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Less than half the picture: By Richard Bercuson

Can we limp...forward?



Early last month, Liberal MP Ryan Turnbull hosted a Brooklin Small Business Roundtable on Zoom. It's purpose was to hear from local business owners on the tribulations they're facing and what, if anything, the feds could do about it.

Those who attended spoke sometimes emotionally and a few with unsparing detail about their issues. Turnbull listened and took notes. Only one business owner got sidetracked, careening from complaint to complaint without asking a question which eventually Turnbull asked him to provide since that was the

objective: to ask questions.

By the end, with small business owners gasping for help, Turnbull slipped in commentary about universal basic income, a topic his government seems to be keen on. It was his one misstep, a digression everyone could have done without.

Honestly, the roundtable left me upset and almost depressed. While I don't own a small business, I couldn't help but feel badly for those whose livelihoods are teetering on the brink. The Bercuson household has tried to support local businesses at every turn, the least we can do. (I

am happy to advise on where to get the best chocolate chip cookies.)

It also had me wondering what happens when all this fades. Will we ever get our downtown back to a semblance of what it was in the summer of 2019?

My next thought was about what new businesses we could use here, a trickier undertaking in these times, to be sure, given Covid and the expansion of Brooklin north, further afield from downtown.

Would it make sense to have a bakery much like what once existed? Why should we need to head up Lakeridge or into Whitby proper? My kingdom for a good Montreal-style bagel!

A favourite spot in Ottawa was a Bank St. bike and skate shop with sales, repairs, used skates and marvelous skate sharpening. It didn't look like much, but still. This is an active community with many cyclists, runners, walkers and hockey folks. Is there a business case that could be made for this?

A couple of years ago, locals in the entertainment field sought proper rehearsal and performance venues, an expensive undertaking. But, what if there was a small venue, perhaps doubling as another business, that could host small music performances, similar to Living Room Live (livingroomlive.ca) where artists perform in your home? In other words, a coffee house type of environment.

This past winter, we drove to Port

Perry for no other reason than to see buildings other than what's in the neighbourhood. We inched through its downtown strip of shops and found it all charming. No trucks rumbling along yet a fair amount of foot traffic.

As the saying goes, "Some see things as they are and say why. I dream of things that never were and say why not."

Let's take some moments to stand in downtown Brooklin and dream. Then go buy something.

What You Need To Know This Week:

Stay Home, Stay Safe and Respect Gathering Limits

The best way to stop the spread of COVID-19 is to stay home and follow public health guidelines. Residents are reminded to limit close contact to people living in your own household. If you live alone, you can have close contact with one other household. When outdoors, please keep two metres of physical distance from everyone else and wear a mask if you are unable to do so. For ideas of how you can stay connected while apart, visit whitby.ca/StayingConnected

Put Waste In Its Place

When enjoying the outdoors, residents are reminded to put garbage in the bin or take it home. Please don't leave it on the ground. Help us keep the Town clean and safe by always discarding of used masks, gloves and pet waste responsibly. For more information, visit whitby.ca/Waste

Let's Get Whitby Vaccinated

Whitby residents in eligible priority groups are encouraged to book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment online at durham.ca/VaccineAppointments. Vaccines are also now available at select Whitby pharmacies to those 40+ years of age. For more information visit covid-19.ontario.ca. Please note the Town of Whitby does not play a role in the booking of COVID-19 vaccination appointments.

Keep Our Town Streets Safe

Wonder what to do if you see an aggressive driver in your neighbourhood? Report them anonymously to Road Watch, a Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) and Town safety program. Scan the QR code with the camera on your mobile device or visit whitby.ca/RWP



Be Prepared For An Emergency

Attend a free recorded webinar at a time of your choice to learn how to create your own emergency preparedness action plan and 72-hour emergency kit. whitby.ca/Fire



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In Praise of the Brooklin Horticultural Society

By Jennifer Hudgins



For 100 years, the Brooklin Horticultural Society has benefited residents through their shared love of horticulture, a pastime that provides a true feeling of achievement, no matter how much or how little work may be involved, it is a satisfying activity that reaps many benefits.

It is one of more than 270 non-profit societies affiliated with the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) and one of 12 clubs in the OHA's District 17. There have been up to 200 members in the Brooklin group, the majority of whom were locals, with roughly 60 corporate sponsors.

The Society has deep roots in this community. Created by the Brooklin Women's Institute in 1921, it lay dormant during the Second World War until its members re-organized in 1944.

Many hours

Its long history of accomplishments include 2,600 hours of an-

nual community service in which volunteer members have worked tirelessly to provide and maintain civic beautification projects in the Village and other communities.

For instance, members spent 46 hours landscaping the main building for the 1975 International Plowing Match. They've also grown plants for gardens and hanging baskets on Baldwin Street and public buildings; planted and maintained gardens in Grass Park; installed its drinking fountain; initiated the pavilion project; and managed the Buy A Brick Program.

It has organized shows and plant sales, held and judged competitions and, in 2006, was instrumental in assisting the Town of Whitby to achieve a much coveted five bloom award through Communities in Bloom. Other notable achievements include the forming of the

Brooklin Junior Horticulture club, the creation of flower shows for the annual Harvest Festival and sponsoring of floriculture exhibits at the Brooklin Spring Fair.

Hosting workshops

Currently the Society provides workshops and demonstrations held in its namesake Parkette on



Carnwith Road West. Members maintain the Park of Reflection in the historical Cullen Central Park and a Sunburst Locust tree planted in 1973 by the Society at the Vipond Memorial arena.

The bench and plaque at Grass Park, installed in memory of the prominent Brooklin resident Heber Down, are also under their care. This year, they partnered with the Town of Whitby to present the Whitby in Bloom speakers series that started in March and ends in May.

Along with its many successes, the Society has also faced a few challenges. The fickleness of Mother Nature, foraging critters,

plant thieves and COVID-19 have influenced the results of their labours. However, a shared love of gardening and civic pride have kept members from throwing in the "trowel."

Many members, such as Don and Aldine Wick, have been involved for decades. Don Wick joined the Junior Horticultural Society in 1950 while in grade 9. He remembers planting the evergreen trees on

the land behind the then Brooklin Continuation School along the fence backing onto Winchester Road at the corner of Baldwin. Those trees stand tall today where the proposed new mall and Longo's are to go. Aldine joined 57 years ago. Her mother-in-law suggested she join to make new friends.

In 2020, the Society changed its name to the Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club with the intention of extending its reach and at the same time

acknowledging the support of Whitby residents. As the newly named club pursues opportunities to honour its 100th Anniversary, Brooklin celebrates with the members, acknowledging with thanks the years they have de-



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Patients are drawn to Dr. Yao’s genuine manner and positive outlook. Dr. Yao served as a Captain with the Canadian Armed Forces 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, ultimately because you are there to help people,” he adds. Dr. Yao has lived in the Brooklin area with his family since 2003 and actively participates in local community events such as the Brooklin Harvest Festival.

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Council Wants Elexicon To Lead District Energy Development

Whitby council has asked Town staff to use Elexicon Energy as a partner in the development of a District Energy system on the tract of land that will include the new sports complex (see photo). As well, it will explore a public-private ownership as the preferred ownership model.

As described in staff report CAO 13-2, “A district energy system is a small-decentralized power plant that distributes thermal energy to multiple buildings in an area or neighbourhood through an underground pipe system. End-users of District Energy include commercial buildings, condominiums, hospitals, hotels, sports facilities, universities, government complexes and residential homes.”

“A pre-feasibility study,” the report says, “identifies that a geo-exchange District Energy system is the most viable option and has a greenhouse gas reduction potential of 84% / 1900 te CO2 per year, against a business-as-usual natural gas heating and cooling system. This is the equivalent of the removal of 350 cars.”



If deemed feasible, the system would require 2-3.5 years to become operational and would cost \$10.624 million, with annual operational costs of \$512,000.

able facility. It is believed that the geo exchange system would assist in achieving the goal of a net zero carbon facility.

However, this system could help avoid \$2.1 million in equipment costs for the Sports Complex which is striving to be a sustain-

For more information, visit whitby.civic.web.net and look at the Committee of the Whole agenda for the May 3 meeting, item 9. The staff report is available there as a PDF.



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*Based on RE Stats Inc. Data for Toronto MLS Units Sold Jan to Dec 2020. Not intended to solicit those under contract.

Plant-Based Eating by Sheree Nicholson

It's about the branding



Lately, I've seen food packages with the words "plant-based" when the product has always been plant-based or is not 100% plant-based.

I write this because I was recently surprised to see a popular margarine brand now uses the heading "contains plant-based oils" on the container. There were several flavours of margarine, all with the exact phrasing on the tub. Intrigued, I read the label and found it still contained milk products. So, it wasn't plant-based. Since margarine is typically made from plant-based oils, this new heading was, in my opinion, catching

the plant-based wave.

Read labels

If you want to be 100% plant-based, you must read labels which will tell you what the product contains. The government of Canada has 10 priority allergens in labelling. They are: eggs, milk, mustard, peanuts, seafood, sesame, soy, sulphites, tree nuts, and wheat. Food labels will indicate if the product contains any of these.

You may also see on a label, "May contain" certain items. This is a warning for people who are allergic to these products that the product is manufactured in a facility where cross-contamination could occur, so it is a precaution-

ary statement.

Casein, one of the proteins in dairy, is often labelled as zinc caseinate, sodium caseinate, or even iron caseinate magnesium. Gelatin is also an animal product derived from the collagen in bones and other animal parts. It's widely used as a binder in food as well as in some shampoos, cosmetics, Jell-O, and vitamins.

Not complicated

Do you need a degree to read labels? No. It may sound complicated, but the fewer ingredients, the better. If in doubt, it's easy to search for the information or visit the Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) website at www.peta.org.

It's up to you to decide what's right for you. Many people eat plant-based foods but will wear leather

or use products that are tested on animals. Some won't.

Another great source of information is a Facebook group I recently joined: Vegans of Durham Region. This is a friendly and sharing group where you can ask questions. Several local plant-based restaurant owners are members of which there are over 1600. Since joining, I've heard about new products, recipes and store openings. I also learned that the Fionn MacCool's restaurant in Oshawa has vegan products on its menu and that the restaurant owners live right here in Brooklin. A win-win!

Sheree's Hack: Stay connected to your community by joining this Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/452409884903973>

Across

- 1 Square dance partner (3)
- 4 In the actual state of affairs and often contrary to expectations (2,2,2)
- 10 Type of belief (8)
- 18 Wish undone (3)
- 19 Type of organic fertilizer (6)
- 20 Not charged with ammunition (of weapons) (8)
- 21 American Bar Association (abbrev.) (3)
- 22 An informal term for fathers (3,3)
- 23 Having a pattern of dots (8)
- 24 A high-performance fourwheel drive car (3)
- 25 Wear and tear (3)
- 26 Reeked (5)
- 27 Old name for Tokyo (3)
- 28 Preceding a meal (especially dinner) (11)
- 33 Wooden objects used in bowling (4)
- 35 Nosy Parker (5)
- 36 Rabbi's text (6)
- 38 Fight against; clash with (6)
- 42 Fashion (4)
- 44 Fictional character in the Toy Story franchise (6)
- 46 Supercharger (5)
- 47 Type of eatery [Brit] (7)
- 50 Word said with a salute (3)
- 52 Tackle (4)
- 53 Thorax protector (3)
- 54 Inflammation of the prostate gland (11)
- 60 Nightmare on this street. (3)
- 61 Want ____ (3)
- 62 A medical specialist who uses radioactive substances and X-rays (11)
- 63 The buck stops here (3)
- 64 Victory sign (3)
- 65 Work actively for a political candidate or a party (11)
- 66 What a keeper may keep (3)
- 67 11,000-foot Italian peak (4)
- 69 Yellowstone sight (3)
- 70 Coordinated measures for apprehending criminals (7)
- 72 Permissible (5)
- 74 Kind of seat (6)
- 79 Without women (4)

- 80 Worth a look (6)
- 82 Vacation spot (6)
- 84 Stock market figures (5)
- 87 ____ reflection (4)
- 89 A long, thin cheese flavoured pastry (6,5)
- 91 A health resort near a spring or at the seaside (3)
- 94 A slap with the flat of the hand (5)
- 96 An accidental happening (Usage: archaic) (3)
- 97 Be obliged to pay (3)
- 98 The process of determining the volume of a body (8)
- 100 Flaming as it burns (2,4)
- 103 Stars and Stripes land (3)
- 104 Small guitars having four strings (8)
- 105 Robust (6)
- 106 Tennis court divider (3)
- 107 Type of degenerate (8)
- 108 Divisions of the calendar year (6)
- 109 Type of humour (3)

Down

- 1 Understands (6)
- 2 A dark reddish-brown colour (6)
- 3 Type of time off. (5,2,7)
- 4 Feelings of excessive pride (5,6)
- 5 It's hot stuff (5)
- 6 Set in from the margin (6)
- 7 An enlarged and muscular saclike organ (3)
- 8 Anger (3)
- 9 Upper house member: Abbr. (3)
- 10 Fine powdery material (4)
- 11 Ready to be drawn (2,3)
- 12 A healthcare facility for outpatient care (6)
- 13 Headdress consisting of a decorative ribbon (7)
- 14 Whack (3)
- 15 Waiting (4)
- 16 Welfare state? (4)
- 17 Type of edible starchy root (4)
- 26 Turn sharply. (4)
- 29 Poverty-stricken (4)
- 30 Tiny bit (3)
- 31 International Labor

Brooklin Bafflers: by Liz Lowe Crossword

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107										108						109		

- Organization (3)
- 32 Sound booster (3)
- 34 Very pleased with oneself (4)
- 37 Scheme (6)
- 39 A thing that favors the development or occurrence of something. (8,6)
- 40 Mother-of-pearl source(7)
- 41 Agony (7)
- 43 The spirit of a group (6)
- 45 Felt sympathy and sorrow for (6)
- 47 Undertakes a journey (7)
- 48 Visual imagery of almost photographic accuracy (7)
- 49 Types (6)
- 51 Stair parts (6)
- 55 Feels more nauseated. (6)
- 56 Youngster (3)
- 57 "Aladdin" prince (3)
- 58 As well (3)
- 59 A Scottish dance, resembling the reel, but slower (11)
- 68 Hokkaido native (4)
- 71 Way to go (4)
- 73 One who sells advice about gambling or speculation (7)
- 75 Make out (4)
- 76 Volcano output (3)
- 77 Water tester (3)
- 78 Shortly before? (3)
- 81 Linking verb (6)
- 83 Weekend wear (1-5)
- 85 Large heavy rope for nautical use (6)
- 86 Being wet with perspiration (6)
- 88 Holes in the head (5)
- 90 Third rock from the sun (5)
- 91 Atlantic food fish (4)
- 92 Vomit (4)
- 93 Under the covers (4)
- 95 Twiggy digs (4)
- 99 Barley brew (3)
- 100 A unit of electrical resistance (3)
- 101 "The Matrix" hero
- 102 Summer cooler (3)

Our Brooklin Kids *By Leanne Brown*



Getting Kids Growing

Last summer, I planted a few tomato plants in pots. It was my first attempt at gardening and my daughter took interest as the little plants grew quickly. She watered them, helped me re-plant them when they outgrew the pots (twice), and knocked off the Japanese beetles that threatened them.

She hates tomatoes so I was curious what the motivation was for taking care of the plants. It turned out that this was her way of showing that she's ready for a puppy! We're still negotiating on that one. But we're planning a bigger garden patch this summer and are going to learn to garden together.

Gardening gives children a chance to learn important life skills about care and responsibility and teaches environmental awareness by exploring the workings of nature. Getting kids involved with gardening from an early age is beneficial to their self-esteem. Yes, they get dirty. But playing in the dirt is a great tactile activity most kids love.

Not every plant is going to be a good one for young gardeners so it's important to choose them wisely. I started with a trip to the garden centre for advice. The garden expert asked us about our garden area. My daughter pulled out her phone and showed her pictures of our space. The expert next asked what vegetables she liked to eat and helped us pick out seeds based on our growing conditions and preferences. She explained there are some "must have" plants for a beginner's garden because they're easy to grow and have good yields.

Sunflowers

Plant just one or two since they take a lot of room. Sunflowers will sprout in one week, become a small seedling in two weeks, and should be two feet tall in a month. The flowers also yield yummy seeds perfect for snacking later in the summer. Be sure to grow 'confectionery' sunflowers.

Lettuce

Greens are a quick and reliable crop and a good way to interest

kids in salads. Lettuce likes part shade and moist soil. There are lots of variations to try.

Snow peas

Snow peas are a fast growing and early crop and fun for kids to eat right off the vine. Peas prefer cooler, partially shaded locations in the garden. They should be sown closely, about an inch apart.

Cherry tomatoes

These are sweet and can be eaten like grapes which make them a great snack. Plant in full sun and use seedlings rather than planting from seed. Put them alongside a two foot stake next to each seedling. They need to be tied loosely to stakes as they get taller. Cherry tomatoes can also be grown in containers.

Nasturtiums

Kids love flowers. These flowers are easy to grow and bloom quickly, which encourages the young gardener. The flowers are also edible. What kid wouldn't love eating fresh garden salad with flowers?

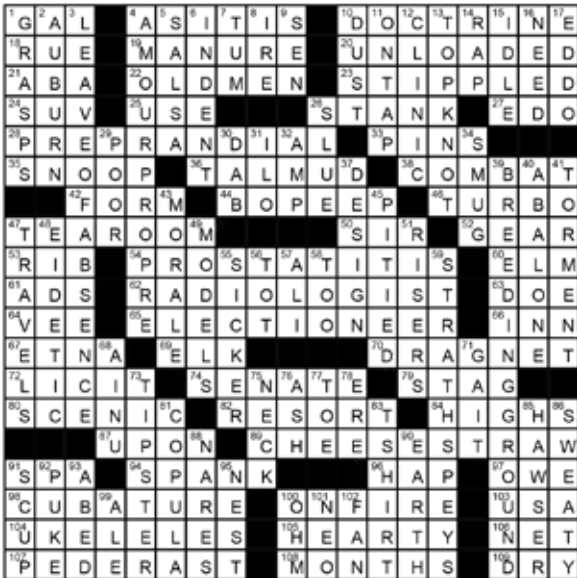
Bush beans

They grow fast and because they don't grow

tall, they're easy for kids to harvest. Bush beans germinate in 4-8 days. Grow them in direct sun. Water the soil but try to keep the leaves dry.

Tools, beds, and help

Give each child his/her own small plot and put it right in the middle of the action with the best soil and light to set them up for success. Provide them proper tools and teach them to take care of them since plastic kiddie tools don't last. Help a little when they aren't looking. They don't have to know about every little weed you pull. The child's 'ownership' of the plot is what's important. When the harvest comes in, show off their work by sharing the bounty with friends and family.



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Rhonda Mulcahy
Regional Councillor
905-706-0482
mulcahyr@whitby.ca



Steve Lee
North Ward Councillor
905-706-0214
lees@whitby.ca

For The Latest Covid 19 Town Updates Visit: www.whitby.ca/coronavirus