



An advertisement for Skyview Electronics. The background is blue. At the top left, the text 'Onsite Repair & Sales' is written in large white font. To the right is an illustration of a smartphone with a cracked screen and a wrench icon. An orange diagonal banner in the top right corner says 'NEW' in white. Below the main title is a list of services, each preceded by a checkmark: 'Cell Phone', 'Tablet / Laptop', 'Smart Watch', 'Game Console', and 'Certified Tech.'. The text 'Cell Phone', 'Smart Watch', and 'Game Console' is orange, while the others are white. Below this list is a horizontal line with the text 'Fixed Fast' in large white font. At the bottom left is a logo consisting of a blue shield with a white 'S' shape inside. To the right of the logo, the text 'SKYVIEWELECTRONICS' is in large white font, followed by 'INSTALLATION SERVICE SALES' in smaller white font, and the address '46 Baldwin St. Brooklyn, ON' and phone number '905-655-3661' in white font.

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# Reyne Rodrigues: Canada's Hurdles Champ



**See more on page 6**



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# The Mitchells: From men's wear to mayor

*A personal history  
by Nan Mitchell*

The floor of the Grass Park pavilion features stones engraved with the names of residents and business owners whose contributions have enriched the community. They were purchased by family members, like the Mitchells, who wanted their loved ones remembered for their place in the town's history.

The Mitchell family saga in Brooklin has been both long and deep. It began with my grandparents, John Mitchell and his wife Jane, who, in 1939, moved with their two sons, Bruce, my dad, and Don from Toronto to a 50-acre farm and orchard they purchased at 5455 Ashburn Road. John continued to work for Tip Top Tailors on Lakeshore Blvd. in Toronto, following in the footsteps of his own father and brother. Bruce and Don eventually became cutters in the mid-1940s.

### Men's wear store

John retired from Tip Top in 1952 and opened Mitchell's Men's Wear in Brooklin where he carried Tip Top's men's and ladies' suits, haberdashery, boys wear and Sisman's shoes. It was located at 46 Baldwin Street North and eventually moved to 6 Roebuck St. until

the mid 1960s.

He used to treat his six grandchildren to delicious licorice wrapped in striped black and silver foil. He even once bought us two ponies that produced some challenging rides through the orchard trying to avoid apple tree branches.

His sons were avid sportsmen, playing for Brooklin teams in hockey, lacrosse and especially softball. According to family lore, with their father's encouragement, Bruce and Don started their own business. They bought McPherson Builders Supply Company, renaming it Mitchell Bros. Building Supplies, because commuting to Toronto after doing chores on the farm - with no highway 401 - was cutting into their baseball time.

### Softball player

Bruce was an unrelenting competitor, (half) jokingly telling his daughters, "It doesn't matter how you play the game as long as you win!" A catcher, he played through injuries like split fingers and, on one occasion, he removed a wrist cast to catch a game. There was also the 23-inning game he caught against Dresden. He was a manager of the Brooklin Concretes softball team and also groundskeeper for the Brooklin Park diamond.

The two brothers played multiple positions for the Guy Stevenson Motors and Brooklin Concretes teams. In 2021, when the Brooklin Concretes were inducted into the Whitby Sports Hall of Fame, they joined as players.

like a third set of grandparents to my two sisters and me.

In 1967, Bruce and Don built a new two-storey office on the Mitchell Bros. property. While running Mitchell Bros., they also helped their father with the orchard, continuing after his death until 1981.

Immersed in the community, Bruce and Don were members of the Brooklin Legion Local 152, the Brooklin Hunt Club and were on the Executive for the Brooklin Redmen Lacrosse team. Don was also a member of the Oddfellows Lodge. In 1948, they helped build the original Brooklin Memorial Arena.

### Supporters

Mitchell's Men's Wear and Mitchell Bros. supported the annual Spring Fair with Mitchell Bros. sponsoring the log sawing and nail driving competition for years. Don and Bruce were volunteer firemen with Don becoming Fire Chief while his brother Bruce retired as a Captain.

In the mid 1990s, with Bruce retired, Don Sr.'s son, Don, took over Mitchell Bros. and renamed it Mitchell Lumber until closing its doors in 2016. But, in November 2014, Don was elected Mayor of the Town of Whitby, bringing the family full circle.

The original Mitchells, my grandparents, along with their sons and wives are all buried in Groveside Cemetery.

## What You Need To Know This Week:

### Register Today For Summer Camp

Summer camp registration is now open! Create or log in to your ACTIVENet account to sign up online for:

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### World of Bees Live Presentation

Join Alvéole urban beekeepers for an in-person presentation on all things Bees on April 19 at 7 p.m. at Whitby Central Library (405 Dundas Street West). Learn about urban beekeeping and listen to a beekeeper recount a bee's life journey. Thank you to our sponsors Elexicon Energy and Alvéole. Register at [whitby.ca/Calendar](http://whitby.ca/Calendar)



### Easter Holiday Closures

Easter Long Weekend is just around the corner! Read about what's open and closed this holiday weekend at [whitby.ca/News](http://whitby.ca/News)



### Easter Waste Collection Schedule

There is no waste collection service on April 15 and April 18. Waste collection for April 15 and the week of April 18 to 22 has been moved forward one day after your regular pick up day. To confirm your collection pick up day, check the waste collection calendar or download the Whitby Waste Buddy app. [whitby.ca/Waste](http://whitby.ca/Waste)

#### Yellow Collection - Areas 2, 4, 6, 8, 10

	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	18	19	20	21	22	23

#### Blue Collection - Areas 1, 3, 5, 7, 9

	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	18	19	20	21	22	23

### 2022 Interim Tax Bill Due April 25 Residential, Farmland, Pipeline and Managed Forest Properties

The second instalment of the Interim Tax Billing for 2022 is due April 25.

Questions? Contact the Tax Division at 905.430.4304 or [tax@whitby.ca](mailto:tax@whitby.ca). For more information on how payment can be made, visit [whitby.ca/Tax](http://whitby.ca/Tax)



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### A house divided

Their property included a house divided into two small apartments and a small office as well as two large sheds with covered areas for lumber. Don and Ruth had two daughters and a son, while Bruce and Iva had three daughters. After flipping a coin, Bruce built a new home at 17 Albert Street across from the lumber yard on land purchased from Wes and Nora Schell who owned the gas station uptown. That couple became

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Proof of vaccination not required, but recommended. Masks must be worn in certain areas.

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Next Issue: Friday, April 29, 2022

**Deadline: Friday, April 22, 2022**



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 <p><b>SOLD</b> <b>\$1,500,000</b></p>	 <p><b>SOLD</b> <b>\$1,315,000</b></p>	 <p><b>SOLD</b> <b>\$1,645,000</b></p>	 <p><b>SOLD</b> <b>\$1,510,000</b></p>

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# Reyne Rodrigues: Top Canadian Hurdler

It was at a York University summer camp ten years ago that Reyne Rodrigues was first exposed to hurdling. At age eight, she declared that becoming a hurdler was what she wanted to do. She's since achieved that objective in spades.

"A little unusual for an eight year old, sure," she says upon reflecting on her childhood goal. "But I did play all kinds of sports as a kid and through highschool. Basketball, volleyball, even frisbee. I just love sports. But I fell in love with hurdles."

She's currently the number 1 ranked 400 m hurdler in Canada and is ranked 3rd in the 400 m sprint event. Between her track successes and her academic prowess, maintaining a 4.0 GPA, Reyne is on her way to Cornell University in the fall to study ecology and eventually obtain a master's in dietetics.



To give a sense of her commitment and drive, her recent 400 m hurdle time of 1:01:59 that gave her the number one national ranking came after having done the event just three times before. Covid, of course, had gotten in the way of just about everything on the planet,



including her opportunity to compete. In her words, she's "super motivated" in athletics and academics.

She'd been approached by over a dozen universities. "Obviously my grades played a big role," she says. "But going to an Ivy League school is special. You're allowed three visits to a school and Cornell just sort of felt like home. There was a sense of community as soon as I got on the campus."

Her challenges there to reach the ultimate objective of being a national team athlete and eventually the Olympics are within reach. "Track is a very independent sport. You need consistency in practice. Here,



I've been training three or four times per week. At Cornell it will be five or six. It will also expose me to more great athletes and of course some lifestyle changes. But I'm really excited to experience it all."

While her love is hurdles, shorter events like 100 or 200 m sprints are not on her radar. "I'm not an explosive runner. I'm able to get to top speed and hold it for longer which is why the 400 is more for me."

Reyne's website is [www.reynerodrigues.com](http://www.reynerodrigues.com) which is where one can find all her event stats.

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### First Impressions

Meet Dr. Peter Yao, who opened Brooklin Village Dental Care in 2004. Originally from Calgary, Dr. Yao received his BS in Microbiology before moving to Manitoba where he completed his Medical Dentistry Degree.

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.

### Comprehensive Care

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

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North Ward  
- Councillor Steve Lee

# Grass Park Getting a Makeover



Grass Park will undergo a makeover this summer as town staff have been planning some needed improvements. While these are not yet finalized, they will be great updates to this amazing downtown park.

Proposed improvements include:

- Pathway accessibility
- Better grading and drainage
- Replace pathway pavers
- Gazebo restoration and maintenance

Grass Park is widely used and has long served as a gathering spot for activities and events such as Music in the Park, Harvest Fest, and Christmas in the Village. With the return of events this summer and fall, Grass Park will once again become a great focal point for our community. In fact, a new bear bench will also make a triumphant.

### Roebuck pilot

Also being looked at this summer is a pilot program for Roebuck Street, an idea I raised with staff as a possible consideration. The pilot will involve the closure of Roebuck in August and September, 2022, from Baldwin Street to the driveway access off the private parking lot on the north side of Roebuck. This would be to provide additional outdoor public space and allow for more activities, essentially an extension of Grass Park.

This project may include ele-

ments such as the following to liven up the space:

- Colourful Adirondack chairs
- Accessible picnic tables
- Planters to provide softscape elements and décor
- Armour stones to block off the road
- A road mural that says “Brooklin” with each letter painted by a local artist
- Hopscotch

Last summer, staff and members of the Brooklin Downtown Development Steering Committee (BDDSC, which I sit on as councillor), met in person with property owners and businesses along Roebuck Street to advise them of this proposal and obtain their feedback.

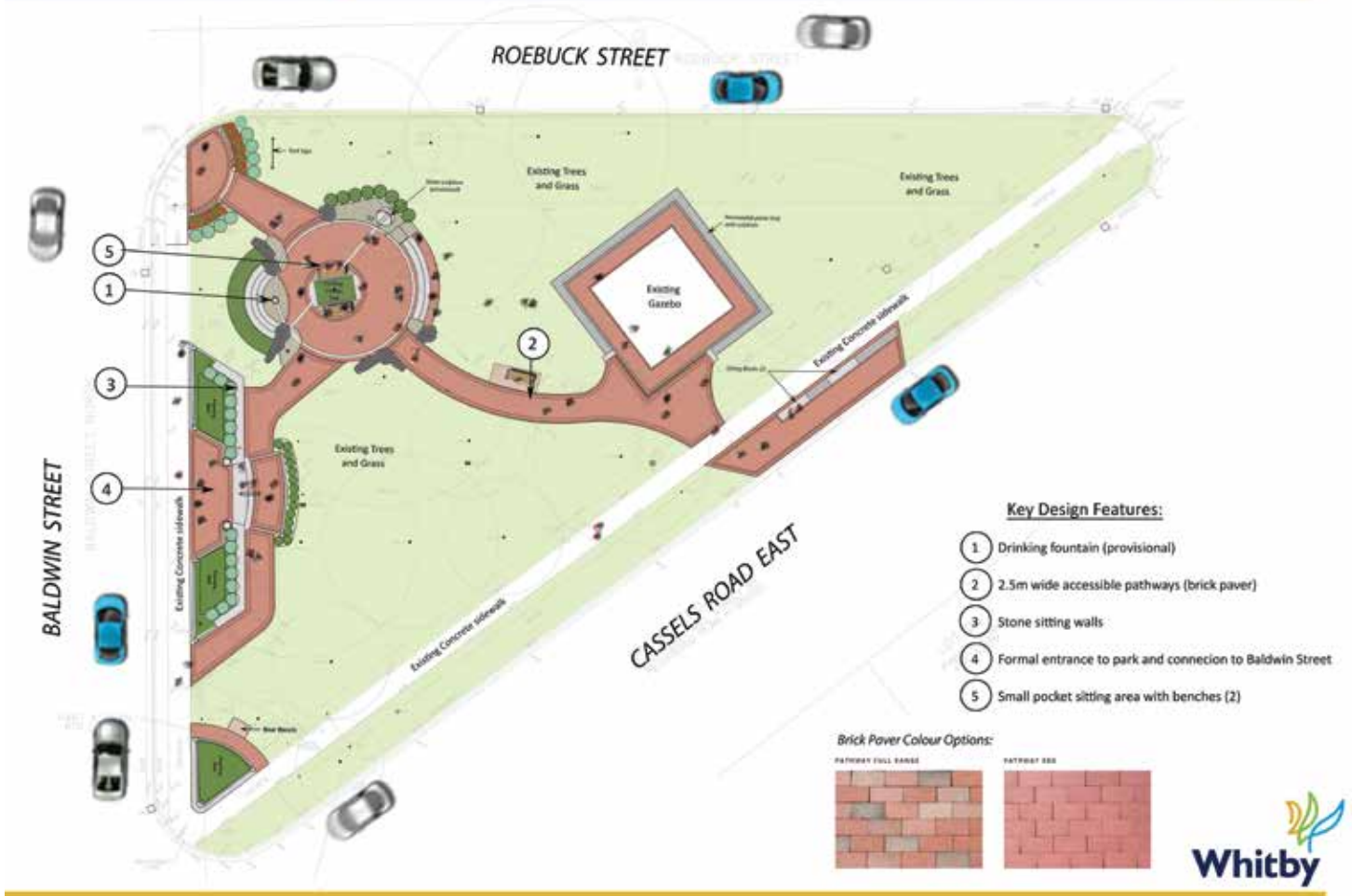
There was general support for the project with some concerns related to traffic circulation. As part of the project scope, staff will ensure proper signage is provided on site, well in advance of the closure, to notify local businesses and residents. Furthermore, staff will under-

take general traffic data counts and observations during the pilot project to understand any challenges with traffic circulation.

### Second meeting

Last month, the group met again with business and property owners to notify them of the upcoming project and road closure for August and September and shared the planned placemaking initiatives.

As part of the consultation, staff and BDDSC members will also administer surveys to those using the space, seeking feedback on what they like, what improvements could be made to the space and to get an understanding on whether people would like to see Roebuck Street be closed on a semi-permanent or permanent basis in the future.



## Sunglasses...

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