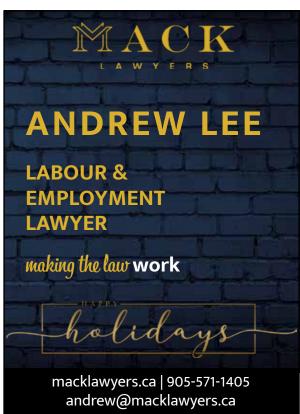
Friday, December 20, 2024







St. Bridget Honoured By Forests Canada



(from left to right): Teacher - Ms. Colleen Willers, Emma W., Ashton S., and Jax C., Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, The Honourable Edith Dumont, CEO of Forests Canada, Jessica Kaknevicius.

See page 2 for more on this story.





DCDSB Students Honoured by Forests Canada

On December 4, students from St. Bridget Catholic School and St. Monica Catholic School were invited to attend the annual tree lighting ceremony at the Lieutenant Governor's Suite at Queen's Park in Toronto.

The lighting ceremony was hosted by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Edith Dumont. During the ceremony, Forests Canada honoured the accomplishments of students who excelled in their education programs over the past year.

Durham Region students from St. Bridget Catholic School in Brooklin and St. Monica Catholic School in Pickering were recognized as the champions of last year's Tree Bee competition. Tree Bee is a program that introduces students in Grade 4-6 to Ontario tree species. Students test their knowledge of tree-identification and conservation questions in a fun and friendly atmosphere. The annual competition took place on April 23, 2024, at St. Monica Catholic School.

"Being in Tree Bee was really fun because I got to learn about the environment and represent my school at the competition," said Ashton S., a Grade 5 student at St. Bridget Catholic School.

"It was so exciting to come in first place after lots of practices and studying. It was also really fun to get dressed up and go downtown with my parents to meet the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario."







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BROOKLIN

OPTOMETRIC

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8 Kappy New Year!

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Wednesday, Jan 1st 2025

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Thursday, Jan 2nd 2025

at 10:00 AM

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THANK YOU! - THANK YOU! - THANK YOU! for the Dec. 6 issue distribution

the local newspaper is one of the feature news pieces of the

During the recent Canada Post this sign of support brings us

There are rare moments when strike, the community rallied behind the BTC and managed to deliver over 8000 newspapers door to door. As the coming year will mark our 25th anniversary,

hope and renewed energy.

We sincerely thank those who helped and those who showed gratitude at their doors for the efforts of the volunteers. This is what makes the BTC your newspaper.

We love you, Brooklin!

AWESOME PEOPLE

Stacey Beck Leanne Brown Susan Bruce Cindy Boyd

Julie Chipperfield Kathleen Chiu **Ann Clements** Laura Cooper **Darlene Cornell** Maureen Cuddy Geno Dirrado Matt Docherty Jess Docherty Kathryn Docherty **Dave Edwards** Aela F Evie F Sandy Fusco Tammy Lee Hanlon Sarah Haynes Ariella K Zara K Kim & Trent Keller Rebecca Kelsey Ashleigh M Shanna MacInnes Aodhán Marshall Eva Marshall Saoirse Marshall

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Becky Movnan

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St. Leo's Hosts Community Christmas Open House

On December 13, St. Leo asked to bring a canned good Catholic School opened its doors to family and friends for an exciting Christmas open house. Students and families engaged in Christmas concert performances and festive crafts. During the holiday season, students and staff at St. Leo Catholic School are committed to providing hope, peace, joy, and love throughout the community. To this end, each open house attendee was next year.

as admission, and the donations were sent to Durham Outlook for the Needy to help support families during the Christmas season.

The school community was excited to share their Christmas spirit with friends and loved ones this year and they look forward to sharing the spirit of the season



WISHING



CHRISTMAS AND HAPRY * NEW

YEAR!











Kent Mills

By Jennifer Hudgins



During Brooklin's formative years, grain mills were more than just businesses. They were lifelines for the community, processing the grains

that sustained residents and local farmers alike. Among these were the Brooklin Flour Mill on Cassels Road East and the Bickel Mill on Way Street. Kent Mills, built around 1854 and once situated at 210 St. Thomas Street, stood out for its wide-ranging connections. This mill and its accompanying house not only served the needs of local farmers, but also supplied markets as distant as Montreal and Glasgow, Scotland.

Owned by James Francis and operated by his brother Peter Francis, the mill was a threestorey frame building powered by water. Its location, a short distance south of Winchester Road and near Brooklin Community Park, made it easily accessible. Adding to its significance was the Port Whitby and Port Perry Railway, affectionately known as the "Nip and Tuck," which passed the entrance to the Francis property. This railway connected the mill to wider markets.

Advanced equipment

Kent Mills was gristmill

specializing in the production of oatmeal and oat flour. Utilizing a process with three run of stones, it also used advanced equipment for the time, including a smutter that cleaned the grain before milling, and a brick-drying kiln. This combination of traditional methods and innovative allowed machinery the mill to produce a considerable quantity of high-quality oatmeal while maintaining a strong reputation for efficiency.

ln its prime, the mill processed approximately 100 bushels of oats per day and conducted a large amount of "chopping"complementary service offered by providing mill practical solution for local farmers who relied on the processed grains for

their livestock. This flexibility in service made the mill a vital part of the agricultural community. While supplying local markets, its products also found their way to international buyers. The mill also stocked Lindsay's New Process Family flour, a sought-after product of the time.

Won awards

Kent Mills wasn't just a local business; it was also an awardwinning establishment. In 1857 at the First Paris Exhibition, Peter Francis exhibited two barrels of oatmeal and won first prize. Decades later, the mill garnered a medal and diploma at the Centennial Exhibition in

Despite its success, time eventually caught up with the mill. It was demolished in the spring of 1957, and the Francis house followed in 2013 to make way for the construction of Highway 407. Yet the legacy of Kent Mills remains firmly rooted in Brooklin's past. It not only provided vital

cementing its reputation for quality and innovation. A reporter for the

Whitby Chronicle, Ross Johnson,

visited Kent Mills in January 1884, remarking, "The mill has

an enviable notoriety and carried

off a medal and diploma... Peter,

whom we all know so well, is a hardworking fellow sure to do well

> services to local farmers but also showcased the industrious spirit of the community.

Pennsylvania,

Today, the only trace of Kent Mills is a stone and historical plaque at its old location adjacent to the stormwater pond at the south end of Brooklin Memorial Park.

Correction

In the Dec. 6 Brooklin Heritage Society story about C. S. Thompson, we erroneously printed his name as Charles Samuel. It should have been Clarence Samuel Thompson.

We apologize for the error.

What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby



Have A Wonderful Holiday Season

The Town wishes you a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season. Residents are reminded that Town Hall and some facilities will have modified hours during the upcoming holiday. Learn what's open and closed at whitby.ca/News. Be sure to take in the twinkling lights as Whitby Lights the Night is back and brightening up the season! From now until January 5, experience over 200,000 magical lights and ground displays at Whitby Civic Park, Celebration Square, and throughout Whitby and Brooklin's Downtowns every night until 10 p.m. whitby.ca/Events

FREE Holiday Skating

Lace-up your skates and enjoy free public skating at Iroquois Park Sports Centre, McKinney Centre, and Luther Vipond Memorial Arena from December 22 to January 3. No registration is required. Thank you to our sponsor Gerdau. For more information and skate times, visit whitby.ca/Calendar



December: Holiday Waste Collection Schedule

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

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

23 24 25 26 27 28 30 31

Mon Tues Wed Thur Fri Sat 23 24 25 26 27 28

Indicates Holiday Collection change

Canada Post Strike - Impact on Services

Parking Tickets can be paid online or in person. For information on Tax Bills or payments, contact tax@whitby.ca, 905-430-4304, or visit whitby.ca/Tax. For Canada Post updates, visit canadapost.ca/Negotiations









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> Hogan has personally Alan dedicated time to various charitable organizations the years including; 100 Men of Oshawa, 100 Men of Whitby, local soccer and hockey and was a Director of Public Practice for the Durham CGA chapter

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Brooklin Family Matters: by Leanne Brown



Teens Make Christmas Magical

Having a teen daughter can be challenging. The mood swings alone can

be tough to navigate. But as the holidays approach, my daughter's mood seems to shift and I get to see some of the little kid she used to be resurface. I also see a new side of her.

As she's maturing, so has our approach to the holidays. She now brings a unique energy and charm to the holiday season. The days of visits to Santa and elf on the shelf have changed, but they haven't completely ended.

That's one of the special aspects of teens at Christmas. They often bring a mix of nostalgia for childhood traditions and enthusiasm for creating new ones. My daughter is carrying on the magic from her childhood with her little cousins who are five and three years old. It's so sweet to see her talking about Santa and letters (emails this year) to the jolly guy with the wide-eyed tots.

She's also been sharing with my sister-in-law creative ideas for elf antics.

Teen daughters tend to have a flair for creativity and design and this year she took over decorating the house. Out came the dried macaroni ornaments from grade 2, which we admired and then tucked back in the box. Instead she went with a stunning red and white theme on our tree and it's never looked better. Now the whole house shimmers.

She's been taking culinary arts as a school elective and has been putting her learning to use baking cookies and festive treats.

She enjoys putting thought into the gifts she gives. Her purchases showing her growing understanding of what her family and friends appreciate. This is also extending to her giving back to her community. When tasked to provide some warm clothing for a family, she carefully chose stylish items for the teen she was helping. Like many teen girls, my daughter has a knack for fashion and she's helping put together stylish holiday outfits for my husband and I which she claims will make "Instagram-worthy holiday photos".

But let's face it, teen girls ooze sarcasm. Her quick wit and sense of humour light up our family gettogethers. Her intervention to help out her relative's carol singing by joining in with a dog squeak toy is one for the memory books.

And that brings me to the best part of Christmas with teen daughters. Christmas offers a chance to connect deeply. When the rest of the year she avoids hugs and often see her parents as a source of embarrassment, Christmas is the time for bonding. We snuggle watching holiday movies, laugh over trying to get the dog to wear a Santa hat for a family photo and I've even been graced with the highly coveted mother/daughter

coffee date at Starbucks.

As she grows up, there's a wonderful growing mix of independence and warm family spirit that emanates from her in a sort of sparkly way around Christmas.

That sparkle is a reminder of days past when we counted sleeps until Santa came. It's like a sprinkle of fairy dust that makes Christmas perfect.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Another Christmas Carol: A Panto Sequel

Dec 27-31 - Whitby Centennial Building Theatre, 416 Centre St S

Have you ever wondered happened what Ebeneezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and all the other characters from the original Dickens' story? Well, in this hilarious Panto Sequel, Scrooge must seek the help of some friends to stop a now grown up Tiny Tim, who is returning to London from America with a terrible dastardly plan to take

over the family business and become the most powerful man in London. You will get to boo



and cheer, laugh and dance in your seat to a score of popular music. But beware...you might see a ghost or two.

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Expect balanced market in Durham Region in 2025

Not surprisingly, there was a decrease in the number of sales in almost all regions covered by the Central Lakes Association of Realtors (CLAR) in November compared to the previous month.

"This trend is typical for this time of year, as many individuals choose to postpone real estate transactions until after the holidays," CLAR President Vicki Sweeney tells us. (CLAR covers Durham, Hastings, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland and Peterborough Regions and Prince Edward County.)

Here in Durham, there was notable 39 per cent increase year over year: from 532 sales in November 2023 to 739 sales last month. The average home price in the region rose slightly from \$880,089 to \$904,226 during the same period. The King Home Team:Royal Heritage Realty is proud of the sustained interest in Durham Region as a place to call home and the continued value of properties here.

Meanwhile, two key changes taking effect to mortgage rules this month offer greater accessibility to both first-time buyers and current homeowners. First, eligibility for 30year amortizations on insured mortgages expands to all first-time homebuyers and to all purchasers of new construction properties, up from the current 25-year threshold.

While lower interest rate cuts are alleviating financial pressures and will continue making homeownership more attainable, the 30-year amortization period will ease monthly payments, particularly for first-time buyers.

Second, the mortgage insurance cap will increase from \$1 million to \$1.5 million. That allows buyers with a down payment of less than 20 per cent the chance to explore housing options at a higher price point. "These changes may provide relief to many Canadians looking to purchase a home in the new year," Sweeney notes.

Several interesting real estate reports have been released predicting 2025 market conditions. According to one report, the aggregate price of a home in Canada will increase six per cent year over year to \$856,692 in the fourth quarter of 2025, with the median price of a single-family detached property and condominium projected to

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increase seven per cent and 3.5 per cent to \$900,833 and \$605,993, respectively.

That report predicts the Greater Toronto Area will see a slightly more moderate gain of five per cent. Another report finds:

· Lower mortgage rates and changes to the stress test are encouraging sidelined buyers to re-enter the market.

 50 per cent of Canadians feel more optimistic about the housing market compared to last year, while 36 per cent believe the market will improve in 2025

 40 per cent of Canadians are open to exploring more neighbourhoods that offer more affordable housing options to cope with rising housing costs

Still another report predicts Durham Region will have a balanced market in 2025. That term means the number of homes for sale is roughly equal to the number of buyers so neither sellers nor buyers have a distinct advantage. Sellers typically accept reasonable, close-to-list-price offers and homes generally sit on the market for an average or typical length of time and is positive news for our community.

The King Home Team is here to offer valuable advice as the market evolves and will work with your budget to meet your needs. Please visit our website at www.kinghometeam.com for more information about the local real estate market, including a property search tool that allows you to finetune your search by such criteria as city, neighbourhood, address and school

As 2024 comes to a close, we extend our very best wishes for a joyous holiday season and Happy New Year! Please watch for our next Brooklin Town Crier article in the new year, when we explore Colours of the Year 2025.

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