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It Took a Village...



Vera (in pink) with her Ghosbusters, DRPS, and Whitby Fire friends.
Go to page 3 to see how much she raised for SickKids.

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Municipal Election - Plan Your Vote

Advance Vote

Vote early from October 22 to 25, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at one of three advance voting locations:

- Abilities Centre** 1 Jim Flaherty Street
- Brooklin Community Centre and Library**
8 Vipond Road
- Town Hall** 575 Rossland Road East

Voting Day

Vote on voting day, October 26, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., at one of 19 locations:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Abilities Centre
1 Jim Flaherty Street | E.A. Fairman PS
620 Walnut St W |
| Bellwood PS
30 Bellwood Drive | Glen Dhu PS
29 Fallingbrook Street |
| Blair Ridge PS
100 Blackfriar Avenue | Hebron Christian Reformed Church
4240 Anderson St |
| Brooklin Community Centre and Library
8 Vipond Rd | Julie Payette PS
300 Garden Street |
| Captain Michael Vandenbos PS
3121 Country Ln | Ormiston PS
20 Forest Heights St |
| C.E. Broughton PS
80 Cawforth St | Robert Munsch PS
20 Norista St |
| Colonel J.E. Farewell PS
810 McQuay Blvd | Sir Samuel Steele PS
55 Bakerville St |
| Donald A. Wilson SS
681 Rossland Rd W | Town Hall
575 Rossland Rd E |
| Dr. Robert Thornton PS
101 Hazelwood Dr | West Lynde PS
270 Michael Blvd |
| | Whitby 55+ Recreation Centre
801 Brock St S |

Less than half the picture:

Incumbency's Double Edged Sword



By Richard Bercuson

If you run for elected office and win, you should consider doing it again. Unless of course you're no good at it - requiring immersive self-reflection, even therapy - or you're viewed as a pain, another problem altogether.

In the 2022 Ontario municipal elections, of the 1791 incumbents from 2018, over 80% of those running for the same office won re-election. (from Association of Municipalities of Ontario, or AMO).

The reasons should be obvious. Voters are comfortable with whom they know and see in the neighbourhood. While familiarity can cut both ways, there's something satisfying about bumping into your councillor at the grocery store or the park, even if said elected official hasn't been overly helpful on your dearest issue.

In Whitby this year, there will be 32 candidates running for eight council and one mayor seat, an increase from 23 in 2022. (the final tally of who is running won't be official till Aug. 22.) We can take an educated guess as to why the greater interest. Four years of the current council has been marked by frequent uncivil and nonsensical discourse, disrespectful commentary and much wasted time and energy. A meeting to "educate" councillors on the dangers of coyotes comes to mind. Foxes, raccoons, bears and drunk drivers didn't make the list.

One councillor resorted to Facebook to defend her right to point out topics that weren't in council's purview, then was harassed because of it. Of course, she was right. Still, how sad.

Whitby council is getting a rep. A candidate in another Durham municipality offered that our council is known for the wrong reasons.

All current ward and regional councillors and the mayor are running again although two regional councillors are running against each other in Ward 4 while another is in the mayoralty race.

Faced with a plethora of new names, voters could take the easy road and choose on the basis of name recognition. Memorial University political science professor Amanda Bittner once pointed out to the CBC that incumbents in municipal elections do have the advantage. "It's a lot more challenging for voters to know what to do, and as a result, we fall back on the old standbys," she said.

But what if the old standbys merely stand by and talk a good game? What if an incumbent has a propensity to prospect for mud to sling? How do you determine if one of the unknown names on the list could be trusted to get things done and assist in improving council's tone?

An old pal served four terms as an Ontario MPP before retiring. His take on incumbency is that it takes four years to learn the system, not to mention where the bathrooms are. The electoral bell curve, he says, includes those who survive just one term and, at the other extreme, some who last three or four.

Here are the questions we face in October: What do we want? Why do we want it? Who can provide it? Who deserves to be at the far end of that bell curve and have another crack at the job?

Watch for "Who is on your ballot" in the next edition of the Brooklin Town Crier

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Deadline: Friday, August 28, 2026

Legion Announces New Website

By Martin Stephenson

On behalf of the Executive and Members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 152, Brooklin, I am pleased to welcome you to our new website:

www.brooklinlegion.org

This website has been created to better connect our Legion with our members, veterans, supporters, and the wider community by providing immediate access to the latest news, upcoming events, programs, and activities taking place at Branch 152.

The Brooklin Legion has long been a place where veterans, serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces, their families, and community residents come together in a spirit of remembrance, service, friendship, and support. As our community continues to grow, we recognize the importance of providing timely and accessible information to everyone interested in our activities and services.

- Stay informed about upcoming events and special activities
- Learn about commemorative and remembrance ceremonies
- Access news and announcements from the Legion
- Discover community programs and services
- Find information about membership opportunities
- Learn about facility rentals for weddings, parties, meetings, and community events
- Support Legion initiatives that benefit veterans and their families

Our goal is to make it easier than ever for members and visitors to stay connected with everything happening at the Brooklin Legion. Whether you are a long-time member, a veteran seeking support, a volunteer, or a resident interested in our community events, we hope this website becomes your first source for information about Branch 152.

Martin Stephenson is President of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 152, Brooklin



Alchemy: Turning Lemonade into \$\$\$ for SickKids

Vera's lemonade stand for hours and, when added to to SickKids Hospital on July 25 was a hit. other donations, she total was \$3,539.25.

Vera, age 9, had once been a patient at the hospital and so for the past four years has raised money for it through her local lemonade stand. Until this year's event, she'd raised nearly \$5500. For the latest event, she raised over \$1500 in cash in just five

Aided by her two brothers and neighbours who shared their driveways, Vera was visited by the Ghostbusters, the DRPS, OPP, Whitby Fire and even the Oshawa lacrosse Firewolves mascot Alphie as she's a fan of the team.

Railway Roots creates a new platform for exploring Durham's past

Step aboard an augmented reality experience and discover Durham Region's rich railway heritage.

Railway Roots is a brand-new immersive self-guided journey that brings to life stories of the people and places who were connected by the rail network.

Guiding the journey is Conductor Bradley, an avatar who welcomes visitors with stories of how the railway shaped Durham's rural communities, alongside fascinating tales that include a resourceful conductor who cooked meals for stranded passengers in a snowstorm, students who hopped trains to get to school and a thriving factory that built everything from musical instruments to coffins.

Visitors can plan their trip

at DurhamTourism.ca/RailwayRoots, where they can learn about the seven participating locations and download the free AVTR app. At each stop, look for Railway Roots signage and scan the QR code to begin the experience.

The stories featured in Railway Roots are just one chapter in the broader history of the rural communities and landscapes that make up the area today. Each stop serves as a starting point for further exploration of local history, museums, heritage sites and attractions.

Railway Roots is the result of a collaborative effort between Durham Tourism and Central Counties Tourism, combining local history and innovative technology to create an immersive visitor experience that inspires exploration.

Local Women Win Silver at World Lacrosse Championship

Brooklin athletes Maggie Cuddy, Alissa Digiacinto, Nicole Perroni, and Emily Boissonneault recently competed for Team Canada at the 2026 Nissin Foods World Lacrosse Women's Championship in Japan, earning a silver medal.

The team lost 16-4 in the final to the USA. The team reached the final with an 18-5 semi final win over Haudenosaunee after round robin wins over Japan (5-4 in OT), Wales (21-1), Australia (13-11) and Germany (23-0).



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What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby



Fieldgate Sports Complex Grand Opening September 12

Whitby's highly anticipated Fieldgate Sports Complex officially opens on Saturday, September 12. Between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., join us for free family-friendly activities and drop-in programming as we come together as a community to celebrate the new facility. Learn more about the sports complex project and community feedback that informed its design: connectwhitby.ca/SportsComplex

Get Active. Get Creative. Get Connected.

Did you know Whitby offers low-cost and subsidized recreation, leisure, and special interest programs for all ages? Registration is open to eligible Whitby residents. Programs include fitness, arts and crafts, dance, educational courses, and more. whitby.ca/CommunityConnection



Make a Difference in Your Neighbourhood with a \$500 Grant

Have an idea to bring your neighbourhood together? The Town of Whitby's Neighbourhood Microgrants Program offers one-time grants of up to \$500 to support community-led projects that foster connection, creativity and neighbourhood pride. Whether you're planning a community picnic, workshop, or another local initiative, funding is available to help bring your idea to life. Learn more and apply at whitby.ca/Microgrants



Community Care Durham Needs Volunteers

At Community Care Durham, the WeConnect Mental Health & Wellness Program is currently looking for volunteers to support their clients. We invite residents from Durham Region to get involved as we need assistance in facilitating a variety of support groups.

The focus of these groups addresses many areas such as depression and anxiety, bipolar disorder, chronic pain, coping strategies, wellness practices, and social connection. This is a free service offered to those individuals 16 and older who are experiencing emotional or mental health challenges.

If you are a compassionate, empathetic, and patient person who enjoys helping others, this is a volunteer opportunity for you! Volunteers work together as a team to provide a safe, supportive environment where clients can have open discussion and receive emotional support and coping skills to maximize their quality of life. With the support of volunteers, WeConnect clients are empowered to learn, develop, and maintain skills that help them cope and navigate life's challenges.

The WeConnect Mental Health & Wellness Program offers new volunteers a comprehensive training program, "Fundamentals of Mental Health and Group Facilitation." The training equips volunteers with the essential skills and knowledge

to become exceptional group facilitators. Volunteers are offered opportunities to build their skill sets and learn more about emotional support, group facilitation, and mental health.

The next round of training will take place **this Fall, starting on September 16 and will run for 9 weeks on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m.** New training location! With the Whitby office under renovations, we will **host the Fall Training at our Clarington office in Bowmanville at Garnet B. Rickard Recreation Complex.**

The WeConnect Mental Health & Wellness Program relies on the support of volunteers to keep support groups operating in the community. Successful candidates will be required to complete a pre-training interview and provide a clear vulnerable sector check. Please note that obtaining a police check usually takes 6-7 weeks. WeConnect volunteers are required to provide approximately 2 hours per week of support to their assigned group with at least a one-year commitment.

To learn more about WeConnect volunteering, please email the WeConnect Volunteer Coordinator at weconnect@communitycare.durham.on.ca or complete the WeConnect volunteer application on the website at www.communitycaredurham.on.ca.

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BROOKLIN’S HISTORY
By Jennifer Hudgins

Medland’s

For generations of Brooklin children, the walk home from Meadowcrest School could be delayed by a stop at Medland’s. There were kittens to play with, lollipops to enjoy and, for a few precious minutes, no hurry to get home. Farmers came for feed and seed; neighbours stopped for a conversation; and customers knew they would be greeted by a familiar face. W.J. Medland & Son was more than a feed store. It was one of those places that quietly became part of everyday life in Brooklin.

Its history began with William John Medland, known as Bill, and his wife, Etta Pearl White. Bill was born October 24, 1900, and Etta on December 17, 1903. They married in 1927 and raised their son John, at their home on Queen Street.

Bill worked as a house painter before joining Patterson Creamery on Winchester Road. In December, 1943, he purchased a livery stable at 6 Campbell

Street, behind the Brooklin Hotel, now the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 152. At the time, the stable sat in the middle of a large open field where it once housed horses belonging to hotel guests.

Feed and seed

From that modest beginning grew one of Brooklin’s best-known businesses. Bill and John supplied local farmers with feed and seed and later sold coal. Their only competition was the Brooklin Mill on Cassels Road East, owned by the Wilson family. The two families were good friends, making for a friendly rivalry.

In 1953, John married Jean Gimlet, a farm girl from Columbus. Together they raised a son, Bill, and daughter, Barbara.

As the business grew, so did the family’s reputation for looking after their neighbours. During the years when many Brooklin homes were heated by coal, Bill understood that a warm home

was not a luxury. When families could not afford to pay, he made sure they still had coal to heat their homes. Coal arrived by train from Pittsburgh and was unloaded by hand at the railway siding on what is now Anderson Street. It was heavy, dirty work. In 1970, Bill gladly sold the coal business to Dixon Fuels in Oshawa.

Bill’s son John became known throughout Brooklin simply as “the Feed man.” He had a friendly greeting for everyone and, more importantly, time for a conversation. His children, Bill and Barbara, grew up helping at the store on weekends and during the summer. In 1987, Barbara joined her father full-time, becoming the next generation to carry on the family business.

Tragically Hip video

The store was so well known that it found its way into Canadian music history. In 1996, The Tragically Hip set up their instruments on the loading dock to film the video for Ahead by a Century, which was named MuchMusic’s Best Video of 1996.

After 70 years of serving Brooklin, W.J. Medland & Son Ltd., closed its doors in the spring of 2013. The

property was later sold and the original buildings disappeared. Yet the Medland story did not end there.

In 2019, Brooklin artist Jody Edwards created a painting of Medland’s as it looked in its heyday and donated it to the Brooklin Heritage Society for its annual June Reunion draw. In a fitting twist, the winner was John’s daughter, Barb - and the ticket was drawn by her mother, Jean.

John died in 2017. Jean passed away on June 22, 2026, and is buried beside him at Groveside Municipal Cemetery. Bill and Etta are buried nearby.

Today, there is no feed store on Campbell Street, no bags of grain being carried to waiting cars and no children stopping to play with kittens. But the Medland name remains. Part of the property is now known as Medland Corner, quietly carrying the family name into the future. For those who remember Medlands, however, the name means more than a place. It brings back a time when a trip to the feed store might mean a conversation, a helping hand, or a lollipop on the way home.



Region Announces Accessibility awards

Durham Region’s Accessibility Advisory Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2026 Durham Region Accessibility Awards.

The awards recognize individuals, businesses and organizations that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to advancing accessibility and inclusion in their communities. This year’s selection process saw many exceptional nominations from across Durham Region. The 2026 Accessibility Award recipients are:

- Ajax: Progressive Life Centre
- Brock: Donna Schirle
- Clarington: Autism Home Base
- Oshawa: Beyond 18
- Pickering: Snooze Room
- Scugog: The Port Cheese Co.
- Uxbridge: Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario
- Whitby: Durham KidsKare

The Durham Region Accessibility Awards celebrate achievements that help create a more inclusive Durham Region and raise awareness of the importance of accessibility for people with disabilities. Congratulations to this year’s recipients for their outstanding contributions. For more information about this year’s award recipients and accessibility initiatives across Durham Region, visit durham.ca/accessibility.

Garden Club Work Recognized by Horticultural Association

By Rahe Richards

In July, one of the town gardens maintained by the club, The Park of Reflection of the Wounded Warriors of Canada, was chosen by the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) as part of the convention tours and was well received by delegates from all over Ontario.

The Fall activities begin with the Club Members Gardens Tour on August 22 when five gardens of some of the members will be visited to showcase their pride and joy of gardening. Visiting members discuss various designs and special features and plants. Then the first meeting on August 26 will feature Garry Edwards who will present on the topic, "Rock Gardens – Plant Selection and Design." On September 12, the Club will host a reception to acknowledge the hard-working volunteers, who work on the different activities throughout the year to ensure the club functions.

The September 23 meeting will have the seasoned members share their knowledge and skills with members on how to prepare the garden to “sleep” for the winter. On October 28, a Durham Region Master Gardener will present on the topic, “Bulbs, Jewels, of the

Garden” about the different types of bulbs, rhizomes and tubers for the spring garden.

November 25 is the annual general meeting when the year’s activities are recapped with new board members selected and installed for next year. The constitution will be amended with members voting on changes. Flower show winners are awarded trophies and other awards for different achievements are given out. This is a social time when members bring different foods for the potluck and reminiscence on their vacations.

The Club will shut down for December and January. The new year will start on February 24, 2027, for the membership drive and plans for new activities.

Membership fees will increase to \$25 single, while \$35 for family and corporate membership will stay the same. The public is always invited to attend some of the meetings and join if interested. They are held at the Brooklin United Church, 19 Cassel Rd East.

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

Yoshida to Represent Team Ontario at Lacrosse National Championship



Joshua Yoshida will play for Team Ontario at the U-19 Men’s Field Lacrosse National Championship this September in Langley, British Columbia. This marks his second consecutive year representing Ontario.

Josh, who will continue his education at St. Andrew’s College in the fall, has been playing lacrosse since his early days with the Whitby Minor Lacrosse Association. His passion for the game has also led him to start a small business stringing lacrosse sticks, partnering with Play-It Again Sports in Whitby and earning a little income while sharing his knowledge of the

sport. This season he served as an assistant coach with the Whitby Minor Lacrosse U11-2 team, where he helped young players develop their skills, confidence, and love for the game. A certified lifeguard, he also instructs swimming lessons in his backyard pool. During the winter months, he is a coach with the Brimacombe alpine ski racing team, sharing his enthusiasm for sport and mentorship with young athletes.

Josh was also a member of the Brooklin High School’s three time AAA OFSAA Gold medal lacrosse team.





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**TRYING TO TIME
THE BOTTOM OF THE MARKET?**

More than four years have passed since Canada's housing boom ended abruptly in 2022 and many continue to wonder if it's finally safe to use the 'b' word: bottom, as in bottom of the market.

Certainly, as sales, new listings and prices stabilize, economists have started to suggest that the country's deepest housing market correction in recent memory may be coming to an end.

And while those predictions are valuable to would-be buyers and sellers alike – as well as realtors, lenders and developers – The King Home Team: Royal Heritage Realty reminds you that timing your purchase to hit the absolute bottom is harder than you think.

While it's possible prices may go lower yet, they may remain flat or even start to climb. We encourage you to consider how long you're willing to wait. After all, your desire to move is likely based not on the market but on your circumstances.

Let's look at recent statistics. According to the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board (TRREB), Greater Toronto Area resale housing market conditions tightened last month compared to the same month a year earlier. Home sales edged slightly lower over that period, while new listings were down substantially. That suggests active homebuyers faced more competition from other potential purchasers. If this trend continues, average selling prices could level off in the second half of this year.

"With sales accounting for a larger share of listings, buyers may find there is less room to negotiate moving forward," TRREB President Daniel Steinfeld warns. "If current trends continue, home prices could start to level off compared to last year. Many would-be homebuyers are waiting for confidence in the market and broader economy to improve before making a purchase. This includes more clarity on tariffs, inflation and borrowing costs."

While uncertainty about the economy and borrowing costs persists, recent news has

been more positive than expected, TRREB Chief Information Officer Jason Mercer notes. "The latest readings on economic growth and jobs surprised to the upside," he says. "This could help bolster consumer confidence and prompt an uptick in home purchases in the months ahead, especially if home prices stabilize as we move through the fall."

The Central Lakes Association of Realtors® (CLAR) – which encompasses Durham Region, Hastings County, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland County, Peterborough County (including the City of Peterborough) and Prince Edward County – recorded a total of 1,430 home sales in July.

Compared to June, home sales and new listing activity declined across most CLAR Regions, while average sale prices continued to vary by local market. "After several months of increased sales activity, the market saw a more moderate pace in July, while inventory levels remained healthy," CLAR President Christine Riley tells us.

"Market conditions continue to vary across our Region, making it important for buyers and sellers to understand what's happening locally before making informed real estate decisions. A Realtor® can help explain those local trends and provide guidance based on current market conditions."

Durham Region recorded 713 home sales in July, down 12.6 per cent from 816 in June. The average selling price remained relatively stable at \$840,581, down just 1.6 per cent from \$853,827 the previous month. New listings totalled 1,720, providing buyers with continued choice despite a 16.3 per cent decline from June. Homes sold in an average of 29 days.

Still waiting on the sidelines? The King Home Team is here to help you understand what market conditions in our community mean to you. Contact us today!

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