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Ryan Doble Home Financing Advisor Brooklin Towne Centre T: 905-703-5376 ryan.doble@scotiabank.com



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Brooklin's Rani and daughter Skyler Hayes are making masks for the community. After recently losing a family member to CO-VID-19, they wanted to do what they could to protect the community. You can email Rani at Motherrani@hotmail.com to find out where you can pick up a mask or two

from their porch. There is a donation jar left out if you wish to contribute to the materials.

Do you know other Brooklin residents stepping up in the war on COVID-19? Email: editorofBTC@gmail.com to let us know!

Highlights of this BTC

What I'm learningpage 2	Plant-Based Eatingpage 4
Iroquois Park for truckers page 2	Online open houses page 5
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The Good, The Bad, The Snake Oil page 3	Brooklin Bafflerpage 7

ONLINE COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSES

The Brooklin North Major Roads Environmental Assessment (EA) Study

ONLINE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

When: April 15 to May 6, 2020 • Where: whitby.ca/BrooklinNorthMajorRoadsEA Email: BrooklinNorthMajorRoadsEA@whitby.ca For additional information please see page 8 in this edition

Mid-Block Arterial Road Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study

ONLINE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

When: April 20 to May 8, 2020 . Where: whitby.ca/midblock For additional information please see page 6 in this edition



North Ward Councillor

For Covid-19 updates please visit: whitby.ca/coronavirus



905-706-0214 lees@whitby.ca

Less than half the picture: By Richard Bercuson



What I'm learning...

- The leaky soffit dripping onto the deck is much more annoying when I see it every blessed day.
- I'm becoming friendlier with perfect strangers on walks, even if through a furtive wave. It's a bit unsettling.
- I don't miss the NHL. Egad! Did I really write that?
- I do miss the Raptors though, especially Lowry, VanVleet and Siakam. Fun athletes.
- The Whitby library gives access to magazines and research stuff - for free! Example: Just read a great article in a magazine about security issues and two-factor authentication.
- Some Netflix docs are fascinating. The one about Aaron Hernandez is both frightening and sad. Tiger King? From under what rock...?
- Impressive online delivery systems. One company, from which I ordered a battery replacement for my aged Dyson, keeps sending reminders of when it will be in stock along with a promise to send it as soon as it can.
- Trump is as dangerous as predicted three years ago. Moreso.
- Premier Ford has been impressive. He's shown - what do we call it? - leadership
- Queen Elizabeth's message was inspiring. Eighty years ago, she delivered a radio address to Britain as it lay on the precipice of a Nazi invasion. History repeats.
- How can we not be in awe of companies and stores adapting? The Kroger chain in the US is investigating one-way aisles. Bauer has turned its hockey face shield manufacturing into shields for health care work-Whiskey companies are making hand sanitizer

instead. So is Slabtown Cider in Uxbridge.

- Wondering...what if all major pro leagues told their athletes to skim, say, 1% of their salaries to give to the manufacturing of PPE etc for health care workers? Consider the numbers from just the NHL. A team with a \$75 million payroll would then send \$750,000 to its city's health care workers.
- Whoever it was in Whitby came up with the idea of turning the Iroquois Sports Centre into a truck stop deserves a medal. Brilliant idea.
- Teaching grade 1 content to our 6 yr old granddaughter has confirmed why I didn't teach young kids. It's challenging in ways I never imagined. It also confirms what I've always believed, that our elementary teachers are the most important in our system. The foundation is irreplaceable.
- Online instruction is merely a tool. Because nothing will ever ever, ever! - replace a good teacher in a room with students. Hands up those who have a new respect for teachers
- iPads are terrific for magazines and short articles. But paper books reign supreme.
- These lyrics from the film Paint Your Wagon suddenly have meaning: "I talk to the trees - But they don't listen to me - I talk to the stars - But they never hear me..."
- Two weeks ago, I feared losing my sanity, or what's left of it. Now it's late April and I'm no more nuts. Message? We'll be



(Town Lrier)

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Next Issue: Friday, May 8, 2020 Deadline: Friday, May 1, 2020 Publications dates subject to change during COVID-19 Pandemic

Durham's business community unites during COVID-19

munity is rallying together and working as one cohesive task force to support local businesses, from across the region, during these challenging times.

The Durham Economic Task Force—comprised of local chambers of commerce, boards of trade and business improvement areas (BIAs), the Business Advisory Centre of Durham and other key stakeholders—has shared feedback collected from Durham businesses owners with local elected provincial (MPPs) federal representatives (MPs); helping to ensure the urgent needs of local businesses, within the region, are addressed and actioned.

One of the key outputs this task force continues to push forward is the #SupportLocal campaign. This initiative is aimed at promoting local online shops and services, community farms, innovative solutions, as well as providing a platform for sharing good news stories.

Through the work of the task force, Invest Durham and municipal economic development teams, the website InvestDurham.ca/LocalFood was established to champion agri-businesses that have diversified their business models to include virtual sales, no-contact deliveries and pick-up options.

In addition, the Durham Econom-

Durham Region's business com- ic Task Force, in collaboration with all Durham Region BIAs, will be launching a new online platform—Downtowns of Durham, to support the region's vibrant downtown-area businesses.

> This new website will make it easy for customers to identify which businesses are operational; searching by location, industry and services or products offered. It is the first collective project all local BIAs have undertaken. Their goal is to immediately drive business virtually, while also setting up a framework to support the long-term recovery of Durham's downtown businesses.

> For more information, including the latest resources for businesses in Durham Region, visit InvestDurham.ca/CovidResponse.

> "I'm proud of the work the Durham Economic Task Force is doing to support and advocate for our local business community. These are challenging times for many small business owners. We are listening to your concerns and are working to make sure you have the resources needed to face these new challenges. Durham Region is an innovative community; known for its ability to adapt and solve big problems. We will continue to showcase these strengths, long after this situation is over."

- John Henry, Regional Chair

Whitby Opens Rest Stop for Truckers

driver rest stop at Iroquois Park Sports Centre in an effort to support drivers who have been impacted by the closure of facilities due to CO-VID-19. The facility, located just off of Highway 401, provides a quick place for shortand long-haul drivers to stop as they travel across Ontario.

The rest stop will be open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., providing drivers with a place to shower, change and use washroom facilities. Drivers can enter the building through the main doors.

Please note that the facil-

The Town of Whitby has ity is **not open** to the public. opened a temporary truck. The south portion of the main parking lot will be available for temporary parking (of up to 12 hours) to allow drivers to rest.

> "Truck drivers across Canada are doing an extraordinary job of keeping our shelves stocked during this public health crisis," said Mayor Don Mitchell. "The opening of this rest stop at Iroquois Park Sports Centre is our small way of thanking them for keeping the supply chain moving; making sure people have the goods they need, when they need them."

> The rest stop will remain open until further notice.

Our Brooklin Kids By Leanne Brown



Remote Schooling

We're finishing week two of remote schooling. The overall verdict? Meh.

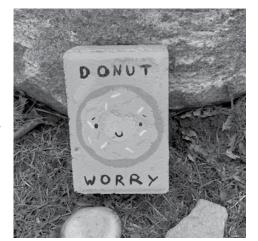
First, getting motivated to do the work is a challenge. Not just for my daughter but also for me. I've realized I need to dedicate time in my day to be a teacher. While the assignments are easy enough, it's more the focus that needs to be encouraged.

When you have two parents working at home, finding the time to sit down and explain school assignments is a challenge. Also, when your child doesn't want to do work in favour of playing Minecraft, I find myself putting off starting the schoolwork so as not to have a fight. If I don't have a two-hour window between meetings, I just wait.

Doing schoolwork amidst conference calls is distracting. The background noise of people talking, seemingly to themselves, makes it hard for young minds to focus. Plus. it's hard to answer school questions when you're on a call.

Of course, we aren't alone. It's not unusual to hear little voices in the background on calls. Some are asking for snacks; sometimes siblings are fighting, or in my case, a TikTok video is being produced. I've been on calls where we are all suddenly serenaded with Elsa singing "Let it Go" or SpongeBob chime in when the TV is turned on.

That said, teachers are doing their best and I am so impressed with their dedication. My daughter's teacher is online throughout the day to answer questions and give guidance and encouragement. She responds almost instantly and leaves comments to



praise their hard work.

Teachers have become so creative with assignments. This week my daughter had to recreate a famous work of art using whatever she could find in the house. This turned out to be great fun. She ravaged my closet and the linen closet to gather materials and got quite creative. Her curiosity was sparked as she studied her painting of choice and meticulously recreated every detail. The result was something that will become a keepsake.

My husband and I are using "divide and conquer" for teaching duties based on our strengths. I'm helping with writing and social studies; he's the math and phys ed. teacher. With teacher duties divided, our daughter gets to spend one-on-one time with each of us during the day.

We've got a routine going. I'm up at 6:30 to work before the network gets busy and the connection slows down. At 10 am, we do school until noon. Then we all break for lunch together and go for a walk before my husband and I get back to work.

Afternoons are for our daughter as she spends time with her cousin who lives with us. She works on her hockey skills, reads, chats online with friends and

builds LEGO dinner. until After dinner is time... family movies, games and snuggles.

home-Yes, schooling and working full time are a challenge. But we'll get through it. I now value what teachers provide and have a new appreciation for their work.

By Regional Councillor - Rhonda Mulcahy

The Good, The Bad and the **Snake Oil of Coronavirus**



In many ways, being a councillor isn't entirely different from being a newspaper lady. With my pulse on the community, I hear all. However,

I have to temper my opinion. The pandemic has brought out people's good, bad and ugly. But it's also dragged out my personal coping mechanism on dark days: sarcasm. So bear with me.

First, I can state that the GOOD is far greater than merely good. Many have stepped up in such positive and meaningful ways, including those among the wealthiest who have stepped up to support those in need such as the food bank or health care workers. I cannot thank you enough for your compassion and care for one another. Keep up the good work. A special shout out to our Caremongers who serve our community with the spirit of true champions.

Then there's the BAD; we know who they are. These are the people ignoring the rules and only looking out for themselves. They're the ones driving crazy fast through residential streets, hosting gettogethers or teeing off at the high school field as if it's their private driving range. They're rude and disrespectful. Police and by-law will handle them.

But the ugliest are the ones willing to risk other peoples' well-being in support of their bottom line. They're the ones who know they're able to still put food on the table and exit home. this situation okay. They're also the ones who believe this Be safe!

whole thing is overblown and are pressuring us to "open it back up" soon. Shame on you.

Then there are the snake-oil peddlers. They claim that vitamin supplements or essential oils will save us all from the Coronavirus, that we don't need a vaccine and we should just embrace this virus. These "alternative" medicine theories leave me baffled.

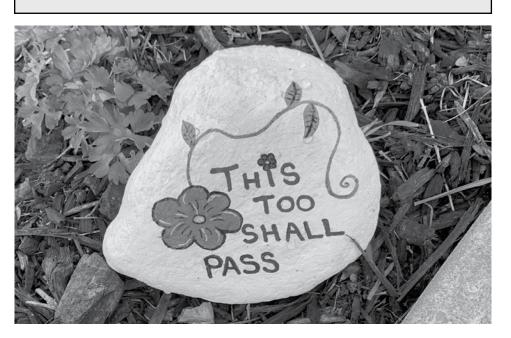
When you hear of 30-year old Olympic swimmers being brought to their knees by this virus, you have to start listening to legitimate medical personnel. No amount of vitamin C or lavender oil is going to clear the fluid from your lungs, no matter how much you believe in Gwyneth Paltrow and her Goop. On that note, if you watch her Netflix show "Goop" and take it seriously, we aren't likely to agree on much.

Like Paltrow, there are those who want to sell you their product in order to save you from Coronavirus. Unless it's a vaccine approved by our health experts, then it's snake oil and those people are pretty ugly, in my view.

In the meantime, I will focus my energy on the people I can help and who are stepping up to help. I'm happy to report that most are participating in social distancing and staying home as much as they can.

This is going to take time. We are all feeling it and want it to end. But if we TRULY care for one another, we will do what is being asked of us and stay





Plant-Based Eating by Sheree Nicholson

Filtering the good advice

is like mine, inundated with messages about preventing COVID-19. As I wrote in my last column, some are using the pandemic to sell their products, so filtering out what's good advice from the fake stuff is essential.

Immunity is a major topic in my

My bet is your inbox vegan world where many claim it's preventive medicine. This is not true. Vegans are not superhuman; we get sick and catch viruses like anyone else.

> There are so many factors that contribute to good immune health that to say one thing or the other is the answer is too simplistic. For instance, can be-

swer is yes, but the key is to increase your intake of vegetables and fruits whether you're plantbased or not.

Taking care of the gut

We know that 70% of our immune systems are in our gut walls. We also know that eating a wide variety of plants is vital to a healthy gut microbiome. Your body holds about the same number of bacteria as cells (around 30 to 50 trillion) with the gut microbiota hosting the most.

ing plant-based help? The an- The good bacteria in your gut have numerous roles. One is to aid the immune system to prevent pathogen invasion while another is to metabolize nutrients. However, other factors affect your immune system's overall health. These include stress, sugar, lack of sleep, too much exercise, and too little exercise.

> It's important to note that immune health is personal to you and your lifestyle. You could eat kale at every meal, but if you live in chronic stress, then reducing

> > continued on page 5

I'm Staying Home For

We're in this Together **#StayHomeSaveLives** #StayHomeWhitby

We're all staying home to keep someone safe right now. Be a part of our community campaign.*

- * Shared photos may be used in future awareness campaigns by the Town of Whitby.
- 1. Think of who you're staying home for your kids, your grandparents, our front line workers.
- 2. Cut out and fill in your sign.

Phone: 905.430.4300

Email: info@whitby.ca

- Snap a selfie of you and your sign.
- 4. Share on Facebook and Twitter and tag @TownofWhitby, and use #StayHomeSaveLives and #StayHomeWhitby

For a print-at-home or digital version, visit whitby.ca/stayhome





solution to better immune health.

The smoothie solution

One reason I love starting my day with a smoothie is that I can pack it with things that are good for me, like a quality plant-based protein, kale, berries, and any supplement I'm taking. They also provide me with sustainable energy for the morning.

I revisited this smoothie last 1 tablespoon (15 mL) almond week and loved it. It's from the popular Oh She Glows blog (ohsheglows.com) and can be

your stress is going to be your made in minutes. Even without Pinch of ground cinadding protein powder, it packs 10 grams of protein in a serving.

Classic Green Monster Smoothie: Ingredients:

- 1 cup (250 mL) almond milk or other non-dairy milk
- 1 cup de-stemmed kale leaves or baby spinach
- 1 large ripe frozen banana, chopped into chunks
- butter or peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon chia seeds or the kale better. ground flaxseed

namon

1 scoop of your favourite protein powder (optional)

2 to 3 ice cubes Blend until smooth.

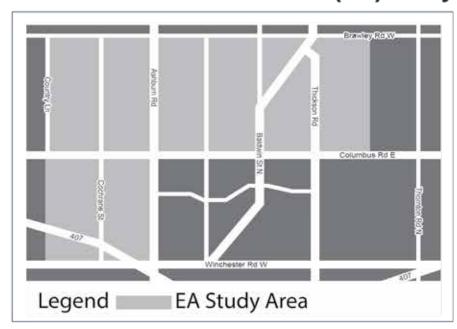
Sheree's Hack: If using fresh kale, blend the kale in the almond milk first and then add the rest of the ingredients and re-blend. This will break down



NOTICE OF ONLINE COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSES

Have Your Say! Community engagement is an important part of both of the below mentioned studies. With health officials advising that the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is by practicing physical distancing and avoiding gatherings, engagement for both projects will be conducted online. Materials will be posted on each project's webpage for public review and comment. Having trouble accessing the materials online? Contact the project team to arrange for an alternative.

The Brooklin North Major Roads **Environmental Assessment (EA) Study**



The Brooklin North Landowners Group, in partnership with the Town of Whitby are conducting an Environmental Assessment Study to develop the Major Roads network needed for the expansion of the Brooklin community.

The materials presented will include information on the study process, the development and evaluation of the Major Road alignments, and the preliminary preferred alignments and cross-sections. Input provided will be used to refine the preferred design concepts and feed into the final study report.

ONLINE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

When: April 15, 2020 to May 6, 2020 Where: whitby.ca/BrooklinNorthMajorRoadsEA Email: BrooklinNorthMajorRoadsEA@whitby.ca

PROJECT CONTACTS

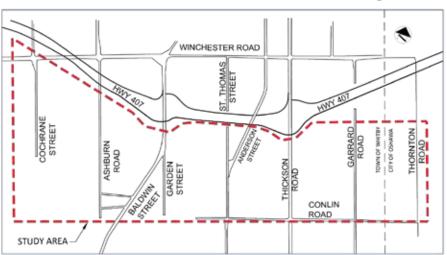
Kenneth Chan | Deputy Project Manager | LEA Consulting Ltd.

kchan@lea.ca | 905.470.0015 ext. 292

Paul Bumstead | Senior Project Manager | Town of Whitby

bumsteadp@whitby.ca | 905.430.5594

Mid-Block Arterial Road Class **Environmental Assessment Study**



The Brooklin Landowners Group, in partnership with the Town of Whitby, are undertaking a Schedule C Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) for a new east-west arterial roadway south of Highway 407, between Cochrane Street and Thornton Road.

The materials presented will include information on the study process, the development and evaluation of alignments, and the recommended design alignment and cross-sections. Input provided will be used to refine the recommended design concepts and feed into the final study report.

ONLINE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

When: April 20 to May 8, 2020 Where: whitby.ca/midblock

PROJECT CONTACTS

Nathalie McCutcheon, P.Eng. | Environmental Assessment Lead The Municipal Infrastructure Group Ltd.

905.738.5700 x 506 | midblockEA@tmig.ca

Greg Hardy, P.Eng. | Senior Manager

Engineering & Infrastructure Services | Town of Whitby

905.430.4927 | hardyg@whitby.ca

Notice to All Correspondents: Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

This Notice was first issued on April 9 2020







By Cathy Nagy, C.Psych. Assoc. **Registered Member of the College of Psychologists**

COVID-19: Grieving the loss of our lives as we knew them

By now, for most of us, the novelty of self-isolation and social distancing has well worn off. We are Anticipatory grief forced to accept an unwelcome reality: Our lives as we knew them before COVID-19 are over, at least for the time being.

This altered reality has many people feeling a variety of emotions: stress, anxiety, sadness, helplessness and fear, to name a few. As days go on, however, there is another predominant feeling, difficult to name, but a pervasive one. That is, a collective sense of loss. We are all grieving.

The link between grief and the loss of loved ones to this virus is easy to see; it'sa a type of grief we understand. Yet there are many other types of loss people are experiencing right now that are contributing significantly to our psychological states...

Intangible losses

We are grieving the loss of jobs, financial security, our routines, our children's education and our connection with friends, family and co-workers. However, we are also struggling with less tangible losses. Now, we must also endure the loss of freedom, predictability, normalcy, and safety in our lives. We are fighting against something we can't see; we fear it could be everywhere. anywhere, and must operate as though it is – just to be safe.

We have lost the ability to have **Name and claim your grief** open-endedness to this pandemic adds further strain on us

When schools were first closed, the initial deadline to return allowed us all to plan and prepare for how we would get through that defined period of time. Now as the "finish lines" continue to get moved and is open-ended, our ability to plan for the finish line is gone. Most people don't 2 - Anger: I'm being forced to do well with this kind of uncertainty. We like to know and plan. We need concrete guidelines to wrap our heads around. Without those goals in the future, all we can do is focus on today. For many, today isn't bringing much

comfort.

Although we know our isolation is temporary, there is a sense of anticipatory grief, which is the mind imagining future situations and creating worst case scenarios. It's the knowledge that there is something coming, something that will be bad, or changed forever in ways we didn't ask for.

We are grieving that life may never be the same again. Will the plexi-glass barriers that separate us ever come down? Will we be able to look at strangers in

the grocery store and smile without fearing that they might infect us? Will we ever be able to travel again? How many ways can we imagine that our world will be different when this is over? That is a significant loss.

things to look forward to – at When the glass is viewed half least in the near future, as the full, we can see that maybe there will be some changes for the better. But in the midst of this worldchanging, life-altering event, it is best to name and claim the grief. When you name it, you feel it, and it moves through you.

> One well known concept in pop psychology is Elisabeth Kubler Ross's "5 Stages of Grief."

- 1 Denial: This virus won't come to Canada.
- self isolate and not work or see my friends.
- **3 Bargaining:** If I stay inside for 14 days, this will be over and I can get back to my life.
- 4 Sadness: I have lost so many of the things that are important

to me.

5 - Acceptance: I have no choice. This is real and I have to find a way to get through it.

Understanding these stages of grief and that they can happen in any order can help us allow our natural feelings to surface, giving us the chance to process them in a healthy way.

Of these stages, the last one, acceptance and what we make of it, can contribute to how we will cope with the loss moving forward. Once we accept the situation, we can make choices to help us feel a greater sense of control. For example, we can accept our working virtually, that we now wear gloves and masks and stand in line at stores, that we can distance ourselves and wash our hands to stay the saf-

Grief is a natural response and serves a purpose

We must experience our grief to allow us to adapt to loss. It is

okay to feel grief over what we are losing. But it is also okay to allow ourselves to be distracted, to laugh or even feel happy.

People who cope well with loss are those who can allow themselves to flow with the transient nature of grief, to move in and out of the feelings which allow Cathy Nagy is the founder and grief to do its job.

Be sure to examine your own various states of emotion and determine areas of your life where you may be feeling a sense of loss. The act of writing it down and putting words to how you are feeling can help make that vague sense of unease more concrete. When writing about your loss-

es, also write about your inner strengths and coping skills. Draw upon your past experiences and recall how you were able to manage other difficult and seemingly impossible challenges. Although most of us have not had specific experience with a pandemic in our pasts, we have all faced adverse situations and were able to overcome.

Resist the urge to deflect your

Many people struggle with intense emotion, especially grief, fearing that letting themselves feel it will open up a floodgate which will send an unstoppable tidal wave of emotion down on them.

Rather than a floodgate, try to think of processing your emotion like a tap: you can control when, and how much you turn the tap on. Allow it to flow as it needs to and tell yourself that it is normal, and reasonable, to feel these things under the circumstances.

Try to avoid comparing yourself to others in terms of how you are managing your emotions. Talk to others you trust about how you are truly feeling and stop yourself if you notice that you are disallowing your grief by telling yourself that you shouldn't be feeling it or that others are handling it better. Sit with the feeling, observe it, and allow it to be. Let it flow through you, and then move on until the next time it comes. Doing this will allow you to process your grief and reduce its intensity over time.

If you or someone you know is having significant difficulty navigating emotions in the face of COVID-19, consider reaching out to one of the many skilled mental health providers in our community who have the training and skills to help you through this challenging time.

director of Cathy Nagy Psychology, a psychological and counselling service located in Brooklin, Ontario. For more information about the mental health services provided, please refer to www.cnpsychology.ca or call 905-655-2305.



editorofbtc@gmail.com

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Brooklin Bafflers: by Liz Lowe

Crossword

Across

- 1 Hounds
- 8 Dried coconut meat
- 13 Stores
- 14 Rowed
- **15** Flower arrangement
- Lifted, so to speak 16
- Terrorist's weapon 17
- 18 Tête-à-tête
- A small loaf or roll of soft 20 bread
- 21 Large animals
- Giant Hall-of-Famer
- **25** Moving fast by using one's feet
- **26** A notch or open space between two merlons
- Shenanigan 28
- Shade of white 31
- **32** An iced drink especially white wine and fruit juice
- Winter coat 34
- Whiz 35
- 36 An offensive or indecent word or phrase
- 41 Soup container
- Many millennia
- Meaning literally 'born' 43
- With everything counted 44
- **46** A body of people or families living together and sharing everything
- Parting word 49

- 50 A scholar who specializes in Arab languages and culture
- Work out 51
- **52** Members of a legation

Down

- A Muslim woman of high rank in India or Pakistan
- 2 Wow
- 3 Shoot
- 4 The sun
- Geologic time period
- Destroyer, in Navy slang
- (Hinduism) an ascetic holy man
- A republic in Central
- America Stable staple
- 10 Free
- Storyteller 11
- 12 In a proficient manner
- 19 Mandela's org.
- 22 Seed covering
- The apparent worth as opposed to the real worth

18

33

23

36

42

22

25

27 Unceasingly

45

- Spiny trees or shrubs
- "Impossible" 29
- 30 The nail at the end of a toe
- 33 Regret
- 34 Tune out

37 Neighborhood

48

Indigenous Canadian

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- 39 Taste or touch
- 40 Track events
- **45** O.T. book
- 47 Kind of wheels
- 48 Wharton grad

COVID-19 Update

Have Your Say

Business Continues at The Town of Whitby While in-person meetings aren't possible currently we are conducting on-line consultation on the following North Ward items.

> Mid-Block Arterial Road EA and The Brooklin North Major Roads EA (see page 5) Highway 7/12 Alternative Route EA (See page 8)

Property Tax Defferal Information 2 month grace period (or 60-day tax deferral)

- on the April tax instalment with no penalty or interest charged for May or June.
 - The first instalment of the final billing scheduled for June will be delayed to July.
 - Those who use pre-authorized payments
 - will have more flexibility and options to spread out payments.
 - Email tax@whitby.ca for details.

Reporting Gatherings and Use of Closed Park Amenities Park Amenities and Playground Closures

In an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep people home, the Ontario Government has ordered the shutdown of all outdoor recreation amenities in the province.

To report use of closed park amenities or gatherings of more than 5 people, contact Durham Regional Police Services.

There are three ways to contact the police:

- 1. Online reporting: www.drps.ca
- 2. Email: Intel-C19hotline@drps.ca

3. Calls to the COVID-19 Hotline: 905-579-1520 ext. 5802

COVID-19 Municipal Cancellations

All Events up to and including Canada Day

Summer Camps and Recreation Programming **Summer Student Hires**

Stay Safe

We know this is a difficult time for many.

We hope to hear soon from the higher level governments that we can begin the reversal of closures in a safe and systematic way while under the guidance of our governing health experts. Thank you for your patience and for doing your part to help keep our community safe by staying home, by washing hands and by socially distancing.

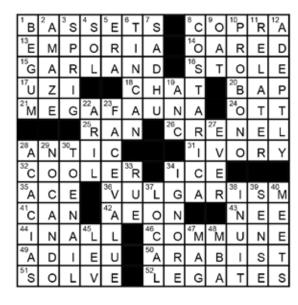


Rhonda Mulcahy

Regional Councillor, TOWN OF WHITBY mulcahyr@whitby.ca | 905.706.0482







NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

Highway 7/12 Alternative Route(s) EA

INTRODUCTION

Highway 7/12 currently travels through Downtown Brooklin in the Town of Whitby. The Town has initiated a Provincial Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study to determine an alternative route(s) for the provincial traffic through the Brooklin area. The Study will evaluate alternative corridors and recommend a preferred plan to address both the local and provincial traffic needs of the Study Area. For this undertaking, the Town is the Proponent responsible for the planning, design and implementation of future improvements as defined by the Environmental Assessment Act.



WHY IS THIS STUDY BEING DONE?

The Brooklin area is planned to undergo significant growth as a result of future development and community expansion, with the initial phase of development beginning within the next 2-3 years. Existing Highway 7/12 currently travels through Downtown Brooklin (Baldwin Street) as a 2-lane urban highway. The Town's Official Plan and the Brooklin Transportation Master Plan Study identify the need to establish an alternative route for provincial truck, goods and people movement to avoid through traffic on Baldwin Street in downtown Brooklin and the urban area. Land use planning and developments along Baldwin Street are restricted by MTO's corridor management policies on Highways 7 and 12.

STUDY PROCESS

In recognition of Ministry of Transportation's (MTO) ownership and control of existing Highways 7 and 12 and future alternative route(s), the Study is being conducted as a Group A EA Study under the MTO Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000). The MTO Class Document permits the Town to act as the Proponent. The Study will complete all phases of the MTO Class EA Process by establishing the need and justification for the project, evaluating route alternatives and selecting a preferred plan with consideration of effects on the natural, social and cultural environments.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A draft Study Design Report is available on the Town's website at: whitby.ca/en/townhall/highway-7-12-alternative-route-environmental-assessment. asp. The draft Study Design Report describes the study background, approach, process, alternatives and public consultation program.

Opportunities will be available throughout the Class EA process for interested persons to provide comments. The project website, noted above, will be used to provide public access to event data and project documentation. Early identification of individual and group concerns greatly aids in addressing these concerns. All information will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (2009). With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. Persons will be advised of future communication opportunities by electronic notice in addition to newspaper public notices and notices on the project website.

PROJECT CONTACTS

For more information, or if you wish to be placed on the study's mailing list, please contact either:

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