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## Santa pulled over in Grass Park



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## Whitby Council Adopts 2026 Budget

(from [Whitby.ca](http://Whitby.ca))

At a Special Council meeting on Nov. 27, Town Council collaboratively updated Whitby's 2026 Proposed Budget through several amendments, wrapping up this year's budget process.

Mayor Roy confirmed that she will not exercise the power, provided under the Municipal Act, to veto the Council-approved amendments. Whitby's 2026 Budget, as amended, is now considered final and adopted by Council.

The final budget will result in a 3.44 per cent tax increase to the Town's budget or an estimated 1.2 per cent increase on the total residential bill for Town services for 2026. This represents an increase of just over 21 cents (see below) per day, per average household for the delivery of important services residents rely on, like waste collection, snow clearing, and parks maintenance. This budget also focuses on delivering on the key action items of **Whitby's Community Strategic Plan**, investing in Council-approved initiatives like the Whitby Sports Complex and a new fire hall and firefighters to support growth.

The Town's \$198 million

operating budget will support the continued delivery of the Town's programs and services including fire services, waste collection, parks and trails, maintenance of roads and community facilities, recreation, libraries, and many other important services. The budget also includes \$62 million in capital investments like:

- continued construction on the Whitby Sports Complex, Mid-Block Arterial Roadway, and Columbus Road;
- construction of a new Fire Hall in West Whitby, as well as full funding for 20 new firefighters to staff it;
- community events like the Home Sweet Home Festival;
- playground equipment replacement & accessibility improvements at Divine and Folkstone Parks;
- waterfront improvements, including around the Shirley Scott Park;
- new traffic safety and calming measures, including pedestrian crossings and traffic signal replacements/signage; and,
- road maintenance, resurfacing, and reconstruction.

### Quick Facts:

- The budget adopted by

Council builds on and amends the Proposed Mayor's Budget (released November 7) and the Draft Budget (prepared by Staff and released October 27).

- The final Council-adopted 2026 Budget will soon be made available at [whitby.ca/Budget](http://whitby.ca/Budget).
- Provincial legislation requires municipalities like Whitby to approve a balanced budget each year.
- Only 34% of every residential property tax dollar collected stays with the Town. The rest goes to the Region of Durham (55%) and local school boards (11%).
- In a 2025 Greater Toronto Area comparison of residential tax rates and annual property taxes paid on a home assessed at \$500,000, the top two municipalities with the highest taxes sit at over \$7,500 each, while Whitby's are \$6,661.

- The Town has implemented a Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) collected from visitors staying at motels and hotels in Whitby and is looking at other non-tax revenues to mitigate property tax increases. For 2025, the Town is projected to receive over \$600,000 in MAT revenues to be re-invested into the community.
- The Town's tax rebate program to support low-income seniors and low-income homeowners with disabilities will increase to \$543 in 2026. Learn more about how to **apply**.

For more information, visit [connectwhitby.ca/budget](http://connectwhitby.ca/budget).

(from "see below") *\$78 per year for an average Whitby home with an assessment value of \$503,000 as determined by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, 2016.*

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Brooklin's Community Newspaper

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Editor, Richard Bercuson

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Brooklin's History  
**Remembering  
Fantasyland**  
*By Jennifer Hudgins*



Long before new housing developments began to reshape Brooklin, a different community thrived along Baldwin Street, just south of the village, on the banks of Lynde Creek. Locals knew it as Fantasyland Park, though longtime residents might also recall its earlier name, Lyndebrook.

*(This story follows the November 7 BTC article on Gladys Everett and the November 21 feature on Horace Everett, both of whom served in the Second World War.)*

In 1969, the Buchman family of Toronto purchased the park and approached the Everetts, newcomers to Canada from England, about running it. They said yes, embarking on an adventure that would change the course of their lives. When they arrived, there was no house on



the property so they spent their first year in a mobile home style trailer, one without running water. The house they built in 1970 replaced the trailer and made day-to-day life much easier for the young family.

**Year round fun**  
Fantasyland Park was a true four-season operation, although

summer was the busiest. The swimming pool and snack bar were the centre of constant activity, while companies, churches, and cultural groups gathered on the grounds for weekend events. Lynde Creek offered peaceful camping spots, and the lawn areas could hold large crowds.

The largest event of them all was Macedonian Day. Approximately 5,000 people arrived on 45 to 50 buses that filled the entrance field. Fires blazed over giant pits where meat cooked all day. Dancers filled open-air patios while swimmers rotated through the pool in 30-minute shifts. Corporate picnics added to the bustle. Lasco Steel of Whitby used to bring about 1,200

people for their annual summer gathering while countless smaller reunions and club events filled every available weekend.

**And some romances, too**  
Winter meant snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, skating, and warming fires near the snack bar where hot chocolate was served. Inside the banquet hall, weddings, sports banquets, and Friday night dances created a steady rhythm through the colder seasons. Several romances and even marriages began on that small dance floor. When snow fell too heavily, the Everett sons delivered brides and wedding guests to the hall by snowmobile. When Gladys and Horace took over the park, their three children.

*continued on page 5*



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continued from page 4

Lesley, Tim and Daryn were just nine, three, and two years old. Their upbringing was equal parts adventure and responsibility.

Teen jobs

The park also became a second home for cousins (some from England) and local teenagers who worked life-guarding, staffing the snack bar, and taking on the least glamorous jobs, like picking up trash and cleaning outhouses. Many returned year after year and became like family. The park closed in 1980.

Looking back, daughter Lesley wonders what inspired her

parents to take on such a massive undertaking. After revisiting old photo albums, she realized the answer may have originated in England’s popular holiday camps of the 1950s and 60s, places like Butlins, where her parents had spent joyful summers dancing, swimming, competing in funny contests, and celebrating with crowds of families. Perhaps Fantasyland Park was their chance to recreate a version of that magic in their new country.

For Brooklin, and for everyone who spent time in the park, that magic felt real. And for the Everett family, it left a lasting mark.

You’ll get “Hooked” this holiday season!  
The Panto is BACK!



December  
27th-31st  
Town Hall Theatre,  
Port Perry

In the grand British tradition where audiences cheer the hero and boo the villain, Hook shifts the focus of the timeless classic Peter Pan to focus on our anti-hero, the one and only, Captain Hook!

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To see video of the dancers rehearsing visit [www.brooklintowncrier.com](http://www.brooklintowncrier.com)

Garden Club Year End Report

By Rahe Richards

The Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club celebrated its year end on November 26, 2025, with a potluck social and the installation of directors for 2026.

Deputy Mayor Rhonda Mulcahy attended, bringing acknowledgement of our activities and community involvement from the Town.

The recap of our activities included having a sale of donated plants from members’ gardens to the public to help raise funds. A group went for a tour to Richter’s Herb Nurseries for herb growing education and to purchase herbs. They also took the time for lunch at a nearby restaurant to socialize.

The Town of Whitby sponsored three speakers to present interesting topics to complement the six the club brought in. The sponsorship of the speakers by the town is to encourage the Whitby public to participate in and gain knowledge and skills for their gardens. it is part of the Whitby

in Bloom program.

As part of the members gardens tour to see the gardens, members were encouraged to donate food. We collected 207 lbs. of non-perishable food (173 meals) for Feed the Need Durham.

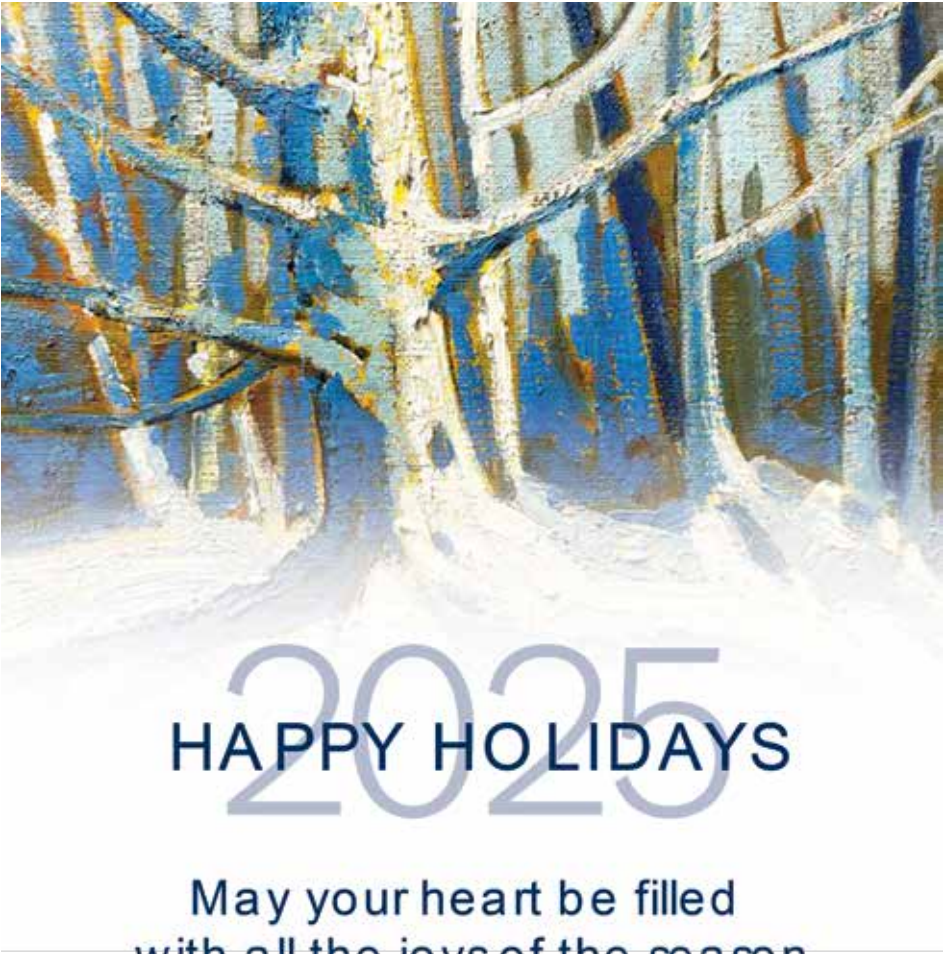
Other activities included the continuing maintenance of three gardens in town: the Brooklin horticultural garden, Park of Reflection and the Station Gallery. We also helped with the planting at Herbert Gardens.

We participated in the Harvest Festival with a stall to showcase the club.

The Garden Club will be on hiatus from December, 2025, to January, 2026, and our new year will begin on February 25, 2026, when our first speaker will be presenting on “weather and climate smart gardening.”

Have a great holiday season and prosperous new year!

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



Mayor Elizabeth Roy  
and Members of Council

Artwork by Robert McAfee “Forest Oaks in Snow, Heber Down Conservation Area”  
RobertMcAfee.com





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# What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby



## Support Operation Cozy Toes and Toy Mountain

Spread warmth and joy this holiday season by supporting Operation Cozy Toes and Toy Mountain. Donate new socks for community members experiencing homelessness and new, unwrapped toys for CTV's Toy Mountain in support of The Salvation Army. Donation barrels are available across Whitby through December 9. The campaign ends with a community event at Celebration Square (405 Dundas Street West) on December 9 from 5 to 7 p.m., featuring holiday performances, children's activities, and a live CTV broadcast. Special thanks to the Downtown Whitby BIA, Whitby Public Library, and the Salvation Army. Learn more at [whitby.ca/Calendar](http://whitby.ca/Calendar)

## Donations for Whitby Animal Services

Whitby Animal Services is collecting holiday donations for animals in their care. Drop items in the donation boxes at Town Hall, the Operations Centre, Whitby Civic Recreation Complex, McKinney Centre, 55+ Recreation Centre, Whitby Fire Headquarters, or the Brooklin Community Centre and Library until December 12. The most-needed items include dog and cat beds, large dog chews (bully sticks), collars, dog harnesses, dry cat food, and cat toys. [whitby.ca/AnimalServices](http://whitby.ca/AnimalServices)



## Enjoy Winter Drop-In Skates and Swims

Take a spin around the rink with your friends and family or enjoy a swim this holiday season. View the schedules at [whitby.ca/Skating](http://whitby.ca/Skating) and [whitby.ca/Swimming](http://whitby.ca/Swimming)

# New Complex Name: Fieldgate Sports Complex

The Town of Whitby is proud to announce that the future Whitby Sports Complex will now be named the Fieldgate Sports Complex, following Council approval of a new \$1.5 million, 10-year naming rights agreement.

A naming rights sponsorship is a financial or land contribution that gives a business or family the opportunity to have a facility, room, or public space named after them, helping to reduce project costs for the community.

As part of the naming rights agreement, the name 'Fieldgate Sports Complex' will be prominently displayed on the building's exterior, with interior recognition throughout the facility.

This agreement will help reduce facility operating costs while creating new recreation opportunities in Whitby. Fieldgate Homes has played a key role in several local real estate projects,

including recent planned and proposed developments in the Brooklin area.

In addition, separate naming agreements have also been established with two Whitby families who each contributed to the project in significant ways. One agreement honours a generous land donation, while the other reflects a financial sponsorship that recognizes the family's historic connection to the site and its legacy within the community. Through these agreements, the outdoor park will now be named Roybrook Park, while a multi-purpose room inside the facility will be named the Mitchell Room after the former Whitby Mayor's family.

Together, these three partnerships represent an important milestone in the construction of the new sports complex, a top priority identified by residents in Whitby's Community Strategic Plan.

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Across Durham Region, homeowners continue to turn to **Beetham Electric** for pot light installations, panel upgrades, accent lighting, additions, full home rewires, and more. And as electric vehicles surge in popularity, the company has become a go-to expert for safe, efficient home EV charger installations.

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# Community Care Durham Launches Giving Campaign

For many residents living on fixed incomes, food insecurity isn't limited to one time of year but it can become especially challenging during the holidays.

That's why Community Care Durham (CCD) launched its annual Season of Giving Campaign on December 2, focused on raising funds to support essential programs, like Meals on Wheels and Community Food Box, so they remain accessible to those who need them the most.

Donations to the Season of Giving Campaign help CCD provide full subsidies to clients in need, keep program fees affordable, and address a growing waitlist for subsidies.

Support for the campaign allows us to continue offering these essential programs that so many residents depend on.

## One family's needs

Among those is the Newbatt family. Angie Newbatt registered her father-in-law, James, for hot Meals on Wheels after he moved in with Angie and her husband,

Wayne, following a hospital stay. While James can care for himself, Angie quickly realized there was one area where he needed some extra support — food.

"He was eating Mr. Noodles," Angie said with a laugh. "I said, Jim, that's not good for you."

Now that James receives Meals on Wheels, it takes a burden off Angie and Wayne, knowing James is being looked after.

"It gives me peace of mind knowing he's getting a proper meal every day," she said.

## Important connections

While Angie appreciates the food, more than that, she values the check-in and connections the volunteers make with James.

"It makes our lives much easier," Angie said. "We don't have to worry about him Monday to Friday. And when we get home at night, he can eat dinner with us." Food security was top of mind when Cait Patrick registered to receive the Community Food Box.

A single mother of two young children, Cait juggles the responsibilities of being a mom, managing a household and making ends meet. A friend suggested she try the Community Food Box, and it was the best decision she made.

"I think it's a good value for what I'm getting, especially since you're getting market-quality veggies," she said.

The free delivery is also appreciated.

"I have a hard time sometimes with both the kids by myself getting to the store, so it can be very helpful having it delivered."

## Thousands of meals

Last year alone, CCD delivered more than 110,000 meals to clients across Durham Region, each meal representing more than nourishment: it's a lifeline of community connection.

The Season of Giving Campaign also encourages local businesses and organizations to get involved by sponsoring Community Food Boxes or

Meals on Wheels for clients in need. CCD also welcomes team-building volunteer opportunities, such as delivering meals.

Volunteers are especially needed for Holiday Food Box deliveries scheduled for Dec. 18 and 19.

No matter the size of the donation — big or small, monetary and through community engagement — it will profoundly impact lives this holiday season and help make it a Season of Giving.

Donations to our Season of Giving Campaign can be made to <https://www.communitycaredurham.on.ca/donate/form/>

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## Tanya Tierney Team

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