



From
My Family to
Yours,
I Wish You a
Merry Christmas
and a Happy and
Safe New Year!

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& Best Wishes
for the Holidays.



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THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF BROOKLIN PRESENTS:

see page 6

SANTA'S CHRISTMAS CAVALCADE



Less than half the picture: By Richard Bercuson

Santa - Ace public servant



A 19th century king of Siam was portrayed by the late actor Yul Brynner in a 1950s Broadway musical and film. When confronted with a western convention he couldn't make sense of, the character would proclaim, "Tis a puzzlement."

Then there was my friend and hockey colleague who had a more contemporary response. He'd just say, "I don't understand."

Such is my inability to fully comprehend Santa. This astoundingly adept public servant is ubiquitous. In recent weeks, I've seen him in three different locations. There is no science, junk or otherwise, to properly explain the magic of his omnipresence. However, he is not without certain practicalities. Recently, we took our little grandgirls to an outdoor Christmas event that ended

with a socially distanced visit with him where he was perched on a bale of hay. A white Nissan was parked behind. I'm guessing it made more sense for him to get around by car than risk frequent inclement weather in the clouds. But is he given a pass on speed limits? I don't get it.

As well, his innate and quite superior communication skills, particularly with children, baffle me. While he can speak any language, one could cynically explain that nodding and smiling are universal, that you hardly need to be able to actually converse with a child who just wants stuff. Except he's also always had the same knack non-verbally. Recall the olden days when it was deemed safe to sit on his knee or get a hug.

Although we realize not every Christmas wish will come true, he makes us feel good anyway. He listens to our often outlandish wants without ever promising that he definitely will get that pony for the backyard. Find a public servant who is remotely as accommodating.

Once upon a time, he sat in Montreal's Eaton's toy department by the day. You'd have thought all that sitting would be unhealthy,

continued on page 3

Have a Safe Holiday Season

Even though the holidays will look different this year, there are still many ways for you and your household to safely celebrate while protecting your loved ones.

Support Local Businesses

Check out the '12 Days of Local Holiday Shopping' to discover unique and local gift ideas to give to your loved ones this holiday season. Visit whitby.ca/shoplocal



Limit Holiday Celebrations to Include Only People Living in Your Household

The safest way to spend the holidays this season is by only celebrating in person with the people you live with. If you live alone, consider exclusively celebrating with one additional household.



Stay Social, Online

Organize a virtual holiday gathering or event with family, friends or co-workers.



Tour Holiday Lights

Enjoy nearly 100,000 holiday lights from the comfort of your car or a physically distanced evening walk at Celebration Square, Grass Park or Whitby Civic Park during "Whitby Lights' the Night" happening now through January.



Show You Care, at a Distance

Brighten a loved one's day by sending colourful seasonal flowers, ordering sweet treats from a local bakery, or by mailing a holiday card.



Get Active Outdoors

Build a snowman after a snowfall or enjoy the winter scenery by exploring parks and trails in your neighbourhood. Don't forget to keep 2 metres apart from those outside of your household.



Give Back to Your Community by Helping Those in Need

Help your neighbours in need by participating in Whitby Fire's and Durham Regional Police Services' Food and Toy Drive. Donations can be dropped off at any Whitby fire or police station.



Bump a day!

Holiday Waste Collection Schedule
Waste collection for Friday, December 25 will be bumped one day forward to Saturday, December 26. Please ensure your waste is set out by 7:00 a.m.
For more information, check out your Whitby Waste Calendar, download the Whitby Waste Buddy app or visit whitby.ca/waste
Questions?
T 905.668.3437
E pw.operations@whitby.ca

Yellow Collection – Areas 2, 4, 6, 8, 10

| | mon | tue | wed | thu | fri | sat |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|-----|
| | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Bump a Day! | 26 |

Blue Collection – Areas 1, 3, 5, 7, 9

| | mon | tue | wed | thu | fri | sat |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|-----|
| | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Bump a Day! | 26 |

Indicates Holiday Collection Change

The Winter 2020 Edition of the Whitby Perspective is Now Available
whitby.ca/perspective

continued from page 2
especially for a larger chap. Seems not, something else I don't quite get, given today's medical warnings. Anyway, I long suspected that my parents, who stood within earshot of my wish list to him, hijacked my requests, leaving him with just one token gift to give. I was never able to prove it, but the suspicion still lingers.

Our lives are more complicated than Santa's. His seems to boil down to a few weeks of sit-downs and mostly mono-syllabic exchanges with kids, plus one

annual crazy travel night. Yet we continue to visit him each year, have done so for eons, and take pleasure in seeing him wave as he chortles a simplistic three-word greeting.

That last visit? As we were leaving, with the wee ones out of the way, I asked him about a more upscale SUV. He didn't question the request nor wonder if I could afford it. He just said with a wry grin, "I hear ya."

Completely non-committal. Another yearly feel-good moment from our finest public servant.

Our Brooklin Kids By Leanne Brown



When Children Give

This time of year, we often show our appreciation for those who help our children grow and succeed such as teachers, tutors and coaches. They spend hours with our children and have an immense influence on them. However, sometimes when our kids give pretty packages and gift cards, they've had little to do with picking out the gift.

It's important to teach kids the meaning of giving, which is why I always bring my daughter to choose the gift. This way, she actually thinks of the person we're buying it for. Yes, we do sometimes resort to gift cards but she chooses the card's design. I also always insist she write the card and I don't correct her spelling unless she asks. To her, they're authentic and how she wants to xpress herself.

This year, there are 10 teachers and coaches on our list. Given she plays several competitive sports, it's typically a solid afternoon of effort. Nevertheless, the one for her figure skating coach is unique.

A special gift
Instead of a store-bought gift, this coach asks her students to they give of themselves. It can be any good deed or act of kindness they choose. They then share the details with her in a homemade holiday card. For my daughter, it makes this gift incredibly important; it isn't just a quick donation to a charity.

Last year, she gave back by sharing her love of her favourite sport. For several mornings in December, she got up to attend 6 am house league U7 hockey practices. She helped tie skates, demonstrate skills, and generally acted as a role model. She put in two hours each Saturday for three weeks. After, she commented how much she respects her own coaches. Coaching, she said, is hard work.

This year, helping coaches is not an option so we're working on a new, safe, social distancing idea. I'm reinforcing that what her coach is asking for is not a monetary gift but rather a gift of her time. She's come up with a really good idea that came from the heart, though it involves me giving some time, too, as she needs some help with the sewing machine.

Caring
But the real takeaway is this: children need to understand that giving isn't about buying a trinket at a store. It's about showing someone how you care or appreciate them. I watch her write the cards at the kitchen table and notice her pause in thought as she chooses her words. When she hands out her gifts, I'll see the delight in her eyes while she watches people open them.

As her skating coach reminds me, when children give of themselves, it means more to both the recipients and the child.

Safe Holidays

- Avoid in-person gatherings.
- Celebrate only with members of your household.
- Connect virtually with loved-ones and friends outside of your household.
- Avoid travelling.
- Follow all public health guidelines.
- Stay home if you're sick or have symptoms.

#STAYATHOME

Protect yourself and others.
durham.ca/novelcoronavirus

HAPPY Holidays

Wishing you peace and joy throughout the season as we look ahead to a bright and promising New Year.

Mayor Don Mitchell and Members of Council

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FROM OUR FAMILIES
TO YOURS
WE WISH YOU A VERY

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



PHOTO TAKEN IN 2019

There is Still Time to Make a Difference This Holiday Season

Consider Giving to the Charities Below!

Salvation Army Whitby Food Bank
www.sawhitby.ca

Feed The Need Durham
www.feedtheneedindurham.ca

United Way Durham
www.unitedwaydr.com

Whitby Caremongers



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Mulcahy**

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 **Steve
Lee**

North Ward Councillor

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

Plant-Based Eating by Sheree Nicholson



Simple and Local

This year brings a very different way of celebrating Christmas as we're limited to how many people we can see. My family is small and so we'll have a gathering of only four then "Zoom" with the rest of our family on Boxing Day. While I'd rather see my parents in person, I think our Zoom celebration should be fun, too. I'm planning a family history trivia game as well as a slideshow of old family photos.

I've also decided to do more of my shopping at local small businesses given I own one myself and know the impact the pandemic has had. I've purchased cool handmade gifts from local vendors and am ordering plant-based food from local restaurants.

In preparation for cooking classes I'm offering this winter, I've been cooking a lot this fall, testing new recipes. Some turned out great and some not at all which is to say that when trying new recipes, you run the risk of them not working out. As well, if you're trying to accommodate both meat-eating and vegan family members, it can be a lot of extra work cooking. So why risk the stress of a failed recipe when you can order quality vegan takeout? Last year, I spent about 10 hours in the kitchen for both Christmas and Boxing day cooking and cleaning up.

It's been a challenging year, so I relish some time off to be with my partner and not spend as much time in the kitchen as I usually

do. This year I want to spend more time playing board games, going for walks and interacting with family members.

- Here's a list of my favourite places to order plant-based food:
- **Mathilda's – Oshawa:** Plant-based foods, some grocery items and desserts - [mathidas.ca](#)
 - **The Portobello Road - Whitby/Oshawa:** Plant-based food, smoothies and Christmas Meals – [theportobelloroad.com](#)
 - **Crave Donuts – Whitby:** Vegan and non-vegan donuts – [cravedonuts.com](#)
 - **21 Desserts - Bowmanville:** Vegan and sugar-free desserts – [twenty1.ca](#)
 - **Copper Branch - Bowmanville:** Plant-based food, smoothies and some desserts – [eat-copperbranch.com](#)
 - **Lil Organic Kitchen – Whitby:** Plant-based foods, smoothies, soups, salad dressings and desserts – [lilorganickitchen.com](#)

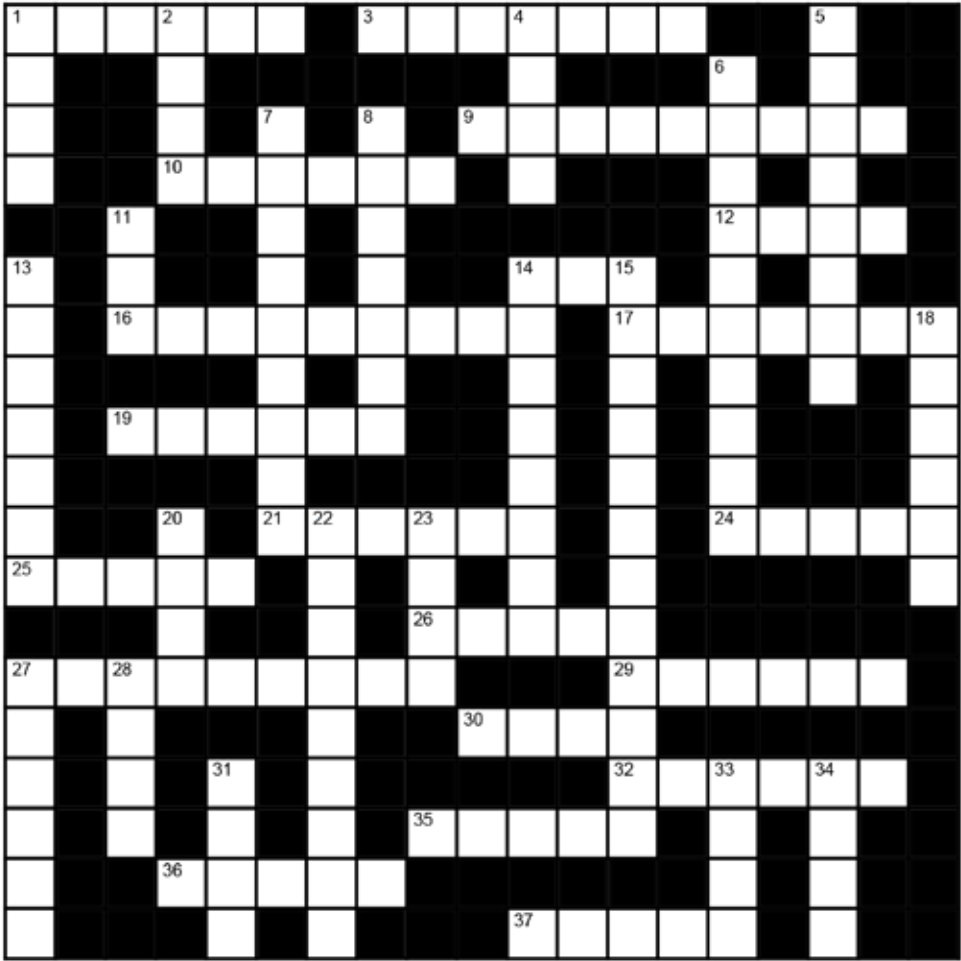
Most do not offer delivery since delivery service fees can be high and cut into restaurant profits. A few have cutoff dates when ordering Christmas meals. However, ordering from them means you're supporting a small local business that offers quality plant-based meals.

Sheree's Hack: Keep it simple and spend quality time with the people in your bubble.

Thank you for your support and have a safe and Merry Christmas!

Brooklin Bafflers: by Liz Lowe

Crossword



- Across**

1 Where Jesus was born (6)

3 Stuffing ingredient (7)

9 One of the oldest cities in the world (9)

10 Traditional Christmas dinner (6)

12 An ornamented evergreen used as a Christmas decoration (4)

14 Rudolph's nose glow. (3)

16 Symbol of fertility and life. (9)

17 That December 24th feeling. (7)

19 One of Santa's reindeer (6)

21 'No room at the inn' alternative. (6)

24 Cranberry condiment (5)

25 Christmas tree choice. (5)

26 Nativity (5)

27 First weekday after Christmas (6,3)

29 Start (6)

30 Yuletide (4)

32 Tree decoration (6)

35 Commonly attached to the harness of a horse drawing a sleigh (5)

36 Noel (5)

37 What ____ is this - Josh Groban (5)
- Down**

1 Mother of Jesus (4)

2 Present (4)

4 Vehicle mounted on runners (4)

5 Given in celebration of Christmas (8)

6 'Naughty or Nice List' recipient (5,5)

7 'Merry Christmas' and 'Happy New Year' (9)

8 The calendar year just begun (3,4)

11 Centerpiece of the prototypical Dickensian Christmas (3)

13 Shoppers' woes. (7)

14 Santa's sleigh power. (8)

15 Fa la la la la, la la la la (4,3,5)

18 The animal most commonly seen in the Nativity (6)

20 Wise men (4)

22 A variety of customs, associated with the celebration of Christmas (9)

23 Newborn (4)

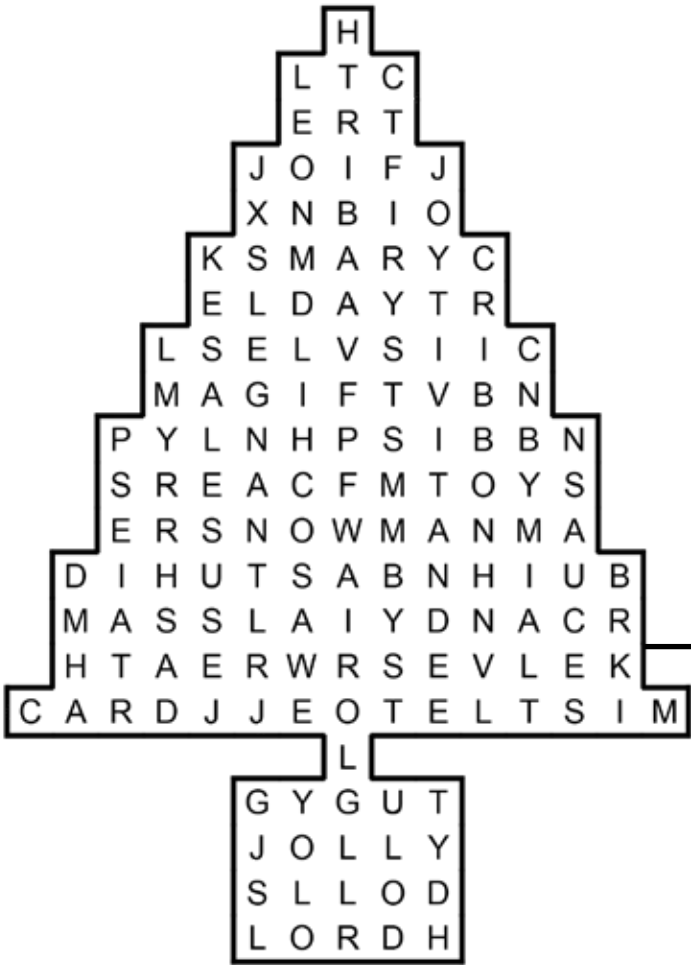
27 Christmas cake ingredient (6)

28 Present time? (4)

31 Heavenly sign of prophecy. (4)

33 One of the three gifts of the magi (4)

34 Santa's sackful (4)



- | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|-------|-----------|----------|--------|
| Angels | Elves | Inn | Mary | Red | Star |
| Birth | Fir | Ivy | Mass | Ribbon | Tinsel |
| Candy | Gift | Jesus | Mistletoe | Sales | Toys |
| Card | Gloria | Jolly | Myrrh | Sauce | Wreath |
| Child | Gold | Joy | Nativity | Sled | Xmas |
| Crib | Ham | Lord | Noel | Snowman | Yule |
| Dolls | Holy | Magi | Pie | St. Nick | |

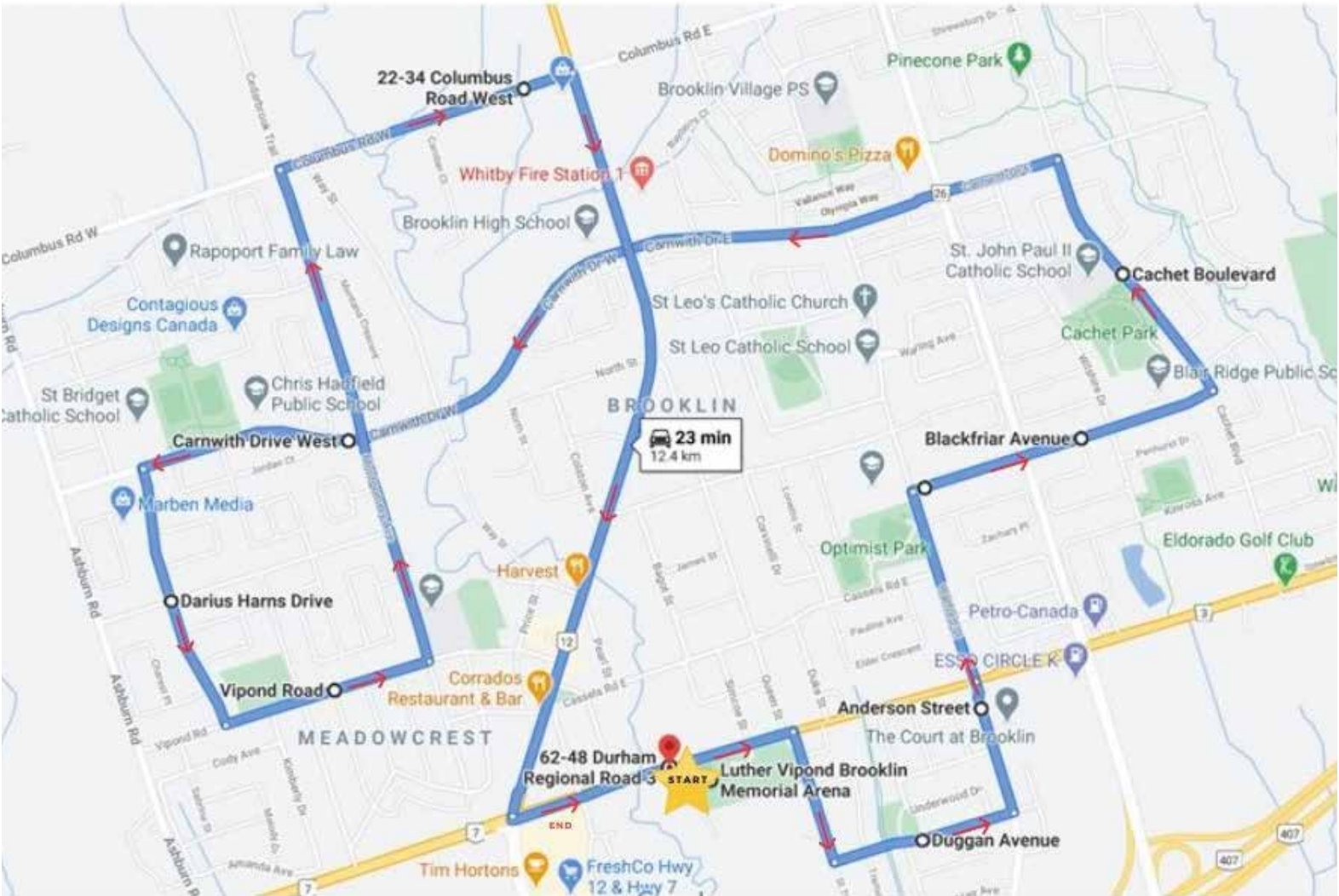
Optimist Club Presents Xmas Cavalcade

The Optimist Club of Brooklin presents: Santa's Christmas Cavalcade
When: Sunday, December 20, 3:30-4:30 pm
Where: A Holiday Drive through Brooklin streets

The Optimist Club and community partners will drive and lead the way for Santa & Mrs. Claus. Our hope is that families wishing to celebrate will join us with waves and cheer as it will be a magical time for our community. We will be asking families to enjoy it safely from their porches, balconies and driveways and for everyone to practice COVID 19 safety protocols by maintaining 6 feet apart or wearing face masks.
Thank you to the community partners who are making this possible:

4CATS, Andreas' Camp-In, Brooklin Town Crier, Brooklin Tree Care, Caremongers Whitby, Crooked Uncle, De Bartolo-Morgan Law, Denise Aston – Insur-

SANTA'S CHRISTMAS CAVALCADE ROUTE MAP:



ance / Financial Advisor, Denise Laframboise - Mortgage Broker, F45 Training Brooklin, Gus Brown, Hometown Sisters Real Estate, JointAction Physiother-

apy & Wellness Centre, Killerfit Performance Academy, Kirner's Kookies, MP Ryan Turnbull, McDougall Insurance, RBC, Steph & Elle Realty, Tedford Homes,

Ten Spot Oshawa, Whitby Soap Co., Winchester Golf Club, WOW 1 Day Painting.



RYAN TURNBULL

Member of Parliament for Whitby

Happy Holidays!

Wishing you and your family a safe, happy, and joyous holiday season!



Ryan.Turnbull@parl.gc.ca Tel: 905-665-8182

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Bright and Happy
Holiday Season

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Brooklin Heritage Society Group 74 Brought Xmas To Grass Park

By Jennifer Hudgins

In 1974, a newly formed service club of women, passionate about bringing Christmas spirit to the Village, set out to make an Olde Tyme Christmas part of a tradition residents would be happy to embrace.

Group 74, as they called themselves, organized a Christmas singsong in Grass Park, where about 200 people turned up, this when Brooklin's population was approximately 1,800. They sang carols led by the Brooklin United Church choir leader and a six-piece band, three of whom were trumpeters. Naturally, jolly old St. Nick arrived when the program ended and gave candy canes to the children.

The following year, the group invited Old Tyme Christmas carolers to continue the festivities at the Brooklin Community Centre on Cassels Rd. where they heard a Christmas story, were entertained by the Bells of Bowmanville, met Santa, and made merry over hot apple cider and homemade cookies. The Kins-

men Club provided wagon rides and asked homeowners to turn on their Christmas lights early so riders would have something to marvel at.

Faced with the challenge of keeping the occasion inclusive as the community grew, Group 74 reached out to the Town of Whitby, which came up with the plan to incorporate Olde Tyme Christmas with other seasonal events. They formed a partnership with downtown businesses and the festival became Christmas in the Village. Today, it's co-ordinated with Group 74's assis-

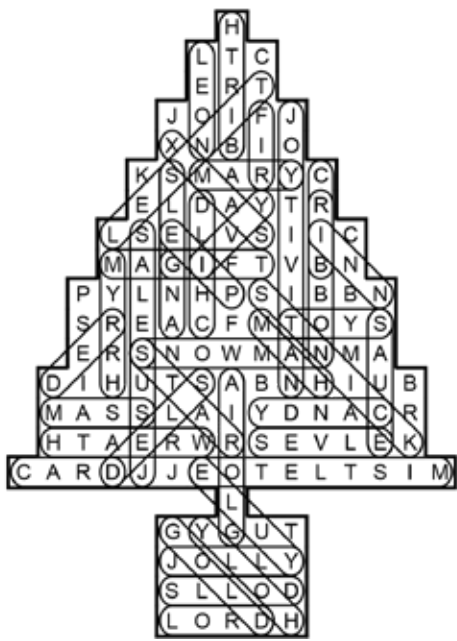


tance while costs associated are covered by the Town.

In normal times, residents discover the magic of small-town Christmas traditions and fun activities in Grass Park that include a countdown to the lighting of a 40 foot tree, hot chocolate and cookies, the Salvation Army toy and food drive, and old fashioned horse & wagon rides. There have been demonstrations of waltzing and how to make magic reindeer food. This in addition to local entertainment, community vendors, free skating at the Luther Vipond arena and most importantly, photos with Santa.

Thanks to the vision of Group 74, what started as simple car-

olling has become a fun event that keeps the spirit of Christmas alive and well.



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Prices Will Surge Again!

Re/MAX is forecasting Ontario markets outside Toronto will likely see prices rise 7 to 12 percent next year after what one of its executives called a "wild ride" in 2020. "People are really looking at their living situations. They are forced to buy and make decisions out of necessity," said Christopher Alexander, Re/MAX executive vice-president for Ontario and Atlantic Canada. "Wants are out the window. It's all about what I need to live comfortably, to be able to work and be with the children. "Next year we're in for more of the same," he said.

A Leger survey for Re/MAX Canada found that only six percent of Canadians were motivated directly by the pandemic to sell their home. But 40 percent said COVID-19 prompted them to consider needed renovations and 29 percent found they needed more space. Those under 35 were more likely to be among the space seekers.

"Home buyers continued to take advantage of very low borrowing costs in November, especially those looking to buy some form of single-family home. Competition between buyers for ground-oriented homes has been extremely strong in many neighbourhoods throughout the GTA, which has continued to support double-digit annual rates of price growth," said Lisa Patel, TRREB President

Market conditions tightened in many single-family market segments in November, resulting in double-digit year-over-year increases in average selling prices for detached houses, semi-detached houses and townhouses despite the pandemic.

For an update on the market and how it effects the value of your home when you sell!
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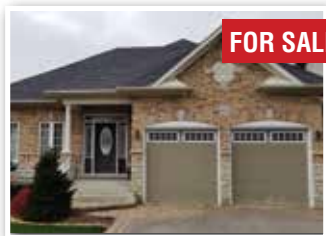
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