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TOWN OF WHITBY

NORTH WARD ONE

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Re-Elect **RHONDA MULCAHY** 
REGIONAL COUNCILLOR - NORTH WARD 1

VOTING STARTS THURSDAY!

SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 5



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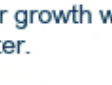
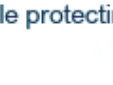
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RE-ELECT ELIZABETH ROY FOR WHITBY MAYOR

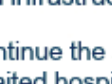
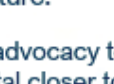
FOR A SAFER, STRONGER WHITBY
ON OCTOBER 26TH



PROVEN LEADERSHIP. REAL RESULTS.

-  First Community Strategic Plan in more than two decades, shaped by thousands of residents. All 62 action items completed or nearing completion.
-  Progress includes advocacy for a new Whitby hospital and an approved planning grant, the opening of the Fieldgate Sports Complex, economic growth and new businesses, waterfront revitalization, community events, more family doctors, school-zone safety tools, a new food bank, and renewed tourism, arts and culture work.
-  Property tax increases came down from 5.78 per cent in 2023 to 3.44 per cent in 2026.
-  Ordered an independent Core Services Review and worked on new revenue sources, including a Municipal Accommodation Tax that brought in \$600,000 in its first full year.

OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

-  Plan responsibly for growth while protecting community character.
-  Improve roads, transit, active transportation and infrastructure.
-  Continue the advocacy to move Whitby's long-awaited hospital closer to construction
-  Strengthen the economy and create local jobs; Revitalize Downtown Whitby, Brooklin and the Waterfront; invest in parks, recreation, culture and gathering spaces.
-  Keep Whitby safe, inclusive and welcoming; protect taxpayers through responsible budgeting, new revenue sources, savings and efficiencies.

EXPERIENCE. RESULTS. READY FOR MORE. LET'S KEEP MOVING WHITBY FORWARD.

RE-ELECT ELIZABETH ROY. FOR A SAFER, STRONGER WHITBY.

E: INFO@ROY4MAYOR.COM | W: ROY4MAYOR.COM

Authorized by the campaign to re-elect Elizabeth Roy for Whitby Mayor

Brooklin TOWN CRIER.com

HALLOWEEN COLOURING CONTEST



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BROOKLIN'S HISTORY

By Jennifer Hudgins

Greendale Farm

Long before Brooklin began to spread westward along Columbus Road, there were farms surrounding the small village. One of those farms, known today as Greendale Farm, has survived for more than 170 years.

Located at 835 Columbus Road West, the property has its roots in Brooklin's early history. John Campbell, who came to Whitby Township in the 1830s, was one of the early settlers who helped establish Winchester, later to become the village of Brooklin. Along with his brother Robert, he operated a mill and store on Cassels Road and helped lay out the village.

He acquired the farm property in 1846, although he did not live there. His son Hiram moved onto the property in the early 1850s. He had first worked as a blacksmith and operated a blacksmith and wagon shop in Brooklin, but eventually turned his attention to farming.

Large Farm

The brick farmhouse that still stands on the property is believed to have been built by Hiram in the early 1850s. The farm was substantial. By 1861, the census recorded that 130 acres were under cultivation and the property was considered one of the more valuable farms in the area. For the growing village of Brooklin, farms such as this were an important part of the community's economic life. Hiram and his family remained there until about 1870.

The farm subsequently came into the hands of the William Green family. An auction of the farm estate was held in 1902, and by the 1920s the property was known as Greendale Farm.

A photograph preserved by the Whitby Library Archives provides a glimpse into the farm's later years. Taken in 1955, it identifies the property as the residence of William Jackson. While this establishes Jackson as a resident of Greendale Farm at that time, it is unknown whether he owned the farm or was living there as a tenant or farm manager.

Original Buildings

Today, Greendale Farm remains an important reminder of Brooklin's agricultural past. The original farmhouse, along with the barn, silo and agricultural land, remains on the property, which has continued to be used as a working farm.

The landscape around

it however, has changed dramatically. Fields that once stretched beyond the farm are increasingly being replaced by roads, houses and new neighbourhoods as Brooklin continues to grow.

The property is now associated with Whitby Con Seven Developments Limited, which is involved in plans for development of the surrounding lands. The historic farmhouse is being retained as part of the heritage process, with the Town of Whitby

having extended the heritage-designation process to May 31, 2027.

Greendale Farm has become more than just an old farmhouse. It is a surviving piece of the agricultural landscape that shaped Brooklin, a reminder of a time when farms, rather than subdivisions, defined the countryside around the village.

While much has changed since Hiram Campbell began farming there in the 1850s, Greendale Farm still stands.



Entrance Driveway, 1936



Proven Leadership • Real Results

Election Day - October 26
Advanced Vote - October 22-25

Dear Neighbours,

I grew up in Brooklin, as did five generations before me. Working in and for my community has become a decades-long commitment, and I am proud that my history of community involvement includes working with *Group 74* and the *Downtown Brooklin Business Association* to bring *Harvest Festival* and *Christmas in the Village* to life. I still bring Santa to Grass Park every year to visit with the kids because I believe traditions like these are something our community values. These events are part of what makes Brooklin special - a community where people come together.

I started *The Brooklin Town Crier* 26 years ago to help unite and inform our growing community. I will always value the opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of our residents, both past and present.

Being your elected representative for the past 10 years has been an honour and a privilege, and I will never take that responsibility for granted. I have entered the race again because I believe there is still work to be done where I can be useful, and I hope you will entrust me with your support on October 26th.

I have been at the doors listening. Affordability, traffic concerns (from our local roads to downtown) community safety, and the next steps for our hospital are among the issues I hear about most often.

Following the election, I want to work with the local Ward Councillor to create a Ward One Strategic Plan. This term, the Town managed 62 action items from the Town-wide Strategic Plan. As I will be representing one ward this time around, I want to focus closely on what is important here at home. And, I want the community to help determine those priorities.

Together, we can accomplish some great things.

I am a strong advocate, as my record shows - not just locally, but beyond. My role with the *Association of Municipalities of Ontario* as Durham Region's representative regularly puts me in the same room as ministers who can help us achieve our goals. I have worked hard over the years to earn respect here at home and across the province.

Let me use that experience and those relationships to help leverage what we need. Let's make a plan. Let's execute it together.

I humbly ask for your support so that, in turn, I can continue to give you mine.

- Rhonda

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 Crawforth 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
*RED DENOTES LOCATIONS IN NORTH WARD BUT YOU CAN VOTE ANYWHERE	Whitby 55+ Recreation Centre 801 Brock St S

Re-Elect

RHONDA

MULCAHY

REGIONAL COUNCILLOR

NORTH WARD 1



Authorized by the Rhonda Mulcahy Campaign

RhondaMulcahy.com
905-213-7403
Rhonda@RhondaMulcahy.com

2025 Newsmaker of the Year

"... it was Whitby Reg. Coun. Rhonda Mulcahy who pushed at every opportunity through repeated motions at Durham regional council, Whitby town council, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and elsewhere, to get the 407 East tolls removed."

- Tim Kelly, Whitby This Week



Elect ONE Regional Councillor in EACH ward!
Bring Me Home!

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What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby



Get Vote-Ready for Whitby's 2026 Municipal Election

Get ready to cast your ballot at any open voting location from October 22 to 26. Check that you're on the Voters' List and watch for your Voter Notification Card in the mail. Each card includes your ward, school support, and qualifying address, along with important information about voting dates and locations. Bring your card with you to help speed up the voting process. Learn more at whitby.ca/VOTE

No Overnight Parking Starting November 1

A reminder that overnight on-street parking is not permitted on roads from November 1 to April 15. The annual seasonal restriction is in place so snow plow operators can clear away ice and snow quickly and easily during the hours when there is less traffic and impact on drivers. whitby.ca/Snow



Do You Need Help This Winter?

Are you a Whitby senior (65+) or a resident who is physically unable to clear snow? You may qualify for seasonal windrow clearing service. The application portal for Whitby's Windrow Snow Clearing Service is now open to the public and processing of new applications is underway. All applications must be submitted by November 1, 2026. Find out if you're eligible and apply today at whitby.ca/Snow



Celebrating Youth Awards – Nominate a Young Leader

Do you know a young person making a difference in Whitby? Help celebrate their leadership and contributions by nominating them for a 2026 Celebrating Youth Award. Submit your nomination by October 23 at whitby.ca/YouthEvents

DRPS Alert Public to High Risk Offender Release on October 11

Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) is alerting the public to a high-risk offender who will be released. This individual has a history of serious criminal convictions, including Sexual Assault, Sexual Assault with a Weapon, Assault with a Weapon, Assault, Robbery, Possession of Explosives, Uttering Threats, and multiple violations of probation orders.



Keith Theodore CONSTANTIN, age 48, poses a significant risk to the community, especially children. DRPS will continue to monitor CONSTANTIN's whereabouts and activities. He is bound by an order under section 810.2 of the Criminal Code of Canada. His conditions under this section include:

- Wear a GPS monitoring device at all times
- Abide by a curfew from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- Mandatory reporting to DRPS on a weekly basis
- Not to associate or communicate with anyone under the age of 16, or engage in any activities that involve contact with anyone under the age of 16
- Not to own or possess any weapons
- Abstain absolutely from the possession, purchase, or consumption of drugs, narcotics or controlled substances, except in accordance with a medical prescription
- Abstain absolutely from possession, purchase, or consumption of alcohol or alcohol-based products
- Not to associate with anyone involved in criminal activities or known to have a criminal record
- Not to be present in any daycare, swimming area, and/or public swimming area, school ground, or playground where one might reasonably expect children to be present, or any community centre where children under 16 are present
- Not to attend any public place

such as a mall where persons under the age of 16 are present or can be reasonably expected to be present unless accompanied by someone over the age of 21

- Not to enter into any relationships with a person who is the legal guardian of children under the age of 16
- Not to use the internet or other digital networks
- Not to be in possession of any device capable of accessing the internet
- Notify the DRPS or a designate in the police jurisdiction to which you are residing, prior to leaving your jurisdiction of residence, including any travel itinerary and destination plans

Police are asking the public to stay vigilant and remain aware of their surroundings. Any suspicious or dangerous behaviour should be reported directly to the police.

Under Regulation 412/23 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, a chief of police or his designate may disclose information about an individual if he reasonably believes the individual poses a significant risk of harm to other persons or property and believes that such disclosure would reduce that risk.

Anyone with information about CONSTANTIN is asked to contact the DRPS Offender Management Unit at 1-888-579-1520 ext. 5357. Anonymous information can be sent to Durham Regional Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.durhamregionalcrimestoppers.ca, and tipsters may be eligible for a cash reward.

Christmas MARKETS

TWO UNIQUE EVENTS + SHOP LOCAL + SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 + 9 AM - 3 PM

ST. THOMAS' Merry MARKET

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Visit Santa
Capture a Special Christmas Memory
12 PM - 3 PM

BBQ
12 PM - 2 PM

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- CUT THE MAYOR'S \$318,666 COMPENSATION
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- FIGHT THE PROPOSED 10% REGIONAL TAX HIKE
- LAUNCH THE WHITBY FOUNDATION - RAISE \$100M
- PROMOTE/PRESERVE DOWNTOWN BROOKLIN
- MANAGE GROWTH RESPONSIBLY
- AND SO MUCH MORE...

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FOR A SPECIAL
MESSAGE



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LEAHY
MAYOR
CHRISLEAHY.CA





LyndaYardley.com
✉ lynda@lyndayardley.com





sri4trustee.ca
✉ srimyla4trustee@gmail.com



LYNDA YARDLEY

CPA

Priorities for Student Success

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- Strong academic foundations in literacy, math, science, and critical thinking
- Safe, respectful classrooms where teachers can teach and every student can learn

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

- Real parent voice – listening to families and giving them a strong advocate at the board table
- Community priorities and values

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Responsible spending directed to the classroom
- Keeping families fully informed

SRI MYLAVARAPU

BESc
MBA

Preparing Students for the Future

STRONG FOUNDATIONS

- Reading, writing, and STEM

URGENT SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

- Identify learning gaps, special needs, and mental health issues

TECHNOLOGY AND TRADES

- Focus on AI readiness and skilled trades

REAL WORLD READINESS

- Financial literacy, career planning, and workplace skills

Students deserve more than a diploma.
They deserve a bright future!

VOTE LYNDA AND SRI FOR DDSB TRUSTEE

Authorized by the campaigns for Lynda Yardley and Sri Mylavarapu



RE-ELECT



VOTE EARLY!

Election Day - October 26, 2026
Advance Polls - October 22-25th



NEW WHITBY HOSPITAL AND HEALTHCARE CLOSER TO HOME



COMMUNITY SAFETY, TRAFFIC CONGESTION, AND SAFER STREETS FOR EVERYONE



FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY. KEEPING WHITBY TAXES AFFORDABLE & MAKING EVERY \$ COUNT



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS & NEW JOBS



PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

Steve LEE

North Ward Councillor

"Your Voice for Whitby"

Leadership • Experience • Integrity

"I have lived in Brooklin with my family for the past 20 years, and serving the North Ward since 2018!"

My Priorities for Brooklin & Whitby

- Affordability & Lower Taxes
- A New Whitby Hospital
- Safer Roads & Communities
- Responsible Growth Planning
- Economic Development & Jobs

I need your help to make this happen and would greatly appreciate your support and vote on **October 26, 2026**

Steve Lee



VOTE STEVE LEE.CA

Authorized by the Steve Lee Campaign

416-895-2455
votestevelee@gmail.com
f @SteveLeeWhitby

Authorized by the campaign for Steve Lee

Less than half the picture: Who? What? Why?



By Richard
Bercuson

This consequential election's outcomes will be significant. Our choices will affect how decisions will be made about addressing our rapid population growth and the economic pressures people are facing.

Moreover, since the landscape and community priorities have undergone a sea change, it's now a mug's game to dissect and analyze previous municipal elections. They will tell us nothing.

In 2022, when regional councillors were Whitby-wide (no longer), Rhonda Mulcahy garnered the most votes, even more than Elizabeth Roy did for mayor. This in an election where only 23.26% of eligible voters stepped up, itself a shockingly low number.

Today, it means zilch. Only she and Maleeha Shahid are running for ward regional councillor positions. Chris Leahy is chasing the mayoralty and his frequent twin Steve Yamada is challenging Shahid in the east ward although he lives in the north ward.

Mulcahy, Whitby's rep on the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) board, has three opponents. One has been non-existent while the other two are Tracy Brown, a former DDSB board chair, and, coincidentally, former DDSt trustee Christine Thatcher, another of Leahy disciples.

Let's also examine what has been barely mentioned: the Ford government's passing last spring of Bill 100, the Better Regional Governance Act. It would best be renamed The Better Regional Governance Through Who We Say Will Be Your Regional Chair Act. It replaced our regional chair election with a provincially appointed position while providing the appointee so-called strong chair powers. The AMO had plenty to say about it and published recommendations on its site.

In Brooklin, Steve Lee had no challengers in 2022, winning by acclamation. This time, newcomer Jay White is vying for the role along with another one of Leahy's acolytes, Anastasia Brown, who doesn't live in the ward and mostly puppets his talking points. But after two terms, it's fair to ask if Lee is worthy of a third. Or is it time for a keen, homegrown newbie to prove he will not just listen but will act?

As to the mayoralty race, if the debate "circus" of Sept. 24 was a bellwether, taxes and affordability are core issues. All the while remember that about 55% of our tax bill is from the region and another 11% for the school board.

Social media is littered with an array of patently false AI content, inaccuracies, exaggerations, and even ripoffs from TV shows which perhaps violate copyright laws. The source is the Leahy campaign and its dubious connections with the right wing

outlet Rebel News. Is that what Whitby needs or wants?

Still, does Elizabeth Roy deserve a second try? What has she learned from her first term? Has she provided Whitby the kind of leadership it needs and will need in a trying economy?

This is not the time for strategic voting, to pick an alternative because you don't care for the lead choices or, worse, by not voting at all.

Each of us needs to be mindful of the impact and step up.

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DOORS OPEN AT 1PM

**THESE WEASELS
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**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8, 2026**

7:00 PM

SECTION 103, ROW 30

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PRIZE VALUE
~\$500**

RAFFLE TICKETS: 1 FOR \$5 | 3 FOR \$10
AVAILABLE AT THE BROOKLIN LEGION BAR

Proceeds will go to the Kitchen Fund. Draw will take place during the Kitchen Fundraiser Event on October 24th.

56 BALDWIN ST, BROOKLIN

Legion Begins Fundraiser with Special Event

Brooklin Legion Branch 152 is holding its first fundraiser to replace its existing kitchen on October 24 at 8 pm. The current kitchen must be removed and rebuilt with new foundations and all-new equipment so the branch can keep serving cost-effective meals to veterans, members, and the wider community.

The event features These Weasels, a local band well known in the community. Tickets are \$25, limited availability, and can be purchased online at brooklinlegion.org.

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Next Issue: Friday, November 6, 2026
Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2026

Municipal Election 2026 - Mayoralty candidates' questions & answers:

In this fourth and final edition of the BTC's 2026 election coverage, we take a different approach from the previous three issues where all candidates were asked the same questions to serve as a means of comparison. Please visit brooklintowncrier.com then Election Platforms to read the answers provided by candidates for school board trustee, Ward 1 councillor and North Ward regional councillor.

However, for the mayoral election, each candidate was given questions shaped to

their views and experience. None has seen the questions provided to the others.

Each candidate was asked to respond in a total of 500 words for all three of their questions. They were also asked to provide headshot photos and, if they chose, contact information. (Note: The questions themselves were not part of the 500 word allotment.)

(Candidate Harshini Rajmohan did not follow the prescribed requirements and so we cannot publish her responses.)

Mayoral Q&A continues on page 10

Mayoral Q&A continued from page 9



Chris LEAHY

Q1 - Last April, Whitby council voted 7-1 to suspend your pay for one month following an Integrity Commissioner report that found you breached the Code of Conduct regarding interactions with municipal staff. You publicly maintained that you did nothing wrong.

Given the friction and Code of Conduct findings during this past term, how do you intend to rebuild trust and establish a collaborative, professional relationship with the public service employees you would be leading?

The bigger question is: how does the Town of Whitby want to treat employees who raise red flags and provide solutions? Some suggest I was made to be an example in order to send staff a message: “shut up” or be reprimanded.

I was elected to represent residents. I swore an oath to do so to the best of my ability. That includes residents who aren’t yet old enough to vote or pay taxes. When the father of a young boy who was hit by a car reached out to all councillors, I responded. I moved a motion to install a crossing guard at the intersection in question.

Staff publicly stated that the street was signed at 60 km/h and suggested that it didn’t qualify for a crossing guard under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA). Council deferred a decision based on this information. Unfortunately, both facts were wrong. The street was signed at 50 km/h, and the HTA allows crossing guards at streets signed

at 60 km/h.
The community was furious. I wrote the staff member an email explaining the situation, and additionally I used social media to inform the community about my next steps.

As a result of my advocacy, not only was the error corrected, but the speed was reduced to 40km/h and crossing guards were hired, making it safer for children and seniors.

After the conclusion of this matter, the CAO of the Town of Whitby, who reports to the Mayor, filed a complaint with the Integrity Commissioner. Then the mayor and council voted to sanction me by withholding one month’s pay. If losing one month’s pay is the cost of getting those crossing guards posted and the speed limit reduced to save children from catastrophe, I would do it again in a heartbeat.

The Liz Roy administration has perpetuated a culture of fear. My reprimand is “EXHIBIT 1” in that argument. My administration will create a culture where diverse opinions and new ideas are embraced. And yes, employees will be encouraged to highlight our mistakes, warts and all.

Q2 - You (and Councillor Steve Yamada) launched a discrimination case with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal against the town and several council colleagues despite being advised it had no chance of success. The tribunal dismissed the applications, stating they had no reasonable prospect of success. Mayor Elizabeth Roy criticized the resulting \$53,000+ in taxpayer-funded legal fees. You stated that the town’s choice to spend that money to defend a ‘\$3 claim’ was the real example of poor financial decision-making.

When you chose to pursue this after previous investigations found no evidence of discrimination, how did you weigh your

personal convictions against the potential financial risk to Whitby taxpayers? What does this tell voters about how you calculate the financial and political costs of taking a stand under public scrutiny?

When a plaintiff sues for \$3 and an apology, the financial risk is \$3 and perhaps loss of face. No private sector executive in their right mind would spend \$53,000 defending a \$3 legal claim; unless they were using someone else’s money. In this case, it appears that the mayor and council used \$53,000 of taxpayers’ money in order to avoid saying the magic words “I’m sorry”.

Q3 - You state you are a taxpayer rights advocate, promising a proposed two-year property tax freeze and opposing recent tax hikes. Still, the town is dealing with intense growth, inflation, and provincial cost-downloading.

If freezing taxes means you are forced to make choices between cutting local services or delaying critical infrastructure, how will you make those choices and explain which community programs or road projects get cut to keep that promise?

In 2018, the Town of Whitby established that the maximum cost of debt repayments not surpass 12% of the town’s net revenue. This hard cap hinders our ability to reduce the tax burden for residents in their time of hardship. I could think of no better time than this affordability crisis to modestly increase the debt service level well under the provincial maximum in order to reduce the tax burden without cutting services. The only cut I will make is to the mayor’s \$318,666 annual compensation.

WEBSITE: <https://chrisleahy.ca/>
Social: [Facebook.com/ChrisLeahyforMayor](https://www.facebook.com/ChrisLeahyforMayor)
PHONE: 289-645-9222



Elizabeth ROY

1. Prior to winning the mayoralty in 2022, you stated that “strong-mayor powers” would not be healthy for the community. But within two years, you reversed your position and successfully used those powers to implement a multi-year budget. Critics, including some council colleagues, accused you of backtracking on a core democratic campaign promise.

How do you reconcile changing your stance with the promise of collaborative governing you made in 2022? Why should voters view your pivot as an evolution of leadership and how will this benefit Whitby in a second term?

There is an important context missing from this question: I did not advocate for or request strong mayor powers. The province imposed them on Whitby in 2023, alongside 25 other municipalities.

My concerns about concentrating authority have not changed. Neither has my commitment to collaboration.

Provincial legislation requires the mayor of a municipality to prepare and propose the budget. Council can debate and amend it. That is exactly what happened with our multi-year budget: residents provided input; councillors debated the proposal, and Council unanimously approved the final budget amendment.

Beyond that mandated budget role, I have exercised these powers very sparingly and my approach continues to be building consensus and working through decisions with Council.

Every strong mayor decision is transparent and publicly available on the Town’s website.

2. Your platform centres on affordability, pointing to over \$2 million in line-by-line savings achieved in the 2026 town budget. Yet residents still grapple with multi-year property tax increases, such as the 4.5% hike implemented for 2025. Opponents are promising property tax freezes. You state that controlling taxes requires responsible financial leadership rather than simple election promises. For voters dealing with tax hikes, why is your line-by-line model a more sustainable path than the tax freezes pitched by your challengers?

I recognize that even small tax increases put pressure on household budgets. Residents deserve evidence that we are challenging those costs and finding ways to reduce them. First, the facts: Whitby’s 2025 budget increase was 3.99 per cent, not 4.5. In 2026, it fell to 3.44 per cent. My approach is to keep bringing those numbers down, challenge spending line by line, find efficiencies in how the Town delivers services, and develop reliable revenue beyond property taxes. In my first term as mayor, property tax increases came down every year.

In 2026 we found over \$2 million in savings, froze new staff hires and introduced revenue beyond property taxes such as the new visitor tax on hotel and motel stays. I also took the additional step of ordering an independent review of how Town services are delivered, so we can find further savings and efficiencies. Freezing taxes for two years by draining reserve funds just postpones the bill -- and makes it bigger. Town staff have confirmed that a two-year freeze would mean a 10 per cent tax increase in year three or approximately \$14 million in cuts.

3. Your first term has been marked by internal friction which has cost taxpayers more than \$167,000 in code of conduct and third-party investigations, a month’s pay

suspension for your primary challenger, and a Human Rights Tribunal application against you that was dismissed. While you have publicly condemned these as a ‘pattern of misinformation’ and toxic gridlock, a mayor is ultimately responsible for council’s decorum and functionality. Reflecting on the term’s dysfunction, what lessons do you take away about your ability to unite a divided council, and how do you intend to foster a more stable, professional environment?

Council takes an oath to work for the betterment of our community, and I take that responsibility seriously.

As mayor, I have a duty to set the tone and lead by example, but every member of Council is responsible for their own conduct.

Residents are right to be frustrated by the conflict and the cost of investigations.

At the same time, accountability matters. When there are allegations of misconduct, mistreatment of staff, or misinformation that undermines public trust, those concerns cannot simply be ignored.

My lesson from this term is that a strong Council culture needs clear expectations about conduct.

I will work with the new Council to establish shared expectations early, and support that work through orientation on our procedures and code of conduct, and direct conversations to address any concerns. Despite the challenges, Council delivered significant progress on the priorities residents identified. My focus will be on building a respectful, professional environment that allows us to keep moving Whitby forward.

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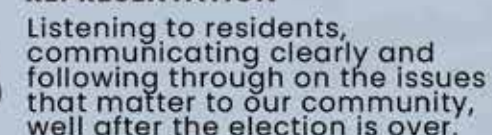
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