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Happy New Year!




I was happy to see many of you at the free skate I hosted along with Councillors Cardwell, Shahid and Lundquist last week at McKinney.

It is my honour to represent you on Whitby and Durham Councils.

I wish you and those you love a very healthy and happy 2026. #togetherforbrooklin

Rhonda Mulcahy, Region & Town Councillor
mulcahyr@whitby.ca | 905-706-0482



Happy New Year!

**from all of us
at the
Brooklin Town Crier**

**Rhonda, Richard, Jennifer,
Leanne & Brittany!**



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Our Top Stories of 2025 (pages 2-6)

JANUARY



Brooklin High’s Zach Drury tries out for Toronto FC’s Unified team

The history of downtown’s Balfour Building, now Whitby Dance Academy

The Goodberry becomes a movie set

Brooklin Village v’ball teams both reach final four



In Memoriam: Sheree Nicholson

FEBRUARY

Shopping local gains broad support across political spectrums

Take care of your heart

60th anniversary of Flag Day



Beethoven Lodge turn 150

“Vote like your life depends on it”

MARCH

MPP Lorne Coe re-elected with 48% of vote (voter turnout = 46%)

BHS students Savithu Wijesuriya and Bowne Li among Ontario leaders in business-based DECA project



Council preparing to vote on 407 toll removal request

APRIL

Brooklin now part of new Pickering-Brooklin riding

DRPS describe Operation Project Carbon to stop car thefts



Rob Coutts publishes unique children’s book about financial literacy

History: How Brooklin became Brooklin

MAY



Maureen Jackson awarded King Charles III Coronation Medal

Juanita Nathan wins Pickering-Brooklin federal riding



Brooklin’s Laura Adel named to national volleyball program

Spring Fair parade route altered due to Winchester construction

407 goes toll free

Brooklin Heritage Society announces new street named for Myrt Havelock

St. Bridget mounts SpongeBob musical



Less than half the picture: Headlines we may see in 2026

By Richard Bercuson



“Special” Cameras Return on 407 for those going over 130 kph

Whitby Councillors to be issued monthly boxes of tissue

Premier Suggests Trucks-Only Tunnel Under Downtown Brooklin

Rolling Stones to play two songs at Spring Fair

Ontario to force truck owners to park at the back of lots

Town To Save \$\$\$ By Eliminating Snow Clearance One Sunday Each Month, April to October

230-Member Ohio State Marching Band joins Spring Fair Parade - New route will begin at Myrtle Station

Fieldgate Complex dressing rooms will have fully functioning showers and taps

IKEA To Open Pop-up Store in Downtown Brooklin

Brooklin-wide street hockey tourney coming - Town bylaw officers will get paid day off

Where to plunk a performing arts centre?

Municipal election winners & losers had some surprises

Brooklin TOWN CRIER.com

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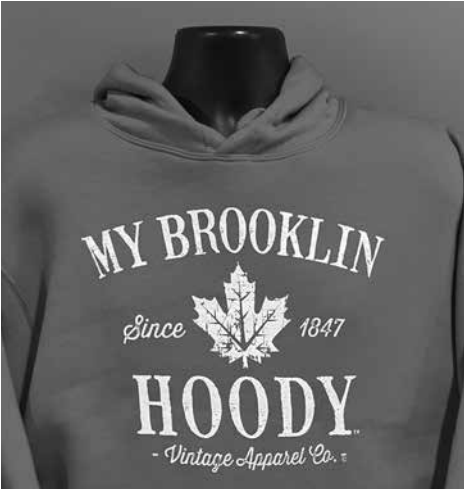
For advertising information, contact:
Email: RhondaMulcahy1350@gmail.com
Next Issue: Friday, January 23, 2025
Deadline: Friday, January 16, 2026

Our Top Stories of 2025 (pages 2-6)

JUNE

Legion paints commemorative crosswalks

New “Hoodys” on sale as hospital fundraiser by Dan O’Brien at Vintage Apparel



Brooklin athletes win medals at volleyball nationals



“Hog wild” at Spring Fair parade



Voting for councillors to be changed

United Church turns 100

Blair Ridge crossing guard Marika Erwin retires



CFTP Brooklin Tae Kwon Do athletes win provincially



JULY

Ally Rapp wins BTC’s high school communications award

The history of Luther Vipond



Community Care Durham host fundraising walk

Columbus Road construction

AUGUST

IPSC hosts national junior lacrosse championships

How to fuel young minds and bodies

The night wrestling came to Brooklin



SEPTEMBER

Brooklin Merchants are runners-up in lacrosse nationals



First women’s cricket club hosts tournament

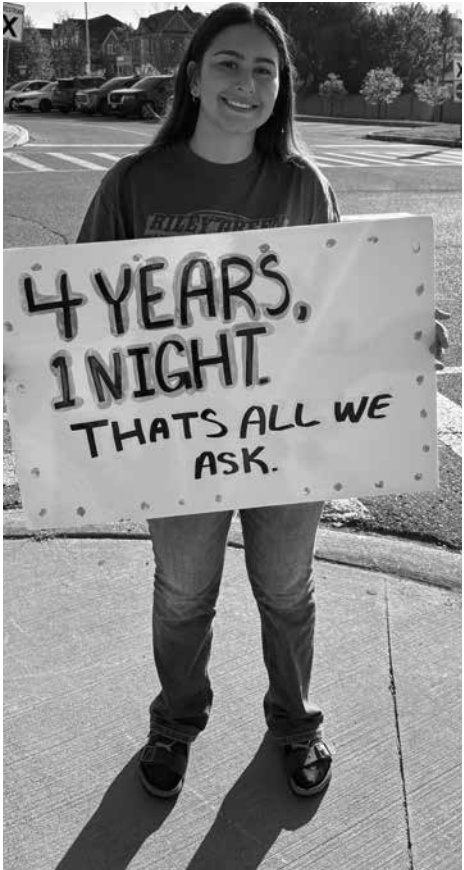


Brooklin Village PS raises over \$12,000 for Terry Fox Run



OCTOBER

BHS students protest prom cancellation with massive walkout





HAPPY *New Year!*



From the Team at
Brooklin Optometric Centre

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gallery to get the most out of your
vision in 2026.

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Our Top Stories of 2025 (pages 2-6)



Sugamaze bakery opens

BTC editor launches new novel, "The Shadows of Doubt"

Residents chip in to deliver the BTC during postal strike

NOVEMBER



BHS parents question prom cancellation "process"

How Whitby's budget is built

Optimist Club awards Kim Miller President citation

What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby

Delivering Value – Your Plan In Action

The Town of Whitby is delivering results that matter to the community - with all of the 62 action items identified in the Community Strategic Plan now started or completed. You asked for safer roads. We delivered by adding more crossing guards to school zones. Learn more about your plan in action at whitby.ca/PlanInAction



We're Hiring

Interested in taking on an exciting challenge and making a difference in the community? The Town is accepting applications for summer student positions in various areas. Applications are due January 17. whitby.ca/Careers



Go For A Skate Or Swim

A new year is a perfect time to get active. Enjoy skating around the rink with friends and family, or go for a swim. View the schedules at whitby.ca/Skating and whitby.ca/Swimming



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



Christmas Tree Collection Reminder

Christmas Trees will be collected from January 12 to 16 in blue (odd-numbered) areas and from January 19 to 23 in yellow (even-numbered) areas. Please remove all decorations and cut trees longer than 3 metres (10 feet) in half. The Town cannot collect trees frozen in snowbanks. Download or use the Whitby Waste Buddy app for reminders and alerts whitby.ca/Waste





Hyundai Breakaway Sales Event

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2026 TUCSON



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Our Top Stories of 2025 (pages 2-6)



Brooklin-based band The Dawgs play oldies but goodies



2026 GMC SIERRA 1500

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Our Top Stories of 2025 (pages 2-6)



DECEMBER

Phil Nero’s DreamCo co-produces HOOK featuring local dancers

Remembering Fantasyland



Fieldgate Sports Complex will be the name

Mayor publishes what’s coming in 2026



Zach Drury closes out 2025 as he started, by playing 3vs3 Basketball at World Unified Cup tourney

Region earns Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community designation

The Regional Municipality of Durham has been recognized as a Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) by the Share the Road Cycling Coalition, marking a significant milestone in the Region’s commitment to active transportation. This achievement is especially notable as Durham is the first regional municipality in Ontario to receive a BFC designation.

“This recognition underscores our dedication to creating safe, connected, and accessible cycling options for residents and visitors,” shared Sandra Austin, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development. “We are proud to join Ontario’s network of Bicycle Friendly Communities and look forward to building on this momentum.”

The designation reflects the Region’s growing leadership in promoting cycling and sustainable transportation through strong policies, inter-municipal collaboration, and strategic investments in cycling infrastructure. Key initiatives include the development of the **Regional Cycling Plan**, adoption of a Complete Streets approach and implementation of paved shoulder standards.


The BFC program, administered by Share the Road Cycling Coalition, evaluates communities based on their efforts to improve cycling through engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation. Durham Region’s Bronze BFC designation signals strong progress and a solid foundation for future improvements.

For more information about BFC, visit **ShareTheRoad.ca**.



Brooklin Family Matters: by Leanne Brown

The Year of Quiet Starts



Every January I greet the new year the way I approach most things lately: with fresh starts, clean slates and reinvention. Also cautiously, with coffee, and the awareness that I am the mother of a teen girl, which means nothing is ever simple, quiet, or emotionally neutral.

This is also the year my husband retired. As in, made redundant at his company and has now decided his time now belongs entirely to him. While I’m juggling

sports schedules, emotional check-ins, and decoding sighs that may or may not mean “I’m fine,” he’s out there living. He goes to the gym. He lunches with friends. He announces, with genuine joy, that he isn’t sure what day it is. Every day is Saturday.

Meanwhile, I’m managing work, our family, the moods, and the delicate balance of being both deeply needed and deeply embarrassing.

The New Year also means this is the moment for big goals and bold intentions. Great in theory. In practice, I’m spending my energy figuring out whether asking “How was your day?” will result in a conversation or a door closing. Personal growth, I’ve learned, often looks like keeping

your tone neutral while internally screaming .

Friends say, “Focus on yourself this year.” Which is truly sweet advice. I’d love to focus on myself, but my teen is busy becoming herself, a process requiring transportation, snacks she no longer likes, and emotional support on demand.

Meanwhile, my retired husband is indoor golfing and asking what we should do today, as though I haven’t already done 17 things.

Still, tucked quietly beneath the managing and the eye-rolls, I have a small goal. Small in size, but massive in feeling. It’s the kind of goal that makes my stomach flip, both terrifying and thrilling at the same time. The kind that feels wildly inconvenient,

slightly irresponsible, and almost impossible with everything else on the go. I haven’t said it out loud too often because saying it makes it real, and real things can fail.

But it’s there. Waiting. Whispering that maybe this New Year isn’t about a dramatic overhaul. Maybe it’s about making space for one brave thing, even while everything else feels full.

So this year, I’m starting where I am. Showing up. Managing the chaos. Loving my teen. Letting my husband enjoy his well-earned freedom. And quietly, carefully, taking one step toward that small, impossible goal.

Because sometimes the bravest new start doesn’t shout. It grows quietly.

BROOKLIN’S HISTORY

By Jennifer Hudgins

Don Wade:

The Amputee

Hockey Star



Don “Sonny” Wade was an internationally respected figure in amputee hockey and a well-known Brooklin resident. He is remembered for his extraordinary contributions to sport, his resilience in the face of adversity, and his leadership on the world stage.

Wade was a prominent member of the Canadian Amputee Hockey League and a cornerstone of Team Canada’s standing amputee hockey program, representing the country in five world championships also serving as team captain. During his competitive years, Canada emerged as a dominant international force, and Wade was widely regarded as one of the team’s leaders both on and off the ice.

Standing amputee hockey is played upright by athletes with limb loss who use prosthetics and modified equipment. The sport demands exceptional balance, strength, and endurance. Wade excelled in all three, and his commitment and skill helped elevate

Canada’s reputation in international competition under the International Standing Amputee Ice Hockey Federation (ISIHf).

Farm accident
Wade’s journey to elite sport followed a life-altering farm accident in late 1997. At the age of 32, he lost his left arm and was airlifted to Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto. He later spoke of waking in the intensive care unit devastated by the loss and unsure how he could move forward. Months later, he began outpatient rehabilitation at St. John’s Rehab, where the long process of physical and emotional recovery began. Rather than retreat from the activities he loved, Wade adapted, determined to remain active and competitive.

Hockey remained central to his life, and through perseverance, Wade returned to the ice, becoming not only a competitive international player but also a mentor and ambassador for amputee sport in Canada. Over multiple world championship tournaments, he helped guide Team Canada through a sustained period of international success, earning multiple gold medals and setting a standard for future generations of athletes.

One-armed golf
Beyond hockey, Wade’s athletic determination extended to golf, a sport he first learned at age four on the driving range with his grandfather and played recreationally throughout his youth. Two years after his accident, he began the challenge of playing one-handed. He went on to shoot several rounds under 90, viewing golf as a deeply personal



and internal test. For Wade, the course was the same for everyone, and the satisfaction of parring or birdieing a hole carried equal meaning, whether accomplished with one arm or two. He later became a proud member of Para Golf Canada.

Those who played alongside Wade recall his fierce competitiveness balanced by a deep sense of fellowship. He was known for encouraging new players, sharing hard-earned experience, and fostering team unity. His influence extended well beyond medals and championships; he inspired fellow amputees to pursue sport after injury and demonstrated that physical loss did not mark the end of athletic ambition.

In Brooklin, Wade was equally well known for his warmth, storytelling, and strong sense of community. Friends and neighbours remember him as generous with his time and quick with a laugh, equally

at home discussing hockey, fishing, or local life. Though his accomplishments reached far beyond the town’s borders, he remained deeply and proudly connected to Brooklin.

Don “Sonny” Wade died in December, 2024, at the age of 60, leaving a legacy defined by courage, adaptability, and an enduring belief in what is possible.



Don Wade (left) with Kory Lorentz

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Brooklin Family Dentistry embraces cutting-edge technology to ensure the highest quality of care for its patients. From digital X-rays that minimize radiation exposure to intraoral cameras that provide a detailed view of oral health, every tool is carefully chosen to enhance diagnosis and treatment. The incorporation of advanced software streamlines administrative processes, making appointments seamless and convenient.

At **Brooklin Family Dentistry**, oral health is viewed holistically, recognizing its interconnectedness with overall well-being. The dental team takes the time to

understand each patient's unique needs and concerns, crafting personalized treatment plans that prioritize both oral health and comfort. From preventive care to restorative procedures, every treatment is designed to promote long-term wellness and preserve the natural beauty of the smile.

Central to **Brooklin Family Dentistry's** philosophy is a commitment to patient-centered care. Every interaction, from the initial consultation to follow-up appointments, is guided by empathy, respect, and open communication. Dentists take the time to educate patients about their oral health, empowering them to make informed decisions and take control of their smiles. For nervous patients, options such as nitrous oxide are available to ensure a stress-free experience.

Schedule your next appointment with us today at **(905)995-5353** or stop in and say hello. You can also visit us online at **brooklinfamilydentistry.com**.

Brooklin Family Dentistry is open Monday to Wednesday from 9am to 8pm, Thursday from 9am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm.

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