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### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS BTC:**

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Bidding Wars becomes Soldingo...... page 5 Brooklin Baffler: Black History Month...... page 6 Plant-based eating: In love with easy...... page 6 Blooming in Brooklin: Seeding...... page 7 Ward One: New hires settling in...... page 7



### Less than Half the Picture By Richard Bercuson



## The "Fine-r" Side of Drop-offs

On behalf of Brooklin High School, whose principal Warren Palmer did not give me permission to do this, I wish to thank the many fine folks who've recently donated \$160 to the Town of Whitby coffers. Some may not yet know of their donations, but the proof will be in the mail shortly.

First, a clarification, Your \$160 does not get siphoned to BHS for educational accoutrements such as traffic bouncers. If such a person existed, they would be large muscle-bound people who glare at you when you park where you shouldn't to let your teenager off at the school.

No, those dollars go to Whitby where they probably slosh around and squirt out as a decrease to the proposed tax increase. Thanks to your generosity, we will each pay a fraction less in taxes next year, perhaps as much as \$2.74 (rounded) per household. Mighty big of you, all for the sake of a really poor parking decision.

Meanwhile, BHS wrestles with this: Where oh where should people drop off their teen snowflakes to get them as close to their lockers as possible? We have the correct answer, the bad answer, and the good-grief answer.

The correct answer is to use the school's circular roadway, designed for this very purpose. It has three kiss 'n' ride areas, as inaptly named as one could have chosen for high schoolers exiting cars. Hug 'n' Ride would have been acceptable. Fist Bump 'n' Ride even better.

The bad answer is what folks are doing. It's become such an issue

that the school has had to add a Traffic Flow bulletin to its website to explain ever so politically correctly that folks are parking illegally and, well, dumbly and to please get with it. Getting with it translates to, "Teenagers do not need door-todoor service, except for the prom,

The good-grief answer? Teenagers are generally ambulatory. BTC's Research Department has uncovered studies which show that the typical adolescent can manage a one kilometre walk in about 14 minutes. Add 20 seconds for each transported math textbook and perhaps another minute to account for dawdling, chatting and texting. But it's still a reasonable time frame. This contrasts with research about elementary age children who are incapable of walking in straight lines since everything in their path becomes a plaything.

Thanks to the prescience of the town and developers, sidewalks throughout Brooklin have made walking so much safer and cleaner than in the old days when kids had to dodge piles of horse patties on the cobblestones. And don't get me started on the truants who'd harass students with pointy sticks.

The only exception to teens walking I could abide by would be the BHS hockey players and their equipment bags - even the wheeled ones - on game or practice days. At least they need to conserve their energy for their run to the provincials (see the story on page....)

The others? Good grief.

## **Male Attempts to Lure Child** in Vehicle in Brooklin

posite sketch of a male suspect who tried to lure a child into a vehicle in Brooklin on January 24, 2017. More images of the suspect vehicle have also been released. The suspect is described as male, white and approximately 65-years-old with Anonymous information can be grey hair and a full white beard.

The suspect vehicle is described as a four-door grey or silver vehicle. The licence plate may contain the letters BTTV. The images can be found at drps.ca under Newsroom.

Investigators have released a com- Anyone with any new information regarding this incident is asked to contact D/Constable Sullivan of Central West Criminal Investigations Bureau at 1-888-579-1520 ext. 1847.

> 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 \$2,000 cash

## **Whitby Awarded Bicycle Friendly Status**

The Town of Whitby, along with With 15 applications, this was also Cambridge, Collingwood, Cornwall, and Temiskaming Shores, has been recognized with a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) bronze award, as announced by The Share the Road Cycling Coalition (Share the Road), a provincial non-profit organization working to build a bicycle friendly Ontario.

Kingston, London and Markham were all renewed at the Bronze level designation, with Honourable Mentions being given to Belleville, Essex, Midland and Norfolk County.

The Bicycle Friendly Communities (BFC) Program, an initiative of the Washington-based League of American Bicyclists, was launched in Ontario in 2010 by Share the Road with support from the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) South Central Ontario. The program provides incentives, hands-on assistance and award-recognition for communities that actively support bicycling. Municipalities are judged in five categories often referred to as the Five "E's" of being bicycle friendly: Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Encouragement and Evaluation & Planning. A community must demonstrate achievements in each of the five categories in order to be considered for an award. The award categories are: Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond.

Applicants for awards ranged from smaller than 10,000 residents to more than 366,000 residents and represented all parts of Ontario.

the largest round of the Bicycle Friendly Communities Program since the program began.

"Share the Road is thrilled to recognize this new group of Bicycle Friendly Communities," said Jamie Stuckless, Executive Director of Share the Road. "The continued expansion of the Bicycle Friendly Communities Program is indicative of the growing interest in cycling across the province. With 66% of Ontario residents agreeing that investing in cycling benefits everyone, not just people who bike, the case is clear for communities of all shapes and sizes to invest in providing their residents with the option to choose cycling.'

### For information, contact:

Jamie Stuckless, Executive Director (905) 233-2273 ext. 100, jamie@ sharetheroad.ca

Justin Jones, Bicycle Friendly Community Program Coordinator (905) 233-2273 ext. 110, justin@ sharetheroad.ca

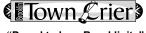
Join the local Rotary Satellite Club at the

2nd Annual Service Club Meeting
upstairs at the

Brooklin Pub on Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

This is a community meeting open to all. Service groups are welcome to come share ideas. Community members are welcome to attend to see what Brooklin has to offer.

Please RSVP to mulcahy42@rogers.com



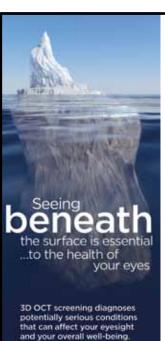
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Next Issue: Friday, March 3, 2017



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## **BHS Students Fundraise for Children's Wish Foundation**



This group of Brooklin High students (and one from All Saints) raise \$2500 last weekend at the Oshawa Generals game to support the Children's Wish Foundation.

Back Row (left to right): Brittany Cornacchia, Lindsay Bryant, Sarah Grassl, Dylan Hayman, Dylan Mallen, Victoria Heaney, Elena Kalpakis, Autumn Gervais Middle Row (left to right): Desarae Bank-Gillis, Kaitlin Shanks, Lexi Fitzpatrick, Carolyn Fitzpatrick, Sarah Matthews, Logan Challis Front: Sam Utrosa (All Saints HS)

Photo by Jane Fitzpatrick from Children's Wish Foundation

## **Brooklin High's Hockey Team Aiming for OFSAA**

By Ali Siddiqui

With March break approaching, high school hockey teams are aiming for the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OF-SAA) provincial championships in Mississauga.

Locally, Brooklin High School's roster of 20 skaters and 3 goalies has been serving up some fine hockey this season, with only two losses in their last 20 games, and are now in first place.

"The talent in Brooklin is very strong," says Coach Ethan Markham, who calls Brooklin "a hockey hotbed."

"There are a lot of gifted guys," he says, "which translates to a lot of goals. The team has an unmatched offense throughout the league and hopefully the province."

They've been practising vigorously every Tuesday morning at Vipond Arena. If everything goes well, they'll be playing the 8th seeded team in the quarter finals. From there, they could advance to the semi-finals and then the two-game series final.

To reach OFSAA, the team must win LOSAA (Lake Ontario Secondary School Athletics), which will be in late February.

"We've had our minds set on OF-SAA all year, preparing our team for the hard battle to be champions," says centre Chris Talman. "Mr. Snowden, Mr. Markham, and Mr. St. Louis have been making sure we're playing our best every time that puck drops and we know the same will continue through the OFSAA playoffs."

Coach Markham credits their outstanding performances to date with how close the players are with one another. "The nice thing about high school hockey," he says, "is that they're playing with friends they've grown up with, which leads to better teamwork."

Hockey has become one of the new school's focal points and right now all eyes are on this squad's hopes for a run at provincial gold in March.

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The selection process for this test period will end March 31st, 2017.

See the list of clinics below or visit **ListenUPcanada.com** 

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- Oshawa | 470 King Street West | Call Lyndsay or Abigail at 1-888-237-1595
- Pickering | 1848 Liverpool Road | Call Jennifer at 1-888-237-1663
- Whitby | 604 Garden Street | Call Paula at 1-888-237-2816



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### **Our Brooklin Kids By Leanne Brown**



## **What Facilities Does Brooklin Need?**

for being very kid-friendly. Take a walk in any neighbourhood and you'll see

energetic kids out on bikes and scooters, ball diamonds in full use, and mom and baby group stroller convoys cruising the sidewalks. The Brooklin Community Centre and Library buzz with families taking in story-time and toddlers toddling in the gym. Local elementary schools and churches host a variety of programs.

But as Whitby moves ahead with its secondary plan, it raises a question: what facilities will we need as our population increases? Every community needs places where our kids can grow up and that bring families together. Recreation facilities can ensure that families moving into the new developments can grow along with the community. So then, what do we need?

#### More ice!

Brooklin has just one rink. The aging Luther Vipond arena serves kids from all over Whitby, not just Brooklin. Yet most Brooklin kids also travel to McKinney, Iroquois, Canlan and Legends for their ice time. More Brooklin ice

Brooklin has a reputation would allow kids to play in their own community. Whitby also has only one dedicated figure skating surface at McKinney. (yes, the ice is different) The Whitby Figure Skating club has numerous skating programs that fill up fast. A multi-purpose ice surface without boards in Brooklin could provide more accessible space for figure skating, learn to skate programs and public skating.

### More water!

When the new community centre was built a few years ago, many of us were hoping for a pool. Alas it was not to be. As a child, I practically lived at our local outdoor pool in the summer. It was a place to take lessons, meet my friends and enjoy fun evening events like BBQs and themed parties that brought the community together. A pool with an adjacent splash park would be welcomed by Brooklin families. It would also provide another option for lessons and classes besides Ottebrite and the CRC pools.

### More arts!

The Station Gallery is an amazing creative place. Brooklin could use a similar location. We need a facility with spaces for theatre, dance, music and art; a facility that embraces local culture, educates, connects and inspires our community. An arts hub would be great for budding artists to learn their craft. And what better way to celebrate the diversity and heritage of our community than to showcase local talent and artists?

Basically, we need something like the Iroquois Sports Centre, Legends (Oshawa) or the Ajax Community Centre. We need a multi-pad facility, one that would support the popularity of hockey and lacrosse, not to mention having a full-sized indoor pool our kids would love. Such a facility would provide jobs and bring business to our growing village while easing the strain on other Whitby rinks.

Consider the value of an accessible space for theatre and music along with an arts studios to develop local talent and culture, one surrounded by parkland, sports fields, a skate park, splash pad and playground.

Now if the town could manage all this without raising our property taxes. Brooklin would be a wonderful location for not just annual the spring fair but also local festivals, culture in the park, charity and sports events and maybe even a local farmer's marketplace.

Till then, I'm loading the car up for yet another trek down to Iroquois.



"I'm not a baby 'cause I don't cry."

Wed., Feb. 22, 7 pm

Brooklin Horticultural Society Membership & Think Spring Meeting: BHS starts off its year with its annual Membership meeting, welcoming our returning & new members alike. Gini Sage, a Durham Master Gardener with over 30 years of gardening experience will be our guest speaker. She will present "Starting from Seed," providing the knowledge and skills to be successful at starting seeds at home for planting in the spring. Come early & enjoy our social time before the meeting. At the Brooklin United Church, 19 Cassels Rd. E.

Mon., Feb. 27, 10 am - 3 pm

Bake sale at the Brooklin IDA Pharmacy on Baldwin St. in support of the local pet rescue group Lotsadogs Rescue. Everything is \$2, or 3 for \$5

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 5 - 7 pm

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Brooklin United Church (19 Cassels Rd. E.). All you can eat pancakes, with sausages, fruit cocktail and refreshments. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12 (under 5 free). Call ahead for tickets: 905-655-4141. Come and join in some old-fashioned community fun!

Sat., March 18 - 9:00 am - Landmark

Cinemas 24 Whitby
The Optimist Club of Brooklin Proudly Presents: A Morning at the Movies with Beauty and the Beast

(Movie will start at 10:00 am) ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY - \$10.00 per child (3-13 years old) and \$10.00 per adult. Babes in arms are free

Calling all princes and princesses of Brooklin. Princess Belle requests the honour of your presence at a private screening of Beauty and the Beast. Wear your favourite costume or gown You will have an opportunity to meet Princess Belle and other surprise guests and enjoy other special surprises.

gracebrooklinoptimist-Contact club@gmail.com or purchase tickets at https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/optimist-club-of-brooklin-morning-atthe-movies-beauty-and-the-beasttickets-31176681293

Mondays 6:30-7 pm: French Family Storytime: Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to join Madame Sue for our weekly French Family Storytime! Enjoy a half

please email it to editorofBTC@gmail.com with the subject line "calendar." Priority will be given to Brooklin events. Some editing may occur. hour of stories and songs in French, with a dash of English too!

If you have a community not-for-profit event you would like included in the calendar,

Registration is not required. Just drop

LOCATION: Central Library - Children's Program Room

Tuesdays: Brooklin Toastmasters, 7:15 pm for Meet & Greet, Meeting from 7:20 to 9:14 pm at the Brooklin Community Centre & Library, 8 Vipond Road, 2nd floor Boardroom. For more information, contact John at 905-683-4439 or jajhj@sympatico.ca or Loran Weston-Smyth at lorn@lornawestonsmyth.com or 416-910-4109. Brooklin Toastmasters provides a supportive and positive environment where members have the opportunity to develop their communication and leadership skills.

Basic Foot Care: Community Care Durham provides basic foot care services by registered foot care nurses on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at St. Thomas' Anglican Church. Please call 905-668-6223 for more information.

Thursday evenings: Love to sing! The Brooklin United Church adult choir welcomes new voices to join us. Practices are Thursday evenings 7:30 - 9:00 pm. You do not need to read music to be part of the choir. Practice CD's are made available. For more information, please call the church office at 905-655-4141 or by email at office@brooklinunited.ca

### CLASSIFIEDS

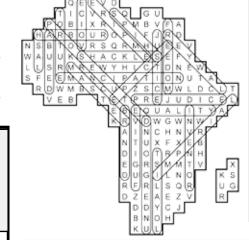
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### Brooklin's Guide to Home Based Businesses



### **Photos** by Dianne

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# **WORSHIP**DIRECTORY

### **Burns Presbyterian Church**

765 Myrtle Rd West

(just 4 minutes north of Brooklin) 10am Worship, Kids Zone Fun & Nursery Care "Discovering God, Sharing God's Love"

**905.655.8509** www.Burnschurch.org

### St. Thomas' Anglican Church

101 Winchester Road East Sunday Services: 8:30 and 10:30 am Sunday School & Nursery Program (10:30am) Wednesday 10:00 a.m. Communion and Healing Service

905-655-3883

www.stthomasbrooklin.ca

### **Brooklin United Church**

19 Cassels Rd. E. Sunday Services at 10:30 am Sunday School & Nursery Care www.brooklinunited.ca 905-655-4141 Come catch the Spirit!

### Renaissance **Baptist Church of Brooklin**

40 Vipond Road (Just West Of Library) Sunday Worship & Kids Program 10:30 a.m. 905-655-4554 www.brooklinrbc.ca We're here for Brooklin!

## **Beware of Water Treatment Sales Tactics in Durham**

The Regional Municipality of Durham would like to remind residents that the Region does not sell or endorse water filters or treatment equipment. The Region has been contacted by concerned residents inquiring about door-to-door salespersons who want access to test the water or examine the water meters.

"Some of these individuals make false or misleading statements about water quality and/or the mandatory replacement of water meters," says John Presta, Director of Environmental Services. "The Region provides clean, safe drinking water, which meets provincial water quality standards. Our water undergoes daily monitoring and testing and does not require further filtration or monitoring at residents' expense."

If someone shows up at your door, remember the following to protect your-self from scams:

- Ask for identification. All Regional employees and authorized contractors carry photo ID.
- Did you request this house call? Regional staff will not visit without sending an official letter and/or scheduling an appointment.
- Call the visiting organization, or the Region, to confirm that the visit is legitimate.
- Don't feel pressured to sign contracts on the spot, or to let anyone into your home.
- Never give out your personal information.

The Regional Municipality of Durham provides safe drinking water to residents through the municipal water supply system, meeting Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. The quality and safety of the Region's water is confirmed at an accredited laboratory, which is licensed by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change—a requirement of the Ontario Drinking Water Regulations set by the province of Ontario.

Information on water quality testing is available from the Region by contacting the Works Department at **905-668-7711**, and from our Water Quality Reports, available online at **www.dur-ham.ca/water**.

The Region of Durham has established a Residential Meter Replacement/Upgrade program with its contractor, Neptune Technology Group, to replace or upgrade the meters in homes at no charge to residents. If the meter at your premises requires replacement or an upgrade, and before contractors show up, you will receive an official letter from the Region of Durham notifying you of the upcoming water meter replacement or upgrade. You will also receive a letter from Neptune Technology Group advising you of how to book your appointment. The letter requests that residents set up an appointment with the contractor. Neptune installers will arrive on the arranged date; they are uniformed, carry ID, and are highly skilled to ensure a professional installation.

### Whitby Chamber of Commerce Announces New CEO

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Natalie Prychitko to the role of Chief Executive Officer, effective February 27, 2017.

Natalie brings over 25 years of experience to the Chamber with the most recent 15 years spent with the Ontario Lottery & Gaming Corporation (OLG). Natalie has held progressively more senior positions within OLG, including the Director of Marketing and Social Responsibility, Director of Lottery Transformation, and most recently the Director

of the Change Management Office, which focused on the modernization of the OLG.

Natalie is experienced in managing large projects with multiple stakeholders, significant budgets, complex operations and policy considerations. She also brings deep experience in managing marketing, advertising, and branding campaigns. Her passion for building strong relationships and driving operational efficiencies will be a tremendous asset to the Whitby Chamber.

## Passing of Regional Councillor Nancy Diamond

The Regional Municipality of Durham sends its deepest sympathies to the family, friends, and council colleagues of Regional Councillor Nancy Diamond, following her sudden passing. She faithfully served her community for many years.

"Councillor Diamond was a formidable force in municipal politics," said Regional Chair and CEO Roger Anderson. "She was a strong female leader at a time when it was less common to see women in senior public service roles. She also led many local community endeavours and will be truly missed."

Nancy was born in 1941 and served as Oshawa's mayor for 12 years from 1991 to 2003, after sitting as a city councillor from 1988 to 1991. In 2010,

she returned to Oshawa City Council and Durham Regional Council, and was re-elected in 2014. Among her many accomplishments, Councillor Diamond championed the creation of a university in Oshawa, economic development, and transportation initiatives. She pursued solutions to gridlock and the development of social housing with admirable determination. Councillor Diamond embraced multiculturalism, keeping taxes low, and the advancement of local and national prosperity.

A book of condolences will be available at The Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, located at 605 Rossland Road East. Flags at Regional Headquarters are at half-staff in her memory.

## Bidding Wars Becomes Soldingo

By Richard Bercuson

Got something to sell? Looking to buy a particular item? Bidding Wars,



where used furniture, clothes and baubles have seamlessly changed hands since March of 2015 is undergoing a facelift.

The Facebook-based buy-and sell platform has morphed into Soldingo and moved to its own site, **soldingo.com**. The venture comes under the direction of five local residents, Sarah Connolly, Melissa Halparin, Allison Darby-Roga, Kim Sanderson, and Adrian Piccolo, who is credited with coming up the new name. All will share moderator duties.

Bidding Wars was originally the brainchild of Connolly who saw a similar Facebook site while living in Langley, B.C. Looking for a way to avoid sending her "gently used goods" to the landfill, she teamed up with the others to get it started. However, after two years, it became apparent Facebook had its limitations.

"The control of a Facebook page is quite limited," says Halparin. "We're restricted to the Facebook updates and there is no area for individuality amongst similar groups that have begun following our success.

"One of the major complaints from our members came when

Facebook took away categories," she adds. "Members are no longer able to search for items based on categories. They're limited to scrolling the entire site or using search words. This is something we were able to include in our new website."

The new site, paid for equally by the five individuals and created with an independent web designer, does have the facility to include advertising. As such, they hope to generate a bit of revenue. Some of this may also come from site features they couldn't have on Facebook, such as members choosing to upgrade their auctions for a nominal fee. For now though, their principal aim is to cover the cost of the site's start-up.

Halparin says the main idea will be the same, to use the 24 hour format with the site now having the ability to close an auction automatically, something that had been an issue before.

Soldingo won't have an app per se but the site will be mobile friendly. For the time being, it will serve Clarington, Oshawa, Whitby, Ajax and Pickering.

## WHITBY ONTARIO · CANADA

**Solid Waste Services Holiday Collection Schedule** 

### During the week of February 20 - 24 (Family Day)

Solid Waste Collection Services (Green Bin Organics, Blue Box Recycling, Yard Waste and Residual Garbage) will be revised as follows:

ricoyoling, rara vvacio ana ricoladar darbago, viii so reviced ao leilevici.				
Normal Collection Day	Area #	<b>Revised Collection Day</b>		
		Organics (Green Bin)	Recycling (Blue Box)	Residual (Garbage)
Mon. Feb. 20	1	Tues. Feb. 21	Tues. Feb. 21	Tues. Feb. 21
Mon. Feb. 20	2	Tues. Feb. 21	Tues. Feb. 21	No collection
Tues. Feb. 21	3	Wed. Feb. 22	Wed. Feb. 22	Wed. Feb. 22
Tues. Feb. 21	4	Wed. Feb. 22	Wed. Feb. 22	No collection
Wed. Feb. 22	5	Thu. Feb. 23	Thu. Feb. 23	Thu. Feb. 23
Wed. Feb. 22	6	Thu. Feb. 23	Thu. Feb. 23	No collection
Thu. Feb. 23	7	Fri. Feb. 24	Fri. Feb. 24	Fri. Feb. 24
Thu. Feb. 23	8	Fri. Feb. 24	Fri. Feb. 24	No collection
Fri. Feb. 24	9	Sat. Feb. 25	Sat. Feb. 25	Sat. Feb. 25
Fri. Feb. 24	10	Sat. Feb. 25	Sat. Feb. 25	No collection

Please remember to set waste out by 7:00 a.m. on your revised collection day.

Winter Safety Tip: Please do not place waste on snow banks. Set your waste out on the snow-cleared portion of your driveway.



### Town of Whitby, Operations Centre

Phone: 905.668.3437 Hours: Mon.-Fri., 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Get the Whitby Waste Buddy App



at whitby.ca/waste or Download from iTunes or Google Play.

If this information is required in accessible format, contact the Town of Whitby

### **Brooklin Bafflers by Liz Lowe**

### Plant-Based Eating by Sheree Nicholson

## **Black History Month**

### PMBVFBOUROPIFJRD TOVRSQRMHUEE UKSHACKLES LSRMREWYHLCTDNE FEEMANCIPATIONUT RDWMBSCUPZSCMWLDC TETPREJUD V E B EBEQUALI KRVDWGWNWI AINCHNVR NTUXFXEB OTRPNH EGRSMMT ILNO RFRLSQR Abused ZEAEZV **Branded** DDYC Emancipation BNOH **Empire** KUL Equality

**Justice** Prosecuted Escape **Shackles** Freedom Lash **Fugitive** Lawyer Ships **Torture** Harbour Loyalist Imperial Master Underground Inventor Prejudice Voice

## In love with easy



I love easy, I love simple, and I love homemade food. But cooking for a family can challenge all those loves. We need to find the right balance between homemade dinners,

rushing to children's activities, and knowing when to just eat take out.

Keeping your meals simple and planning in advance can go a long way to reducing your "what's for dinner" stress. Some of my favourite simple meals are rice bowls. On the weekend, I steam a big pot of white or brown rice and then store it for the week. When you come home at night, it's easy to heat up the rice and then top the bowls with whatever you're in the mood for. For example, you can steam veggies, sauté some organic extra firm tofu cubes in a bit of coconut oil, or chop up a bit of kale.

I sometimes buy the pre-made kale salad mix at Costco but skip the dressing. I drop handfuls of the salad mix into rice bowls or on pasta. It's a super simple meal because the rice is already cooked so I'm basically just adding whatever I have on hand. I top my rice bowls with mashed avocado for the good fats, a flavoured hummus or maybe an easy homemade sauce.

Rice bowls are great because they can be topped with different things. You can place a big bowl of rice in the centre of the table and surround it with the toppings and sauces so that everyone can make their own bowl. If you have a diehard meat eater,

they can top theirs with meat. You can also substitute the rice for any grain, including quinoa. The possibilities are endless.

I would just follow these rules: a base grain, a protein topping such as tofu or beans, a raw and/or cooked green, something yummy like hummus or guacamole, and sauces such tamari or the peanut sauce below. The final sauce really adds the flavor to the bowl and this is one of my favourites. You can easily substitute almond butter if there is a peanut allergy in your family. It whips up quickly and doesn't need to be heated.

And if you're rushing and looking for great healthy take out in Brooklin, my new hang out is the Copper Branch on Baldwin, wholesome plant-based foods that you can eat in or take out.

### Ginger Peanut Sauce

- 1/2 cup salted natural peanut or almond butter
- 1 1/2 Tbsp soy sauce (GF for gluten free eaters)
- 2-3 Tbsp brown sugar
- or maple syrup (add to taste)
- 1/2 lime, juiced
- 1/2 tsp chili garlic sauce
- 1/2 tsp fresh grated ginger (optional)
- hot water to thin

### Instructions:

Prepare peanut sauce by adding all ingredients, except water, to a mixing bowl and whisking. Add hot water 1 Tbsp at a time and whisk until desired consistency is reached (should be pourable but thick). Set aside.

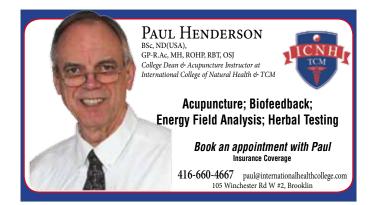
Sheree's Hack: Busy? It's okay to buy pre-chopped kale or veggies to save some time.

## **412 Petition Sent to** Minister

As reported in our Jan. 20 issue, Adrian Piccolo was collecting signatures on an online petition to remove the tolls on the new Highway 412. Last week, he did indeed send it to Minister of Transportation Steven del Luca and copied MPPs Lorne Coe (Whitby-Oshawa), Joe Dickson (Ajax-Pickering) and Jennifer French (Oshawa).

The petition had 5906 signatures collected from July 10, 2016, to Feb. 7, 2017. Piccolo's email to the Minister included a 74-page PDF of comments from Durham residents explaining their reasons, and in some cases expressing anger, for the route to be tollfree.

The only Whitby councillor to sign the petition was Ward One's Rhonda Mulcahy although Whitby council as a whole has expressed to the Minister its support of the removal of tolls. Last December, the Town of Whitby passed a motion to send the Minister a request to keep the road toll-free.





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### Blooming in Brooklin *By Ken Brown*



## The Magic of Seeding

go to the garden centre then spend an hour or two wandering among the

flowering and foliage houseplants that are brightening up those greenhouses. It's a very therapeutic experience - and much cheaper than a trip south.

On the way out, pick up a bag of soilless mix and a few interesting seed packages before heading home to give your seeds the best start. Once they have absorbed enough water, the seeds look for a signal it's the correct season. That's indicated by the temperature of the planting media. Find some way to warm it up. When the soil temperature is above 240 C, then the seeds will know it's time and they'll germinate quickly. There are little heat mats available just for this purpose and they're available from seed catalogue people such as Vesey's.

Once heat and moisture have done their job, then light becomes the all important factor. Regular cool white fluorescent tubes do a great job, but the secret is to get them as close as possible to those plants. Mine hang on chains so I can move them up and down, keeping them about 5 cm from the top of the seedlings. Tending to these seeds and seedlings keeps gardeners sane in the last few weeks of winter and they eventually feed our bodies as well as our gardener's souls.

### Cleanliness important

Meanwhile, the little begonia seeds I sowed early in January are growing well and in another week or three they may be big enough to attempt transplanting. All the seedling trays and equipment have been in the laundry tub with hot water, soap and bleach. When growing your

Pick a cold, nasty day to own plants from seed, cleanliness is paramount. There are fungus diseases that can't wait to destroy your little seedlings, so sterilizing all the containers, etc. is the best way to fight back.

> There are several more seeds, such as onions and oriental vegetables like pak choi and guy lan that are finding their way into my germination space. These are wonderful cool season crops and I want to have good sized transplants ready for the garden as soon as the soil has dried enough to work in it. In a good year, that's about the middle of April.

> I have a clear plastic tunnel that I may put out 3-4 weeks earlier to dry a bit of soil so that I can plant under it by early April. I'm already tired of supermarket produce or frozen corn. We sit in the sun of the solarium and anticipate that first fresh head of pak choi.

> If I still haven't convinced you to rip out the front yard and plant vegetables then you might want to start a few annual flowers now. Marigolds, cosmos and several others are quite easy to start from seed under a few lights. Almost all the seeds, which we might start under those lights, have a couple of basic needs. They want to be warm and moist. No seed will germinate until it has been able to absorb enough moisture to break its dormancy. Holding that water and making it available to the seeds is the primary function of the material in seedling trays. I avoid calling it soil because any outdoor garden soil is the worst possible material to use for indoor seed starting.

> As to the garden centre visit, if they only served pina coladas!

## **WDP Theme: Have I Been Unfair to You?**

by Donna Shaddick Special to the Brooklin Town Crier

This is the theme for the upcoming World Day of Prayer Service on March 3 at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 130 Watford St. in Brooklin starting at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Each year, Brooklin United Church, St. Thomas Anglican and St. Leo the Great meet to plan the service's details. The parishes take turns hosting the event with all three groups participating in the readings, refreshments,

Through the World Day of Prayer service, Christian women from one country share their concerns and hopes with their sisters and brothers in 170 countries, uniting us in prayer and solidarity. This year, women of the Philippines have prepared the service. Offerings received through the World Day of Prayer collection transform prayers into action in the form of grants for projects benefiting women and children in Canada and throughout the world. All regions share in the grants, with consideration given to areas where needs are greatest. World Day of Prayer Grants for 2016 are listed in this year's prayer service booklet. To apply for a grant, visit www. wicc.org.

For information about this year's WDP service at St. Leo's, call 905-620-0724. To find services in other areas of Durham region, you can go to the above website and look under World Day of Prayer Event locations for services registered through the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.



**Our Councillor's Report by Rhonda Mulcahy** 

North Ward Councillor, Town of Whitby • mulcahyr@whitby.ca



## **New Hires Settling In**

After my last article, I received a fair bit of feedback, which I was

expecting since the topic was the budget. So thank you for your insight. I also received a request for a report about the fire department.

As we've been told, the budget was given an injection of 1.5% for each of last year and this year to fund fire services at the Town. Recently at Town Hall, Deputy Fire Chief Scott Siersma provided us some numbers about operations at the Fire Department.

In 2015, we had a call volume of 5400 calls, the highest in Whitby's history. Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVCs) were up 10% to 693 from our previous highest call volume in 2013 of 632.

Fire calls were up 12% with 370 responses, 40 more than the previous year.

Fire and MVCs represent 20% of the Fire Department's call volume. Both types require multiple apparatuses and take a great deal of time, which can make multiple calls at the same time a challenge. In 2016, these calls increased an additional 133 times.

Concurrent calls are on the rise with the growth in our community. And, given our need to respond to MVCs on the 400 series highways that we now service (with connect with me.

not one, but two trucks per call), we are bound to see those numbers increase again this year.

So what are we doing to help our fire services?

We have a new truck coming this spring, which has already been approved by council. We also know that down the road a new hall will need to be built close to the 400 series highways.

We've hired 20 new firefighters. (See above photo). I had the pleasure of welcoming them at a ceremony at the fire hall recently. These men and women are the cream of the crop. Selected from over 600 applications, the new recruits are both qualified and and professional.

As the next budget looms large, I feel confident in the continued support for the fire department. While I wasn't on council last year for this initial decision, I followed this closely. This is not a desire but rather a need at the Town, a need that ensures the community's safety. It's not really been much of a debate, and for good reason.

I would also like to thank those who came out to my drop-in last weekend at The Goodberry. I plan to host another soon. If you would like to be part of my community advisory group, please



### **Meet Your Local Merchant**

## Brooklin Village Dental Care

The power to change the world begins your needs hanwith a simple smile. **Brooklin Village Den**tal Care is committed to helping patients achieve their best smiles through state ofthe- art technology and onsite comprehensive care for specialized dental treatments, all under one roof.

### First Impressions

Meet Dr. Peter Yao, who opened **Brooklin** Village Dental Care in 2004. Originally from Calgary, Dr. Yao received his B.S. in Microbiology before moving to Manitoba where he completed his Medical Dentistry degree. He and his family have lived in Brooklin since 2003 and he participates in local community events such as the Brooklin Harvest Festival.

Patients are drawn to Dr. Yao's genuine manner and positive outlook. He served as a Canadian Armed Forces Captain for nine years and practiced dentistry at the military base in Toronto. "It was a great experience serving my country," says Dr. Yao who is dedicated to serving all of his patients with compassion and offering the very best in quality care. "I like being in health care," he adds, "because ultimately you are there to help people."

### **Comprehensive Care**

Brighten your day with a visit to **Brooklin** Village Dental Care and meet our amazing staff! Our friendly and knowledgeable team of dentists, hygienists, orthodontist and our periodontist make it easier for you to choose a specialist you feel comfortable with so you and your family can have all of

dled in the same building.

### **Brooklin Village** Dental Care pro-

vides you and your family unique onsite services with the latest dental techniques for pain free procedures. We also offer children and nervous patients with nitrous oxide and IV conscious sedation for adults.

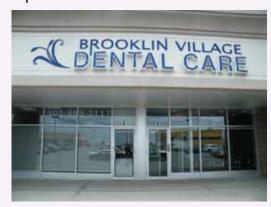
**Brooklin Village Dental Care** specializes in family & general dentistry, periodontics. oral surgery, cosmetic dentistry, and orthodontics, all in a clean, modern facility. Each room is equipped with cameras to explain the procedure so you can document your progress with before and after photos.

Our family friendly office is a digital, paperless environment, complete with a kid's zone with free video games and complimentary Wi-Fi for all patients.

win St. South. Our friendly staff is happy to answer any of your questions! You can also visit us online at: http:// brooklindentalcare.com Brooklin Village Dental Care is open Mon-

Our office is located at 5969 Bald-

day to Friday, 9 am— 8 pm and Saturday 9 am —5 pm.



**Contact Us Brooklin** Village Dental Care is dedicated to making a difference, one smile at a time. We are always accepting new patients from Brooklin and surrounding areas. Schedule your next appointment with us today at (905) **655-7117**, or stop in and say hello.









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