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## Hollywood in Brooklin






See story on page 6

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Less than half the picture by Richard Bercuson



At The Vanguard for Removing the Tolls

There is one resident of Durham Region who had mixed emotions when Premier Doug Ford announced on Feb. 18 that the tolls on highways 412 and 418 were being removed.

Ron Stevens, a former market manager for PPG Canada who's lived in Ashburn for 20 years, was so happy to hear the announcement that he and his wife celebrated with an extra glass of wine. He'd been "on the case," as it were, for most of the last four years, corresponding with MPP Lorne Coe and Alain Beaulieu, the director of the province's

transportation user branch. The detailed emails illustrated how strongly Stevens felt that Durham was being mistreated, even ignored. Time and again, he would ask for information or make suggestions.

One was to conduct a three-month study in which tolls would be removed to determine the change in usage. In an exchange with Coe, Stevens quoted a story from the Toronto Star which stated that the province had 30-year contracts with three service providers for the highways. Stevens wrote in his email to Coe that, ac-

cording to the Star, removing tolls "would require modifications to these contracts, and could result in significant financial impacts to the ministry." He asked who the providers were and what the cost impact might be. He never received an answer.

However, this lifelong conservative was also disappointed that Coe had left his constituents high and dry on the issue.

"I get upset when I think about it," Stevens says. "The first priority for an elected official needs to be the constituents. The party comes second."

When the tolls were frozen last April, that, he says, was Coe's opportunity to step up and truly advocate for Whitby, as council had done, to remove the tolls entirely. He didn't.

"The entire experience of dealing with these tolls has been one of the most frustrating endeavours of my life," Stevens admits. "Going forward to the election, I'm confused. I've always voted for the person who best represents my family."

In light of the tolls being removed, his exchanges with Beaulieu are

412-418 TOLLS:  
To be removed April 5

especially interesting. As recently as last September, Beaulieu wrote, "...while removing tolls from Highways 412 and 418 would result in a moderate increase in Highway 407 traffic, it is insufficient to offset the lost toll revenue from those highways."

Yet, it's happened. Stevens feels that the so-called Bradford Bypass connecting highways 400 and 404 - without tolls - was a wake-up call for both Durham and the Ford government. And then, of course, there's the looming June election. "Make no mistake," Stevens says. "The announcement was a campaign stop. If there was no election, we'd still have the tolls."

Meanwhile, if Beaulieu thinks he won't hear from Stevens anymore, he's mistaken. That's because Stevens is front and centre heading up a committee on the highway 7/12 alternate routes.

Final question to Stevens: Will the removal be permanent?

"We'll know if the cameras are taken down."

What You Need To Know This Week:

**Town Council Approves 2022 Budget**

The Town's 2022 Budget was approved by Whitby Town Council on February 17. The approved budget will result in a 2.2 per cent Town increase or an estimated 0.8 per cent increase on the overall residential bill for Town services - about a 12 cent per day increase, per household, for the delivery of important services residents rely on every day. This budget focuses on maintaining affordability and continued essential service delivery. For more information, visit [connectwhitby.ca/Budget](https://connectwhitby.ca/Budget)

**Have Your Say: Coronation Road Park**

The Town is getting a new local park to be built on the west side of Coronation Road, south of Taunton Road. View the proposed conceptual park design and complete a survey by March 4. [connectwhitby.ca/CoronationRoad](https://connectwhitby.ca/CoronationRoad)

**Stay Active This Spring - Register on March 16**

Looking to register yourself or a family member for a program like swimming classes, Basketball or 55+ Art Classes? Browse ACTIVE Net and create a Wish List starting March 1 so you're ready for registration day on March 16 at 9 a.m. Sessions start March 28. [whitby.ca/GetActive](https://whitby.ca/GetActive)

**Final Call - Community Development Fund Applications Due March 31**

Due to the October 24 municipal election, all applications for the Town's Development Fund Grant (up to \$25,000), Mayor's Golf Tournament Lead Cause Grant (up to \$25,000) and Community Grants (up to \$5,000) are due by March 31. Apply at [whitby.ca/CommunityFunds](https://whitby.ca/CommunityFunds)

**World Water Day Film Screening**

Visit the Whitby Public Library on **March 22 at 7 p.m.** to attend a free screening of the documentary "SHORELINE: The Paddle Against Plastic", an inspiring film that follows Rochelle Byrne as she embarks on a 430km paddle journey across Lake Ontario to raise awareness about plastic pollution. A live question and answer session will take place with Rochelle following the screening. Space is limited, register now. [whitby.ca/Calendar](https://whitby.ca/Calendar)

Correction

In the Feb. 11 issue, the Brooklin Heritage Society wrote an article about early Brooklin development. The story stated that the Town brought in sewers in the mid 1980s. This was inaccurate. The sewer project began in August, 1993.

Spring Fair Returning

The Brooklin Spring Fair is planning to return in person the weekend of June 2-3-4-5 after a two year absence due to Covid.

meeting on the 3rd of March and the Brooklin Town Crier, March 11th edition will have all the details about the longest running Brooklin event.

The Brooklin Agricultural Society will be holding their board

Stay tuned!

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Next Issue: Friday, March 11, 2022  
**Deadline: Friday, March 4, 2022**



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# How Brooklin & Hamlets Kept Their Names

by Bradley McIlwain

When the Town of Whitby amalgamated with Whitby Township on Jan. 1, 1968, it created the fourth largest region in the area. However, it would mean changing the names of hamlets as well as the removal of signs, not to mention changing phone listings and mailing addresses, all of which created harsh feelings.

So, a month later, about 300 Brooklin, Myrtle, and Ashburn residents, including members of Brooklin hockey, baseball, and lacrosse teams descended on Whitby Town Council in a fight to keep the names, identities and heritage of their communities from disappearing.



Whitby Mayor Desmond Newman motioned to scrap the names and post offices in Brooklin, Myrtle, and Ashburn, towns that were proud of their community. "To create some order," he stated.

## Businessmen concerned

However, Brooklin resident and former council member John Dryden presented a petition on behalf of concerns of the Brooklin Businessmen's Committee. "The proposed changes," he said, "may be a small thing to the council, but in the minds of the people, they are mountainous. Not only do we oppose the proposals, but we resent them."

Dryden added that council was creating a wedge in the community along with feelings of animosity and distrust. He called for a motion that would put an immediate end to the proposals. Councillor Heber

Down, who settled in Brooklin in 1889, went so far as to announce that he would "fight to the last ditch" for Brooklin's name.

Erasing the community names not only threatened their heritage, but would also be a heavy blow to farmers and family-run businesses. Robert McCoy, president of the business committee, argued that "the benefit of our past advertising would

be lost. If our names were not on the map, customers and suppliers would have to search the length of the municipality for us. Reprinting literature ... would cost me more than \$4,000 and proportionate amounts to others."

## Impact on farmers

Another resident, Robert Heron, urged that the farmer was also a businessman who shouldn't be quickly dismissed, saying "his cattle, etc, may be known thousands of miles away," and that the decision would derail any improvements to business and farms which tried to build up their businesses over the years.

Former Brooklin resident and Councilman John Goodwin was influential in getting the petition to oppose council's decision up and running. Once the motion was made, things became heated.

Of those who protested the change, more than half included high school students. Luther Vipond arranged transportation for many of them and even drove a truckload to the meeting. Despite the cold weather, they didn't mind riding in the back of Vipond's open truck. Al Goldie was one of the students who spoke passionately on behalf of his friends and classmates, moving some residents to tears. The youngest protester was four year old Rick Mitchell.

## Cheers and jeers

Speeches by residents and councilmen elicited cheers of support for Goodwin, John Dryden, and Heber Down with boos and hisses for others such as the Mayor and Reeve Gordon Hanna.

An emotional Mayor Newman tried to appeal to protestors, asking "Do you not want to make a contribution to the new town?" The reply came loud and clear: "No!!!"

The crowd became jubilant when Goodwin presented the final motion to council, "that the Town of Whitby take no further action to change the postal administration for the four hamlets, or the telephone exchange for Brooklin, or names of hamlets unless formally requested by petition of the rate payers of the communities involved."

The mayor's motion was thrown out and today the names and history of Brooklin, Myrtle, Myrtle Station and Ashburn are proudly preserved. The spirit and actions of the protestors had won.



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# MichaelKelly's Hosts Hollywood

It was a Tuesday afternoon when Hollywood came calling. Literally.

Kelly Wright, owner of MichaelKelly's on Winchester Rd, got a phone call from a woman stating she was with CBS and they were in need of a restaurant in Whitby to film a scene. They were looking at seven other such venues but, if chosen, they would cover all fees and, if need be, any repairs.

For a moment, Kelly recalls, she remembered a previous Hollywood experience that didn't go so well. Living in Blackstock at the time, she became a "goose wrangler" for the film "Fly Away

Home" starring Jeff Daniels and Anna Paquin, a story about a man who trained his Canada geese to fly behind his light aircraft. "They were all really high maintenance," she says. "Nothing was good enough for them. They even criticized the town. Well, I thought, you did choose to come here."

This time though, it was altogether different. "The woman showed up an hour later, looked around, took a bunch of photos and left. The next day, the location manager shows up with seven others, checked out the place and left within 15 minutes." They even bought lunch for a table of cus-

tomers in the restaurant at the time because they felt they'd disturbed them.

"When they first called, I didn't figure it would be too big a deal because they wanted to come to my diner. But when they pulled up, I went, oh gosh, this is a big deal."

After an evening of running cables and setting up their generator, filming began around 4 pm and finished at 10:30 that night. Dozens of crew worked around and in the building, all for an eight-minute scene with basically two actors though there were extras. The scene will be in Season 4, episode 4, of the series "In the Dark" which will be aired perhaps later in the year or next.

With it all, Kelly was singularly impressed with everyone involved in the filming. "The next morning, an outdoor crew came to collect everything and they hired a cleaning company to clean the restaurant from top to bottom. They had 24/7 security for three days and everything was insured. When it was all done, someone drove in with cheques for us. I was so impressed with how kind and considerate everyone was."

Then, as a bonus and a souvenir of the experience, the film crew left the window curtains and blinds they'd used for the filming.

Would she do it again? "Absolutely."

## NOTICE OF ONLINE PUBLIC MEETING

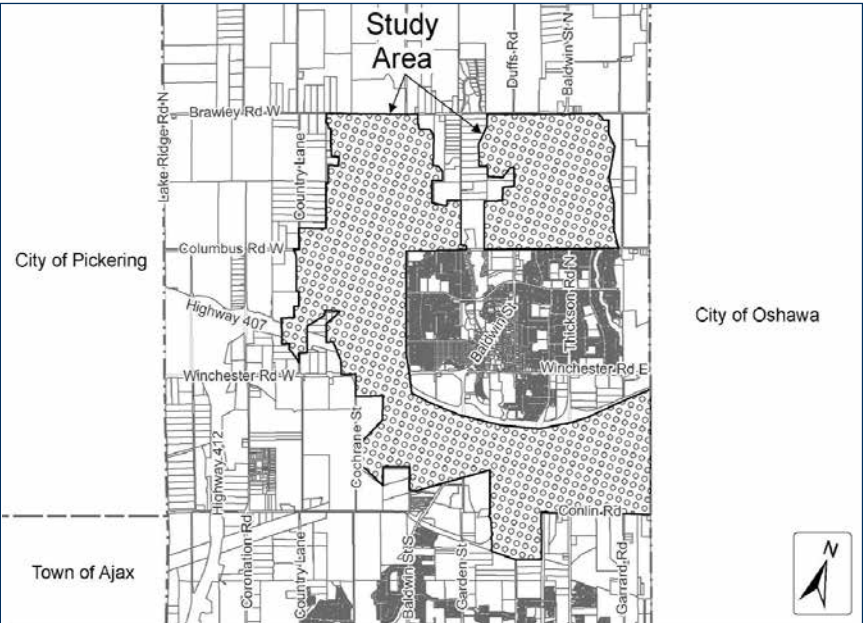
### Brooklin Urban Expansion Area By-Law (Z-05-22)

**Date:** Monday March 21, 2022 | **Time:** 7 p.m. (Applications will be heard at the discretion of the Chair) | **Location:** [whitby.ca/PublicMeeting](http://whitby.ca/PublicMeeting)

A Statutory Public Meeting under the Planning Act will be held to consider draft by-law provisions initiated by the Town of Whitby, to amend Zoning By-law 1784, as it relates to lands located within the Brooklin Urban Boundary expansion area pursuant to Section 34 (12) and Section 34 (13) of the Planning Act, as amended.

**The purpose of the Zoning By-law Amendment is to introduce new zoning standards for lands located within the Brooklin Urban Boundary expansion area.** The updated Zoning will implement the policies of the Town's approved Official Plan (Brooklin Community Secondary Plan) and provide the planning framework required for anticipated growth within Brooklin.

The proposed Zoning By-law will apply to the lands (Study Area), as shown on the map below.



#### How to Get Involved

This Public Meeting will be held virtually. Interested members of the public can also live stream the meeting at [whitby.ca/LiveStream](http://whitby.ca/LiveStream).

Interested in speaking at the Virtual Public Meeting? Register with the Town Clerk by 12 p.m. the day of the meeting (Monday, March 21, 2022). Delegation Forms are available at [whitby.ca/Delegation](http://whitby.ca/Delegation). Don't have access to a computer? Please contact the Office of the Town Clerk at 905-430-4315.

#### Purpose of the Public Meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to share information with and collect feedback from the public on the proposed updates to the By-law. In accordance with the Town's Procedure By-law, individuals who register to make a delegation will be provided up to 5 minutes to comment on the applications. If you are unable to attend the meeting, your comments/representation can be filed in writing by mail, email, or personal delivery to the Town of Whitby Planning and Development Department prior to Council's final decision on the applications.

For additional information relating to the draft by-law, including information about preserving your appeal rights, please contact the Planning and Development Department, Whitby Municipal Building, 575 Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON, L1N 2M8, during regular working hours, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also contact the Planning and Development Department at 905-430-4306 or by email [planning@whitby.ca](mailto:planning@whitby.ca).

**Public Advisory:** Whitby Council is the approval authority of Zoning By-law Amendments passed by the Town of Whitby. If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of Whitby Council to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Whitby before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision. If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Town of Whitby before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Town of Whitby on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment you must make a written request to the Town Clerk, Town of Whitby, 575 Rossland Road East, Whitby ON, L1N 2M8.

Personal information from those that make either an oral or written submission on the subject by-law is collected under the authority of the Planning Act R.S.O. 1990 and the applicable implementing Ontario Regulation, and will become part of the public record for this application. Questions about the collection of personal information should be directed to the Clerk's Office, Town of Whitby, 575 Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON, L1N 2M8, by email to [clerk@whitby.ca](mailto:clerk@whitby.ca) or 905-430-4315.



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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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The year kicked off with a flurry of predictions, with real estate experts forecasting steady price growth, demand continuing to outpace supply and interest rates poised to rise. So far, they're right on the money.

The price of homes rose at a record pace in January, even as the number of sales fell from last year's peak to post their second-best showing for the month, according to numbers released by the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) on February 15. The national average home price was \$748,450 – up 21 per cent from \$618,587 a year earlier.

"As expected, January was pretty quiet on the new listings side of things, with this year's first big new supply numbers unlikely to emerge until the weather starts to warm up a bit," CREA Chair Cliff Stevenson says.

"The question is, 'Will that supply be overwhelmed by demand as it was last spring, or will we start to see the re-emergence of some of the many would-be sellers who have been hunkered down for the last two years?' Either way, it is shaping up to be another interesting year for the housing market, and your local realtor has the information and guidance you'll need if you are planning on buying or selling in 2022."

Earlier in February, the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board (TRREB) released its much anticipated 2022 Market Outlook and 2021 Year in Review report. It forecasts the average selling price for all home types combined is set to climb to \$1.225 million – that's an increase of about 12 per cent compared to last year.

The latest consumer polling by Ipsos supports TRREB's forecast for 2022. Those who are fully committed to a home purchase will do so in 2022, whereas some of those on the fence may put their decision on hold. Detached houses remain most popular with intending buyers, especially in suburban areas.

Also, according to Ipsos, the percentage of first-time buyers is likely to drop. The share of existing homeowners very likely to list their home for sale in 2022 will be down for the Greater Toronto Area. There still exists a vicious circle where homeowners will decide not to list because they fear they won't be able to find another home that meets their needs.

What does all this mean for you? If you're a buyer, entering a seller's market can be intimidat-

ing because there are more buyers than properties for sale. With fewer listings to choose from and more competition, homes typically sell quickly, with multiple offers, bidding wars and over the asking price.

But that shouldn't prevent you from looking for a home. The first step to navigating a seller's market is having a seasoned realtor who knows the current market inside and out on your side. We also recommend getting pre-approved for a mortgage. Doing so will let you know what you can comfortably afford and will lock in your interest rate for a period of time so you can shop with confidence.

Getting pre-approved will also signal to sellers that you're serious. Know the type of house and neighbourhood you prefer and understand the features you need in a home and the ones that would simply be nice to have.

Be prepared to move quickly on a home you like. Together, we can come up with an offer that's as attractive and uncomplicated to the seller as possible. If your offer and someone else's offer are similar but yours has numerous conditions and the other doesn't, that buyer will have the upper hand. Having a strong deposit and being flexible with your move-in date can also work in your favour.

If you find yourself in a bidding war with one or more potential buyers, stay true to your budget. There are definite advantages to working with a realtor who knows the neighbourhoods that interest you and can provide insight regarding upcoming inventory. A well-connected realtor will often hear about properties before they land on the market.

If you're planning to sell, you'll benefit from a solid strategy even in a seller's market. That includes staging your home (yes, it's an investment that will reap rewards, even now), pricing your house strategically, evaluating multiple offers and anticipating appraisal issues that might arise.

Count on the King Home Team to complete the market research you need to make an informed decision and to negotiate ethically on your behalf. We look forward to putting our experience, knowledge and proven negotiating skills to work to help you realize your homeownership dreams!

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