lead sponsor, Gerdau. For the full list of locations, activities, and schedules, visit whitby.ca/FamilyDay



Register For March Break Camp

It's not too early to start thinking about March Break Camp! Registration is open for engineering camp, sportball camp, kinder camp, and more. whitby.ca/Active



Programs For Preschoolers

Do you have a preschooler you're looking to keep busy this winter? The Town offers independence and socialization with play-based and school-readiness programs. Available programs include Ready for School, Learning Adventures, Parent and Tot Workshops, and more. Register at whitby.ca/Active

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Share your thoughts for Region Transit's Accessibility Plan

Durham Region Transit (DRT) is committed to an inclusive and accessible transit network for everyone. We invite all residents to complete a survey to inform the Durham Region Transit Accessibility Plan to enhance accessibility of the public transit network in Durham.

By participating in the survey, you will help identify and address accessibility barriers in Durham Region Transit's services and infrastructure. Your input will help to create a plan that reflects the diverse needs of transit riders.

When: Survey is now open and runs through February 6.

Where: The survey is available online at **DurhamRegionTransit.com/Survey**. This survey is also available in a variety of different formats, which can be requested by emailing **eligibility@durham.ca**.

Residents can also get a copy of the survey at the front counter of Durham Region Headquarters at 605 Rossland Road East, in Whitby and Durham Region Transit Customer Service Front Counter located at 110 Westney Road South, in Ajax.

Why: Your feedback will help create a plan that enhances the Region, a place where people of all abilities can participate fully.

Complete the **Durham Region Transit Accessibility Plan survey** now. Your participation makes a difference!



Blair Ridge Vball Teams Wins Region

The Blair Ridge Junior Boys Volleyball Team captured the Durham Region Championship with an exciting win at the Regional Championship on December 17, 2025.

The team showed strong teamwork, determination, and skill throughout the season to earn the regional title.

Blair Ridge team members include:
Reid C, Rowan B, Kingsley L, Hudson H, Austin B, Jayden L, Greydon P, William M, Nathan C, Nolan W, Ryder B, Luke C.,
Coaches Kim Stanat & Alix Cumming.

Absent from photo:
Tyler A, Ayden D, Cole L, Colby D, Devynn S & Alex S.



Elexicon workers repair wires on St. Thomas St. that led to a 3-hour blackout Saturday night in parts of Brooklin.

Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club Plan for the Year

By Rahe Richards

The Club's gardening year starts on February 25 with many activities planned for members starting with the membership drive.

Members will enjoy a presentation by a climatologist and a meteorologist on the changing climate to discuss practices needed for growing gardens highlighting the changing extreme weather events in our region. This will be via zoom for all members.

Eight other speakers at each monthly meeting will present topics related to gardening. The town of Whitby sponsors the March, April and May speakers and you are invited to attend free

of charge to get the feel of the club and maybe join. Membership entitles you to some discounts from some of the garden centers and businesses.

The club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except December, January and July. In June, there are two meetings, the second and fourth Wednesdays. All meetings are at Brooklin United Church, 19 Cassels Rd East.

Your membership fees for the year are \$20 with the benefits of all activities.

We hope to see you in person on March 25, 2026

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

BROOKLIN'S HISTORY

By Jennifer Hudgins

When buildings moved



In the spring of 2012, Brooklin residents witnessed an unusual sight: two historic buildings were lifted, transported, and repositioned as part of a redevelopment project in the village's historic core. Covered by Whitby This Week on April 26, 2012, the move drew attention not only because of the logistics involved, but because it represented a physical link to Brooklin's architectural heritage.

Dating from 1920, the buildings were originally located on Winchester Road and later moved to nearby Durham Street after layout challenges prevented their inclusion in the proposed development. Rather than being demolished, they were relocated so they could be retained and incorporated into future plans, reflecting the principles of the Brooklin Heritage Conservation District established in 2008.

Relocating buildings

"From a heritage perspective, our preference would be that the buildings be maintained in their original location," said Town Planner John Taylor. "but when a heritage building could be compromised support is given to relocating the buildings. The district seeks to preserve the village's historic character, including its pedestrian-friendly streets, which connects residents to shops, services, and community



spaces much as it did a century ago. This type of relocation is not unusual in Brooklin; other historic buildings have also been moved and repurposed, including the Skyview Electronics store at 48 Baldwin Street."

Moving the historic buildings was a complex process. The structures were stabilized, lifted onto steel beams, and slowly transported to their new locations using specialized equipment. The work was carried out by Laurie McCulloch Building Moving of Whitby, a firm experienced in relocating large structures. Streets were temporarily closed and utilities managed as onlookers gathered to watch a process that unfolded over several hours.

Tractor got stuck

René Robichaud, who lives across the street, recalled watching the move firsthand. "The tractor pulling the house got stuck and the front end of it was in the air," he said. "The houses sat on the new location for years before actual work was started on them. They're still vacant."

Originally constructed to house families in a growing rural village, they remained largely unchanged for generations, serving as a physical link to Brooklin's

nineteenth-century origins until their relocation. One of the houses was owned by Edgar Croxall, who operated a building and supply store at 93 Winchester Street E, now the site of Michael Kelly's restaurant. The other house was once owned by the Spencer family, though it was home to other families over the years.

More than a decade later, the recollections

from that spring remind us that history is not static. In Brooklin, it quite literally moved, slowly and carefully, ensuring that traces of the past remain part of everyday life.

Today, the relocated houses are owned by Mitch Insurance Brokers (previously Mitchell & Whale Insurance Brokers) and discussions are underway to prepare the buildings for occupation. The land where the two houses once stood is home to several commercial and community services, including a TD Bank branch, a coffee shop, a dental clinic and a daycare. The relocation of these buildings shows that historic structures can be preserved while the community around them continues to change.



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The Rules Have Changed

For much of the past year, many observers expected Ontario's housing market to reach a turning point — a moment when lower prices and easing borrowing costs would finally draw buyers back. Yet as 2025 closed, that moment still hadn't arrived. Transaction volumes declined again in December. Homes sat on the market longer. Inventory continued to build. And the gap between what sellers expected and what buyers were willing to pay remained wide.

What is increasingly clear is that the challenge facing Ontario's housing market is no longer rooted primarily in supply shortages or pricing mechanics. Instead, it is about confidence, leverage, and a structural shift in how the market now clears.

Across the Greater Toronto Area, resale activity slowed materially through 2025. Annual transaction volumes fell to levels typically associated with periods of economic uncertainty. In a longer-term context, 2025 stands out as one of the weakest years for resale activity in nearly two decades. Notably, this slowdown did not coincide with a surge in new listings or widespread distress. Inventory growth has been driven largely by slower absorption — buyers stepping back — rather than an increase in supply.

The Toronto Regional Real Estate Board (TRREB) has emphasized that affordability improved over the course of the year, and that is correct. Prices declined across most regions, and borrowing costs eased from their peak. From early 2022 highs, prices in areas such as Durham Region are down roughly 33 per cent. Yet despite these improvements, sales volumes continued to fall. The data suggests that affordability alone has not been enough to restore transaction activity.

The explanation lies in behaviour. This cycle has not unfolded through panic or forced selling, but through time. Prices have drifted lower unevenly, with discovery occurring gradually as buyers and sellers test one another's resolve. Sellers remain anchored to earlier comparables from stronger years. Buyers, meanwhile, have resisted chasing prices. The result has been a prolonged period of negotiation.

Negotiation has quietly returned as the dominant market force. For much of the past decade, pricing strategies relied on competition — deliberately underpricing listings to spark bidding wars and push final prices higher. That mechanism has largely disappeared. Today, the majority of Ontario homes sell below asking price, and the median sale-to-list price ratio has fallen into the mid-90 per cent range, among the lowest readings in many years. Overpriced listings are no longer rescued by momentum. Instead, they sit, get reduced, or are withdrawn.

This shift has reshaped how prices are interpreted. In a market driven by negotiation rather than urgency, short-term price movements are increasingly influenced by which homes sell and when

they sell. TRREB data shows that weaker sales and softer pricing extend across detached, semi-detached, townhouse, and condominium segments, underscoring that buyer caution is broadbased.

If prices are lower and mortgage rates have come down from their highs, why are buyers still hesitant? Statistics Canada data offers part of the answer. Employment growth slowed through the fall, and Toronto's unemployment rate edged higher. Inflation has eased, but household budgets remain under pressure. Mortgage rates, while below last year's peak, are still elevated compared to the decade before the pandemic. Taking on long-term debt requires confidence not only in current payments, but in future income stability.

Households need to feel secure in their employment outlook before committing to major mortgage obligations. Until that confidence returns, improved affordability will not automatically translate into stronger demand. At the same time, credit quality remains strong and forced selling is limited, reducing the risk of a sharp correction. But it would be a mistake to assume a quick rebound once rates fall further.

Ontario's housing market is now operating under different rules. Negotiation, pricing discipline, and conviction determine outcomes. The market clears more slowly, leverage has shifted, and patience matters more than speed. These rules are likely to persist in the near term.

For buyers, this represents the most favourable environment in a decade. For sellers, it demands realism, strategy, and a clear understanding of today's conditions rather than yesterday's benchmarks.

The rules have changed, but opportunity remains for those who understand the new landscape. Because most home values in Brooklin have appreciated since 2020, you may have more equity than you realize. That equity can be leveraged for renovations or debt consolidation rather than relying on high-interest credit cards or personal loans. The King Home Team can provide a current property valuation to help assess equity, refinancing options, or whether staying or moving makes the most sense. We can also walk you through renewal scenarios and connect you with a trusted local mortgage broker who will fight for your best rate — not just the default renewal from your lender. With preparation and the right advice, your next move can become an opportunity.

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