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## Kim Miller Awarded Optimist President Citation



See more on page 3.



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# Less than half the picture: Hands Off!



**By Richard  
Bercuson**

An unfortunate sidelight of a majority government is that it can do what it wants. We vote for these people and thus create a tacit trusting relationship that they won't go off half-cocked on something that makes little sense or hasn't been thought

through. Mostly it works.

Yet, every now and then, it doesn't and we're left with head-shakes, asking, "What was this person thinking?" Consider Premier Ford's fascination with a tunnel under the 401. I'd like to ask him for a list of the engineers, architects, traffic specialists, construction analysts, and soothsayers he consulted before sharing his tinted vision with us.

Then came Paul Calandra, Ontario's Minister of Education since the March election. He is Ontario's fifth individual in this portfolio since Ford first took office in 2018. Only Stephen Lecce lasted more than a year. In this century, there have been 15 Education Ministers under the PCs and Liberals, a revolving door that doesn't instill much confidence in this important leadership role's tenure. How come no one can keep their job (except Mr. Lecce who wins a gold participation ribbon for the longest stay)?

Here's one reason: Stay in your lane!

On Oct. 23, the CBC reported that Mr. Calandra stated after Question Period, "Let kids be kids, for crying out loud. If school boards don't want to do it, and

the minister of education has to step in to ... force them to put students first, then I'll do that."

Great first sentence, minister. After that, zip it. It was inevitable the prom issue at Brooklin High would overflow Brooklin's borders and do what mucky water does: go everywhere. Even Mayor Elizabeth Roy and Whitby MPP Lorne Coe discussed it. The statement from the mayor's office was thus: "Mayor Roy has had conversations with Lorne Coe to get updates on provincial discussions happening around prom cancellations in Brooklin and Uxbridge. She specifically asked for more information after Education Minister Paul Calandra said in the legislature that if the DDSB doesn't restore prom plans for the three high schools, he will step in and do it."

The problem - and let's first stay clear of the slippery slope fallacy - is that, while the Minister

oversees education, his portfolio cannot include interfering with whichever dirty, smelly issue flows past his desk.

A former school administrator recently wondered this. Is the Minister engaged because Brooklin is a more well-to-do community with vociferous parents? Then will he also speak up when, say, a small school in a poor community has a problem with (pick one)?

There's no arguing the BHS prom cancellation and the overall communication with both the principal and the board were botched. However, do we want our government to determine when it's appropriate, let alone helpful, to stick its probiscus into a local volcano, no matter the level of botchery?

That's a hard no.



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# Kim Miller

## Presented Optimist Club Award

By Jim McGrorey

Kim Miller has been and is an amazing human being. She embodies the essence of optimism which focuses on providing programming and opportunities for youth in Brooklin and the surrounding area.

Kim Miller has been awarded the OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S CITATION AS AN OUTSTANDING OPTIMIST CLUB MEMBER

Jim McGrorey is past president of Optimist Club of Brooklin

All of the kids look up to Kim and all of the adults look to Kim for advice and camaraderie and support for almost every project ever undertaken by the Optimist Club of Brooklin. Among numerous other tasks, Kim chairs the Optimist Youth Dances.

She is one of Brooklin's great "givers" in that she leads by example as to how young people and not so young people should live their lives and interact with others.





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## Brooklin's History About one Navy veteran

By Jennifer  
Hudgins



In every war, there are those whose courage is carried out not in the spotlight but in the precision of their duties. One such individual was Horace Everett, husband of Gladys Everett, the World War II ambulance driver featured in the Nov. 7 issue.

Born on March 25, 1923, Horace enlisted in the British Royal Navy at just 18. He served aboard HMS Goathland, a Hunt-class destroyer tasked with escorting convoys and hunting enemy submarines during the Second World War. As a communications specialist, he spent long hours in the radio room sending and receiving Morse code messages, a lifeline that kept ships connected and missions coordinated.

### Manning the station

When the alarm for "Action Stations!" sounded, if Horace was off duty he would take up his post at one of the ship's Oerlikon anti-aircraft guns. From there, he helped defend Goathland against enemy aircraft and the fast German E-boats that prowled the Channel. Not every alert at sea ended in battle. On one memorable occasion, what appeared to be a submarine on the ship's radar was detected. Depth charges were quickly launched, only for the crew to



discover a sea of white rising to the surface - a vast school of cod. Horace, along with other sailors, climbed down to the water's edge to toss fish onto the deck. For several days afterwards, the crew dined on fresh cod for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

His naval service took him far from home, including postings in South Africa and Australia, before he eventually returned to Britain as the war drew to a close.

After the war, Horace returned to civilian life and took a job with the Bata Shoe Company in Essex. There he met Gladys Holland, who had also served during the war, and they married in 1950. Together they started a family, and in 1964 they emigrated from Britain to Canada, settling in Cookstown, Ontario. It was there that their young family grew from

three to five.

### Local involvement

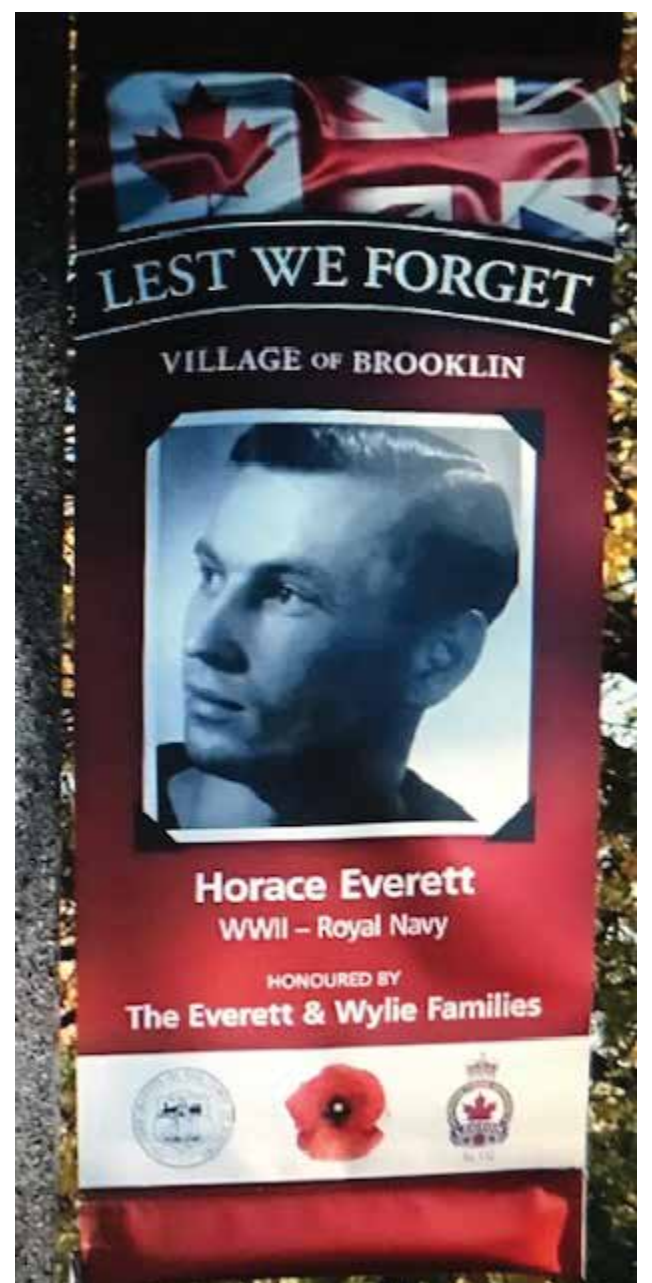
In 1969, Horace and Gladys took on the management of Fantasyland Park on Highway 12, just south of Brooklin, a role they held until the early 1980s. Beyond his work at the park, Horace became deeply involved in his community. He was an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Brooklin Beethoven Lodge #165, serving as Past Noble Grand and Chaplain. He was also a long-standing member of the Brooklin United Church, where he sang in the choir, and for many years he dedicated time to the Groveside Cemetery Board. A familiar and respected figure in town, Horace carried the same sense of duty and service into civilian life that had

defined his years in the Royal Navy.

On May 8, 2015, Horace spoke to students at Monsignor John Pereyma Catholic High School in Oshawa to commemorate VE Day. One story he shared was about his early training before seeing combat. He had been sent to a Royal Navy training camp on England's east coast and had been there less than two days when a German bomber flew over,

dropping bombs on the camp and killing twelve women sailors. It was then, he said, that he realized war was no joke.

Horace Everett passed away on November 4, 2017, at the age of ninety-four, leaving behind a legacy of courage, service, and quiet dedication to both his family and community. For Remembrance Day, his veterans' banner hung on Baldwin Street in front of Grass Park, as a reminder of a man who served with humility and honour.





# Need a band? Call out the Dawgs!

By Richard Bercuson



There will surely be an evening in the Myrtle area when the sounds of rock and roll will reverberate through the neighbourhood.

They'll emanate from Dave MacMurray's basement where he and four musician buddies rehearse for their next gig. With an estimated 200+ years of music making behind them individually, the cover band, The Dawgs, runs through its playlist of 60 songs and a few new ones that need adjustments.

Together just less than two years and sharing a love for making music, they gather weekly in MacMurray's basement in the only space not occupied by the pool table or the big screen TV. A bowl of leftover Halloween candy provides the sporadic nourishment for the evening. They've all played in bands over the decades and now do it for the pure joy. One member, keyboard and guitarist Graham Saywell used to be a "roadie" for Chris de Burgh and toured with his band in the '80s. He serves as the Dawgs' resident tech and video guy.

## First, clear heads

"We get together twice a week and we play a set," MacMurray says. "We come and sit here on the couch for 20 minutes and shoot the 'breeze' with each other. And then we get back up and play another set. And you know what? That goes a long way for anyone's mental health, frankly."

"We sat down at the very beginning and outlined what we want to do, what we're all about," he continues. "So we're all on the same page right from day one. We didn't have any shifting

goal posts. We saw what we wanted. We achieved it and we're going to continue with that. It's a recipe for success for us. Just get out there, play good quality gigs, make a little money, have fun, and play great music."

## A bit of money

The "making a little money" part translates into mostly breaking even. With an age range from 58-74 years old and needing perhaps two hours to set up at any gig, none of the Dawgs has delusions that the dollars they get at gigs will do much more than pay for gas and keep guitars, keyboards, drums, amps and kilometres of cabling in decent shape.

Indeed, success means something different now. "When you're 22, 23 years old, your definition of success is going to be a lot different than when you're in your 60s," says lead vocalist Shael Risman. "The definition of success now is a room full of people who are loving the music and getting along with the people you're playing music with."

## Hardcore covers

While most of them have tinkered with songwriting at one time or another, the Dawgs are, unabashedly, a cover band, playing everything from Elton John and Billy Joel to Carlos Santana. They proudly point out it's what their audiences love about them: recognizable tunes done well.

They've played at various casinos and large venues which have stages large enough to host them. In Whitby, these are few and far between. Brooklin. Not a one. They've had a few successful gigs in Oshawa and a "killer" performance at the Old Flame Brewery in Port Perry.

"That was our crowd," recalls Risman. "It was full."

## Getting to the Fair

High on their list is the Brooklin Spring Fair which they've not yet played despite having contacted organizers, without a response. As they say, "we're a local band and we want to play locally." They toss out the annual Rib Fest at Victoria Park as another potential gig since they did one at Richmond Hill's Rib Fest.



DAWGS in rehearsal

(left to right) Shael Risman, Andrew Dixon, Barry Vesh, Graham Saywell, Dave MacMurray

Saywell adds, "We're starting now to get these gigs that are turning people's heads and people are listening to us. And you know, just from a guy that used to be a musician that did a ton of stuff, it's nice to feel that way again, right? When people come out and see you and make a trip out just to see you. We're very easy to please. It's a lower bar. Easy to reach. The older you get, the lower the bar."

These days, they're rehearsing

for performances at the Shorelines Casinos in Belleville and Gananoque on Nov. 21, 22, 23.

Meanwhile, Myrtle residents can hear them for free if they just open their windows.

**Dawgs band members:** Dave MacMurray - Andrew Dixon - Barry Besh - Graham Saywell - Shael Risman

Dawgs Band website: [dawgsband.com](http://dawgsband.com)

Email: [woof@dawgsbandcom](mailto:woof@dawgsbandcom)

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Brooklin Family Matters: by Leanne Brown

Surviving Christmas Shopping



Ah, Christmas shopping for a 16-year-old daughter. Forget skiing or hockey as winter sports. Try navigating the mall while attempting to understand what she wants, a delicate dance between “I love it!” and “Mom, no one wears that.”

Shopping for teen girls is almost impossible and I still haven’t recovered from last year’s gift-

return marathon. But it can be done.

Given the ever-changing landscape of teen fashion, the first rule is that teens are allergic to practicality. I suggested a parka from Roots. Canadian. Warm. Sensible. Nope. I got a frozen stare.

This year’s only safe fashion choices are from Aritzia, specifically the TNA hoodie or sweats which are teen girl currency. You can’t go wrong unless you choose the wrong colour. There are “in” neutrals and “out” neutrals. I don’t know the difference. As for a jacket,

only a black SuperPuff will do.

While she once swore she was “so over” Lululemon, guess what appeared on her Christmas list again this year? Right below “new phone.”

Next up? Makeup. Buying beauty products for a teen girl is like attempting bomb defusal. You cut the wrong wire, everything explodes. If the brand isn’t Rare Beauty, Fenty, or Glossier, she’ll treat it like off-brand cereal: technically fine, but emotionally unacceptable. I once brought home a drugstore mascara and you’d think I had betrayed the family.

A safe choice is a trendy “aesthetic” Sephora mini-set. Seems teens like collecting things they’ll use twice and then display like museum artifacts.

Tech? Essential but confusing. Since Canadians endure long winters, maybe it’s why teens insist on new gadgets every Christmas. It’s how they hibernate.

This year’s must-have are AirPods Pro - again. I know she has a pair, however the new ones have better noise cancellation. Translation: she can more completely ignore me.

There’s also the Fujifilm Instax Mini camera. Nothing says modern teen like wanting photos as if it’s 1998. She’d take three pictures, realize film is expensive, and then use it as décor.

Footwear is a thing. But if it isn’t Nike, Adidas or Dr. Martin’s you may as well hand her shoe boxes. She doesn’t just want shoes; she wants statement footwear, in other words “Sneaks that speak.”

As for gift cards, can’t go wrong, right? Yes and no. Handle with extreme

care. Some say gift cards are impersonal. I say they are a lifeline. But - and this is crucial - not all gift cards are created equal.

Starbucks? Absolutely not. She informed me last year, “Starbucks is a gift for moms.”

Apple, Aritzia, Sephora and Amazon are safer. An Indigo card? Risky, unless she’s in her reading mood, which may last anywhere from three days to three minutes. If she’s into Jellycats then Indigo might be perfect.

Shopping for a 16-year-old girl requires stamina, caffeine, and a thorough knowledge about brands that didn’t exist when we were teens. If all else fails, remember that even if she rolls her eyes, she still loves you. She just saves the smile for when you’re not looking.

Good luck, moms! We’ve got this. Probably.



Looking for something fun to do this holiday season?

We’ve got you covered! Here are some of the Town’s top activities to help get you in the festive mood:



Enjoy Brooklin's Christmas In The Village

Embrace the charm of small-town traditions with family and friends in Downtown Brooklin on Saturday, November 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy family-friendly festivities including a Christmas Market, Optimist Club Pancake Breakfast, Brooklin Legion Lunch BBQ, United Church Sing-Along, library story time, photo ops, crafts, skating, trolley rides, Santa visits, and more. Thank you to Tim Hortons for sponsoring this community celebration. [whitby.ca/ChristmasInTheVillage](http://whitby.ca/ChristmasInTheVillage)

Attend The Santa Claus Parade

The Santa Claus Parade is back on Saturday, December 6, starting at 10 a.m., moving through Downtown Whitby. Santa Claus and his friends will be travelling along Brock St. from Manning Rd. to Trent St. Learn more at [WhitbySantaClausParade.ca](http://WhitbySantaClausParade.ca)



Enjoy Winter Drop-In Activities

Looking to make the most of winter break and keep the kids entertained? The Town operates a number of drop-in programs for children, including basketball and Preschool Fun Play Group. Learn more at [whitby.ca/DropInSports](http://whitby.ca/DropInSports)



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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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This production will feature flashy musical numbers, outrageous costumes, comedy, magic, mayhem, and of course... you're part of the show! Come and boo the villain (which is who, exactly?), cheer the hero, and have a blast of a holiday time with the whole family! We promise you'll



# Slow Down and Move Over

Durham Regional Chair John Henry issued a statement on November 17 urging drivers to slow down and move over around emergency responders. While this comes after an incident the day before in Uxbridge, the message is to all Durham residents:

"While responding to a collision on Wagg Road and Highway 47," Henry stated, "three firefighters of the Uxbridge Fire Department sustained serious injuries when they were struck by an approaching vehicle. Our thoughts are with the injured firefighters, and we wish for a full and speedy recovery to everyone involved."

"This incident reminds us of the risks emergency responders face every time they answer the call. Our first responders need space to do their jobs safely. I urge all residents to slow down and move over when you see emergency vehicles

stopped with lights flashing. This isn't just the law; it's about saving lives. Please do your part to protect those who protect us.

"Thank you to Durham Regional Police Service, Uxbridge Fire Department, Region of Durham Paramedic Services, Ornge, and all first responders involved for their courage and dedication to keeping our communities safe, even under extremely hazardous conditions."

# MARKETING YOUR HOME FOR ALL IT IS WORTH!

## Is it time to renew your mortgage?

If you bought your home five years ago and locked in a five-year fixed mortgage, your renewal may be coming due soon. With interest rates, lending conditions and the overall mortgage landscape very different today compared to five years ago, renewal time represents a major financial decision.

The King Home Team: Royal Heritage Realty is here to help you enter your next mortgage term with confidence. An estimated 60 per cent of all Canadian mortgages are expected to come up for renewal over 2025-2026, the Bank of Canada reports. Many of those are five-year fixed mortgages taken during 2020 and 2021's ultra low-rate environment. As a result, you can expect to see intense competition among lenders and pressure to renew at higher rates.

### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO AND WHEN

4 to 6 months before renewal (or sooner). Get your renewal offer early. Lenders often send a renewal package about 120 days before term expiry, but you don't have to renew your mortgage with the same lender.

Connect with a mortgage broker who works locally and nationally. They can compare offers from big banks, credit unions and trust companies, and negotiate on your behalf. If you're considering pulling equity for renovations, debt consolidation or investments, request a 'cash-out' estimate.

### Evaluate variables carefully

Don't simply default to another five-year fixed term. A three-year fixed or even a variable/adjustable term may offer flexibility if you expect rates to drop.

If you might move or make extra payments, make sure your new mortgage allows it. Some lenders may allow you to extend amortization within your renewal. While that can lower payments, it's important to know that will increase interest cost over time.

### Crunch the numbers

Use online renewal calculators to model different rate scenarios and see how monthly payments vary.

Check your debt service ratios (mortgage + other debt payments ÷ income). If your new payments push you over safe thresholds, consider making changes.

### Negotiate or switch

Present competing offers to your current lender and ask them to match or beat them. Be aware of any fees or penalties tied to breaking or not renewing your mortgage. If switching lenders, ensure the timing lines up, so you have a seamless rollover.

Visit [www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/services/mortgages/renewmortgage.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/financial-consumer-agency/services/mortgages/renewmortgage.html) for additional information about renewing your mortgage, including potential costs to change lenders.

### CONTACT THE KING HOME TEAM

Because most home values in Brooklin have appreciated since 2020, you may have more equity than you may realize. That equity could 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 of your home, which helps with assessing equity, potential refinance needs or deciding whether to stay or move. We can also walk you through sample renewal scenarios, so you go into renewal knowing your options. Finally, we can connect you to a trusted local mortgage broker who will fight for your best rate, not just the 'default renewal' from your existing lender.

For homeowners who locked into five-year fixed terms in 2020 or 2021, the potential for payment shock is high. But with early preparation, competitive shopping and the right advice, you can minimize surprises and potentially turn your renewal into an opportunity for better terms, cash-out equity use or enhanced flexibility. 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 The King Home Team today!

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