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Less than half the picture: By Richard Bercuson

Clarification-Edification-Mystification

Clarification

True: Highway 407, 412, and 418 tolls rise each June 1 per the Consumer Price Index.

True: Tolls were to rise 2.23%. This was passed by the provincial government on May 14, with Regulation 214/20 replacing Regulation 175/15.

True: One opposition party got all lathered about it (rightfully) until Transportation Minister Caroline Mulroney tweeted how reports (as in the aforementioned party's claim) about an increase were "patently false," that in fact the government was freezing tolls due to the pandemic.

patently redundant since something can either be true or false. There are no degrees of false. Same for redundant, I suppose.

True: The "reports" were quite correct. The new regulation was clear. Aside from her tweet, no one knew or had heard otherwise.

Edification

MPP Lorne Coe contacted BTC Publisher Rhonda Mulcahy, informing her of the Minister's tweet. She relayed it to me.

Finding the regulations online was simple. Anyone seeing the updated one, Reg. 214/20,

True: Her use of "patently" was would correctly conclude our government was raising the tolls. However, in my vaunted role of columnist, I still needed to check it. Consequently, I asked myself this: Assuming the freeze is true, where would I find an official announcement about it?

> It would surely be on the Ontario government site; or on "Ontario News Now," their news site; or on Minister's Mulroney's site; or on Coe's site; or on the Ministry of Transportation site.

> But no, there was nothing anywhere. It didn't dawn on me for a nanosecond that I should need to navigate the Twittersphere where the minister's "So there!" response to the opposition's umbrage lay in the weeds. This was the official government response?

With no announcement to be found, I could only conclude they were raising the rates.

Mystification

it seems the government must more is said than done."

have figured anger about the published new regulation could be mollified with a tweet. Well, if they were so dang proud of the freeze, why not make a thing of it with even a modest showing of pride?

While it was at minimum a fitting gesture, I remain mystified about how the government has "handled" the entire toll issue. Here's a thought. This would have been the ideal time to proclaim a REDUCTION by even a token amount. Then again, wouldn't that give Durham residents false hope of the tolls being cancelled altogether? And afterwards, wouldn't it be viewed as curmudgeonly to return them to Reg 214/20 levels once the current crisis has passed?

They'd have a point. Why? Because such an approach might further remind voters of the promises made by local MPP candidates, including Mr. Coe, during the 2018 election campaign, regarding removal of the 412/418 tolls altogether. No sense tossing gasoline onto those embers.

How the provincial government and MPP Coe have dealt with the entire toll road situation reminds me of Aesop, he of fable With everything else going on, fame. "After all is said and done,

Song Spot Hanging On

By Richard Bercuson

In a time of business peril, the vulnerabilities of certain types have become particularly apparent. For instance, fitness gyms and yoga studios come to mind. But there are also a host of other, less obvious ones which seem to be existing almost day to day. Brooklin's The Song Spot is one of those.

Rumours circulated in recent weeks that Andrea Akers's business was closing. Not yet, she says, though it certainly is a challenge to teach musical instruments and voice without being face to face. For now and the next couple of months at least, The Song Spot should be fine.

"At the beginning of all this, I was a lot more anxious," she admits. "Now I realize the situation and just want to get through the summer. I would love it if people could afford lessons, but I also know the reality. I hope people are willing to hold onto the credits I've offered."

For the time being, she will offer individual guitar and drum

lessons in person as per the government's law allowing small group instruction. Those instruments will continue to be offered as virtual lessons as well. But for other things like voice and piano, it may be a while before they can be offered in any effective way.

"For piano, the instructor needs to see the student's hands and touch both the student and the keys. It means taking perhaps a 10 minute buffer of every hour to disinfect the keys and the room between lessons. I don't think many teachers are willing to lose that much time."

As for voice lessons, obviously having the face covered makes it mostly impractical. Besides, virtual lessons always seem to have glitches.

Akers says she's been able to have her rent postponed and is hoping the government permits a larger number of students by the end of the summer. Until then, she is very much taking it one day and one week at a time.

Brooklin Bafflers: by Liz Lowe **Word Search**

KEBSIKQJKOYSYMHRSWM MOVAHROLLSTSAOTNLPW SPNOCABJTHLHNUJGYHA F V Y W S C E R E A L E G G S E U E F X P X B F E G Q E J Y N G M T A C X F POHWSYERIAEAIATFGPL LRPSNIFFUMDLLMBZIEE J R C A W C O P R T K O L D S Q J Q S YIHXOVRBNUCAOYOGURT TDJFRGUIGOIEYHZMYQE BGFXBRMSHOATMEALVML EMQHANCROISSANTSPE ERWTSNTUYKEDALAMRAM BDJKAOPIKEYVVLSHMQO TECAHLSTUNHGUODKVID EMJYEAHSEKACNAPGARU D F O V B E Z M Y W O E P I O C N Z I HQGQCHQVFEQRJFUCESV ANGLQUKKGYZFISEWHH

LATE PANCAKES BACON EGGS PORRIDGE BAGELS FRUIT JAM **BISCUITS GRANOLA JELLY ROLLS MARMALADE SAUSAGES BREAD** HAM **TEA CEREAL** HASH MILK **BROWNS MUFFINS TOAST COFFEE CROISSANTS HONEY** OATMEAL WAFFLES **DOUGHNUTS** HOT CHOCO-**OMELETS YOGURT**

€Town £rier

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> Email: mulcahy42@rogers.com Next Issue: Friday, June 19, 2020 Deadline: Friday, June 12, 2020 During COVID-19 dates are subject to change.

Prima Ballet Rescued

By Richard Bercuson

Brooklin's Prima Ballet, a fixture on Baldwin St. for eight years, came this close to shutting its doors last month. Perhaps even closer than that.

But then a miracle of sorts fell into owner and director Angie Stone's lap. The family of one of her students was so upset at the thought of Prima closing that they offered to buy the business, thus rescuing it from almost certain closure. What's more, Stone's role as director and teacher will not change. The new owner's name is being withheld at their request.

Even before COVID struck, it hadn't been a particularly good vear for Prima. "Our Nutcracker production was the first hiccup," says Stone. "We normally did shows in schools, with a fraction of the full show.

"We budget a year in advance and couldn't have predicted the school situation," she recalls. "We could have recovered the loss of shows over a year or so and it was doable. Then came COVID on Friday the 13th (of

March)."

She waited it out through April, giving online classes where feasible. The vast majority of clients were understanding; others were caught off -quard and were dealing with cutbacks themselves and had to cancel.

"Through this sort of state of emergency," Stone says, "I pushed and pushed and pushed. I was at a point where we were in a downward spiral and sinking into an abyss of debt.

"My biggest fear was what do I do next. I'll have trouble convincing my own child to continue to dance."

Days after sending all parents an email about the pending closure, she was showing the unit to potential renters. Then she got a phone call. "The lady said she can't see this go, that the place means too much to too many people. She asked me what if she bought the business and I partnered up with her. She kept



apologizing and saying she didn't want to appear like a vulture."

With the school saved, Stone is now investigating how to sanitize the studio and make it safe for when classes larger than one or two are permitted.

She's been doing one-on-one instruction through Zoom which most kids have enjoyed it. At least they keep dancing. She gives them a bit of homework along with dance and choreography challenges. Audio and video delays have been a bit of a challenge. Needing to learn to be much more descriptive with language lieu of a tactile approach has been another.

"I'm doing stuff to keep morale up. Theirs and mine. Basically I'm generating about 4% of what normally comes per month."

Her mother, who was one of the school's teachers has decided to retire from that part of her teaching life though she will continue doing dance instruction for those with Parkinson's.

With this experience, Stone has become even more of a staunch supporter of community businesses. "Every single business along Baldwin needs our support. Otherwise..."

Our Brooklin Kids By Leanne Brown

Celebrating a birthday during Covid



As we social distance off with a surprise. during the pandemic, kids are dealing with disappointment over canceled trips, school events, sports seasons, graduations and

more. For children celebrating their birthdays during this time. the absence of a birthday party surrounded by their friends is further heartbreak.

But just because we have to stay home doesn't mean kids can't have amazing birthday celebrations. There are some easy ways to make a birthday special without the traditional party. Here are some favourites:

Balloon surprise

Nothing says a party like balloons. One way to really start off the day right is to create a balloon shower. Tape a sheet to the door frame and, between the sheet and door, fill it with balloons while they're sleeping. When they open their door in the morning, balloons fall on them, kicking the day

Lawn decorations

Surprise the birthday girl or boy with a yard sign and other decorations so the whole neighbourhood knows it's their special day. Our neighbour did this and soon the whole street was dropping off little treats and homemade cards.

Car parade

Ask friends, neighbours, classmates, teammates and relatives to decorate their cars, make signs and drive by your house at a designated day and time. Set up chairs in the driveway and watch the parade. Participants can also drop off gifts and cards while you're at a safe distance.

Video celebration

Tween birthdays are all about celebrating with friends, so why not hold a Zoom birthday party? (This works for teens and adults, too) You can bake a cake and the birthday child can blow out the candles. Everyone sings happy birthday and maybe play

charades or trivia or do a group TikTok. The only disappointment is that they can't share the cake. An aside: I wonder if blowing out candles is soon to become history.

Scavenger hunt

How about a sort of Easter egg hunt, only with birthday gifts? Family members send gifts via snail mail and you hide them around the house for your child to discover.

Video message

There are businesses that have actors & singers who dress up like princesses and superheroes for parties. Some do personalized videos and FaceTime calls for a small fee. If your son is into Batman or daughter has a favourite princess they can get to chat with them over video. Younger kids will love this!

Special meals

Why not make their favorite breakfast and get takeout from their favourite place? If they love going to a special restaurant, bring the experience home. It's sure to be a hit.

Themed day

When our Disney vacation got canceled, we put on our Disney shirts and mouse ears and ate Disney-themed food. We also had a Disney movie festival and watched Disney rides on You Tube on our big screen TV. You could do something similar with your own favourite theme.

Slumber party

So you can't have all your friends over. But you can do a family sleepover with sleeping bags in the living room with lots of pillows and blankets and all the typical fun. In the summer, if you have a tent you could have a backyard campout and make hotdogs and s'mores on the bbq.

Kids are pretty resilient. The most important thing is to acknowledge their special day by showering them with love. That's certainly what they will remember.

BROOKLIN ZOO











Caring for Our Community

We're all in this together, Whitby – learn more about our grant programs, funding opportunities for organizations fighting COVID-19, and how you can celebrate community volunteers.



Mayor's Community Development Fund Supports Local Organizations During COVID-19

Since March, this fund has awarded more than \$50,000 in funding to over 12 groups delivering vital services and programming to our community's most vulnerable. Applications are accepted monthly. The next deadline is June 30.

For more information on how to apply and to learn more about which organizations the fund has supported to date, visit whitby.ca/communityfunds

Nominations for the 2020 Mayor's Senior Volunteer Award Now Open

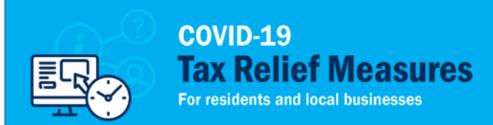
This annual award recognizes Whitby seniors who demonstrate outstanding and ongoing commitment to volunteerism in our community! To qualify, the nominee must be a current resident of Whitby, aged 55+, and volunteer their time in any aspect of the community. To complete the application form, visit whitby.ca/msva

If you require further information, visit whitby.ca/seniors, or email Michelle Waterhouse at waterhousem@whitby.ca or call 905.668.1424

*Award applications available online-only this year. Nominations close Friday, August 7, 2020.

Durham Region-wide COVID-19 Funding Opportunities for Community Agencies and Non-Profit Organizations

Funding is available to organizations that are providing urgent help to vulnerable Durham Region residents. To learn more about the programs and to apply, visit, durham.ca/COVID19funding



Reminder: The Final Residential Tax Billing has been delayed by one month and will be mailed by the end of June. Installments are due July 24 and September 24. Learn more at whitby.ca/tax

































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Brooklin Heritage Society

The Storm

By Jennifer Hudgins

On Wednesday, June 4, 1890, one of the most disastrous storms ever experienced in the history of the town hit Brooklin. Driving wind and pelting rain transformed streets into rivers. Without storm drainage systems, floodwaters took the easiest route downhill to swell Lynde Creek, turning it into a churning torrent, eroding it's banks and carrying away everything in its

path. The destruction was widespread.

Every wooden bridge was damaged and about half were washed away. Buildings and property were ruined and livestock carried off. Local industries that were powered by water suffered severely. The Toronto Globe and Mail wrote: "Between concession lines, six bridges and roads are washed out in all directions. There is hardly a bridge or mill dam left in the township."

Brooklin and Whitby lost all communication as fields flooded and lines were knocked down. The Canadian Pacific Railway line was washed out.

Town Council authorized the purchase of a pile driver to construct new bridges while Councillor John Vipond and Deputy Reeve Alex Wilson acquired the necessary cedar. It was estimated the damage to roads and bridges alone would cost over \$25,000 to

repair or replace, over \$70,000 today.

Members of the community came together to help repair roads, culverts and bridges or provide materials. Council approved the repayment of money to these individuals for lost wages or for those who used their own materials to help make repairs.

The bridge and dam at Lynde Creek on Mill Street, now Cassels Rd., were the first to be replaced due to their proximity to the centre of town and the heavy demand of the Brooklin Mill.

> Repairs to other bridges and dams quickly followed.

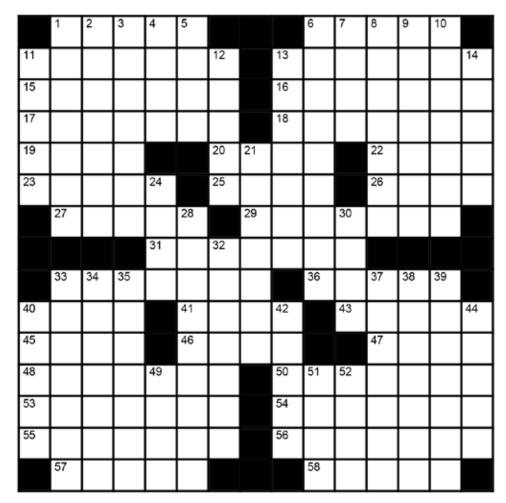
By June 7, it was all over. Most of the rain fell on the first two days and after that evervone faced the laborious task of cleaning up. It was described as the worst flood in Brooklin history.

Wooden Bridge Lynde over Photo Creek. courtesy of Whitby Archives.



Brooklin Bafflers: by Liz Lowe

Crossword



Across

- Dismay 1
- Pungent
- 11 Pass through the oesophagus
- 13 Someone who cleanses
- 15 A testator: one who bequeaths a legacy
- **16** Turn the forearm or the hand so that the palm is

- directed downwards
- 17 Heavy hydrogen, e.g. 18 Rubbed rosin onto
- **19** Statistical calculation
- 20 Thunder sound
- 22 Not naughty
- 23 Brainy
- 25 A blow that renders the opponent unconscious
- 26 Makes lace
- 27 Test format
- 29 Wrestling holds
- **31** External opening to the nasal cavity
- **33** Member of the mustard
- 36 Luxurious sheet material
- **40** Jockey's whip
- 41 Leavened breads baked in a clay oven in India
- **43** Protective secretion
- 45 Error message?
- 46 Picnic pest
- **47** Mutation target
- **48** Molded, as metal
- **50** An inferior imitator of some distinguished writer, artist, or musician
- **53** A moderately slow tempo
- **54** Trimming on ceremonial robes
- **55** Artificially formal **56** Lapidators
- **57** Show of contempt
- **58** Hopping mad

Down

- "Totally cool!"
- Asian shrines
- Skilled workers who coat articles with a film of metal
- Voice below soprano
- Roller coaster feature
- The citadel in ancient Greek
- Whispers sweet nothings
- Encounter
- Shiraz resident
- 10 Picks up
- 11 Diets
- **12** Jalopy
- 13 Mister **14** Gives advice to
- **21** A flowering shrub
- **24** Zingy taste
- 28 Type of juvenile
- **30** Close violently
- 32 Biased
- 33 Scares off by some exclamation
- 34 Cordoned off
- **35** Luxurious
- 37 Move by pulling hard
- 38 Frost up
- **39** Convent community
- 40 Musical endings
- 42 Flower holders?
- **44** Prognosticators
- **49** Start the pot
- 51 Hummus holder
- **52** Privy to

Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Arriving

From Durham.ca

Region's Automated Durham Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras have been deployed and are in some school zones and designated Community Safety Zones on Regional Roads. At this time, the ASE cameras will be operating in data collection mode and no fines will be issued.

Automated speed enforcement (ASE) is a modern tool used to help enforce speed limits in school zones and community safety zones—places where kids tend to walk, run, bike and play!

Speed is a contributing factor in approximately one third of fatal collisions in Canada. Speed limits are not guidelines—they are laws. Reducing speed is the best way we can reduce the frequency and severity of collisions in our community.

In Durham Region, ASE will be implemented in some school zones and designated Community Safety Zones on Regional roads.

Durham Region is one of many municipalities across Ontario using ASE to create safer roads.

This initiative is in support of Durham Vision Zero, a long-term plan to ensure a safe transportation system that sees no lives lost or serious injuries on Durham's roadways.

How it works

If a vehicle exceeds the posted . speed limit in an ASE-enforced area, the ASE system captures an image that is stored and reviewed by a Provincial Offences Act officer. If warranted, an offence notice • (fine), with a digital copy of the image, is sent to the registered owner • of the vehicle within 30 days. The offence notice is issued to the registered owner, with no demerit points • issued.

The best way to avoid a fine through • ASE is to follow posted speed limits. Fines will only be given to vehicles • travelling over the speed limit.

The fines for speeding in Ontario • under the Highway Traffic Act are:

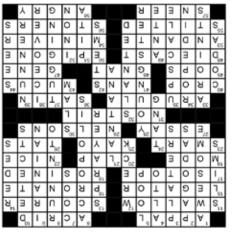
- Less than 20 kilometres per hour over the speed limit: \$3 for each kilometre per hour that the motor vehicle was driven over the speed limit.
- 20 kilometres per hour or more

- but less than 30 kilometres per hour over the speed limit: \$4.50 for each kilometre per hour that the motor vehicle was driven over the speed limit.
- 30 kilometres per hour or more but less than 50 kilometres per hour over the speed limit: \$7 for each kilometre per hour that the motor vehicle was driven over the speed limit.

School Zones:

- St. Issac Jogues Catholic School - Pickering (Finch Av-
- Brock High School Brock (Cameron Street)
- Community Safety Zones:
- St. Mary High School Pickering (Whites Road)
- Beaverton Downtown Brock (Simcoe Street)
- Claremont Public School -Pickering (Central Street)
- Elizabeth B Phin Public School - Pickering (Altona Road)
- Ajax High School Ajax (Bayly
- Street East) Sinclair Secondary School -
- Whitby (Taunton Road East) Anderson Collegiate Voca-
- tional Institute Whitby (Anderson Street)
- Paul Dwyer High School Oshawa (Rossland Road)
- Adelaide McLaughlin Public School - Oshawa (Stevenson Road North)
- St. Stephen's United Church -Oshawa (Simcoe Street North)
- Ontario Tech University/Durham College - Oshawa (Simcoe Street North)
- SJ Phillips Public School Oshawa (Simcoe Street North)
- Beau Valley Public School -Oshawa (Ritson Road North)
- Vincent Massey Public School Oshawa (Adelaide Avenue)
- Eastdale Collegiate Vocational Institute - Oshawa (Harmony Road)
- Courtice Downtown Clarington (Regional Highway 2)
- Goodwood Community Centre Uxbridge (Regional Highway)
- Hamlet of Sandford Uxbridge (Regional Road 11)
- Bowmanville High School -Clarington (Liberty Street)
- Sunderland Downtown Brock (Regional Road 10)
- Cannington Downtown Brock (Cameron Street)

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Oshawa Clinic Group to Whitby in 2024

Whitby residents will have better access to health care closer to home with the planned expansion of the Oshawa Clinic Group to Whitby in 2024. On Wednesday, May 27, the clinic submitted its site plan application to the Town, taking this project one step closer to becoming a reality.

The new four-storey, state-of-the-art, 152,000 square-foot medical facility is to be located at the southwest corner of Des Newman Boulevard and Bonacord Avenue in West Whitby, an area anticipated to be one of Durham Region's fastest areas of growth over the next 12 years.

The clinic is the largest multidisciplinary group practice in Canada. It will connect 85 physicians, including both specialists and family physicians. Through the clinic, residents will have access to a wide range of non-acute healthcare services, including cardiology, physiotherapy, fertility, men's health, audiology and psychology. The

clinic will also feature a walk-in urgent care centre.

"As Whitby continues to grow, we must ensure our residents have convenient access to a wide range of health services," said Whitby Mayor Don Mitchell. "Attracting Canada's largest multidisciplinary health clinic is great news for our town. My special thanks to Minister Mulroney, Associate Minister Surma, MPP Coe and MTO staff for expediting the land transfer needed to support the new clinic."

Over the next 12 years, Whitby's population is expected to grow by more than 40 per cent. The new medical building, which will employ 250 people, will be a one-stop convenience for the majority of non-acute healthcare needs, including: cardiology centre, fertility clinic, men's health centre, sleep clinic, psychology centre, diagnostic imaging clinic, laboratory, a physiotherapy clinic and more. The urgent care centre will be open 364 days of the year.

North Ward Councillor: Steve Lee

The Effect on Small **Business Owners, Like Me**



we can to support small business. And when I say we are in it together or that I understand, I know about it first hand as I'm a small

business owner myself.

I run a wedding photography studio. We typically do about 100 weddings a year with a staff of 10 who count on these weddings for their incomes. The pandemic and provincial closures came right at the start of our season since It's a seasonal operation with all of our money and sales mainly coming between April and October.

As you can imagine, this did a real number to both my business and the entire wedding industry. Right now, between the closures and restrictions to the size of groups of people, we are still shut down and far from being able to resume normal business anytime

Personally, I don't think I'll see a return to normal business until at least April of 2021 and the start of next summer's wedding season. So, for us, that is basically a one-year loss of sales, all while still paying rent and expenses on a closed studio and office.

Since my business is almost exclusively weddings, we are not in a position to pivot quickly since weddings are booked years in advance. Yet I believe there is always an opportunity to be found with any disruption to a market. I've worked to position my business to take advantage of that when I'm allowed to reopen. Hopefully, with adjustments, I'll be able to bounce back and rebuild.

We must do as much as What this has also meant for me is that I've now taken over more of the house responsibilities and helping the kids with their online classes. I am even taking online courses to add to my skills and start a business different from photography. At heart, I am an entrepreneur so starting another business just seemed the best option to weather through this.

> As a Town councillor, we are limited by what the municipality can offer small business. I worry we will see many businesses close in the coming months. The financial support must come from both the province and the federal government and we need to continue to work with them to support business even further.

> Recently Councillor Mulcahy and I have been compiling FAQs and webinar links to help small businesses with information. As the two Whitby councillors owning their own businesses, we have first hand knowledge of COVID-19's effects. We are listening to businesses and families and looking for ways to support them. We really do need to work as a collective to ensure our economy survives and we don't end up with empty storefronts all over town.

> I'm aware many want to support local businesses by shopping locally. This is great if you're able to do it. However I also understand it may not be possible if you've had to cut back. Please know that council will be there for you, too.

> I will say it again: we are all in this together. We need to support everyone in our community in whatever ways we

Free Virtual Rec Activities

Month and the Town is celebrating differently this year with free activities offered virtually and through safe physical distancing.

The Town will issue a weekly recreation bingo challenge with simple activities that can be completed outdoors or from the comfort of home. Each week, participants can complete a bingo card for their chance to win a \$100 Recreation Gift Certificate.

The Town is also launching a new "Fun in a Box" program for kids ages 3 to 5 and 6 to 9 years old. Each week, parents of registered participants can pick up

June is Recreation and Parks a new box filled with activities for their child(ren) to complete at their convenience. Parents can register their child(ren) for the "Fun in a Box" program online through ActiveNet at whitby.ca/ getactive.

> When outdoors, residents are reminded to do their part to stay apart by maintaining a distance of at least two metres (or six feet) between themselves and any person living outside their household.

For more information on how to get involved in Recreation and Parks Month, visit whitby.ca/ stayconnected.





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

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	Bed	Bath	Sq Ft	Lot
Brick Exec	4	3.5	3049	49 x115 large corner lot; Family friendly
21/2 Storey	5+1	5	3600	49x128 Pie lot; finished basement
2 Storey	4	2.5	2290	36 x115 Walk to great schools + parks
2 Storey	4	3.5	2730	40 x115 Select your finishes
2 Storey	3	2.5	1940	36x115 Backing onto treed yard
New Build	4	2.5	2300	35x115 Central location with schools
Bungalow	3	2	1670	40x108 South exposure
Bungalow	2	2	1292	35x115 Close to medical centre
Bungalow	4	2.5	2070	40x115 Walk to stores + amenities
New Build	3	2	1812	50x115 West vard exposure