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Sergeant major Stuart Kellock addresses the audience at the Feb. 15 Flag Day event in Brooklin. See page 8 for more photos.

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Less than half the picture: Who and Why

By Richard Bercuson



The flag on my porch is a worn relic from my Ottawa classroom. The red isn't quite as red and the white has collected a bit of wind-blown grunge. Still, it holds special meaning for me. Perspective from various international experiences counts, which is why the upcoming elections resonate.

It's not just the chaos south of the border. How our elected officials will deal with the ripple effects is no trifling matter. Which is to say that the immediate matter at hand, the Feb. 27 provincial election, is significant.

Our Whitby riding has been represented by the PC's Lorne Coe since 2016. One could argue that, at age 75, he's done his time both provincially and locally or even that, as a friend and former elected official commented, he's past his best before date. Ouch.

However, is age a sufficient reason to make a change? If you scroll through the ages of political leaders, a great many were or are of a certain vintage. One can't fault someone for accumulating years, experience and knowledge. Wisdom though may be another matter. I can though take issue with how it's applied and whether said elected person has a voice and will do the right thing.

Sadly, the Whitby riding "race" suffers from abject neglect. Only the Liberal candidate, Roger Gordon, has made any attempt to offer Coe a semblance of

opposition. Each carries the weight of flawed leaders. Premier Ford has tried to bribe his way to victory while Bonnie Crombie seems like a beached flounder. Please explain in detail, I want to ask her, where you plan to go on anything and why.

Meanwhile, did you know there are three other candidates? No? Well then, doesn't that tell you something? The NDP stuck Jamie Nye onto the ballot, the Green Party gave us Steven Toman and the - wait for it - New Blue Party has Ralph Blank. I'm actually not sure if Mr. Blank and his Blues are meant to be tongue-in-cheek. I wonder, too, when will the New Blues cease being new?

None of those have shared profiles or ideas nor have I even seen a sign with their names. This BTC issue is published six days before the election and maybe

they'll all suddenly festoon the town with signage, banners, and free cheesecake. I'll grab the free cheesecake, but it won't be enough to get my vote.

Gordon, a local high school teacher, has painted his online profile with the broadest strokes. Trying to defeat an incumbent is a tough challenge, but he hasn't helped himself with vague bromides about why he's running: Improving Public Education, Accessible Healthcare, and Affordable Housing. His "promise"? Focus on the issues that matter most to the people of Whitby. Inspiring it is not. Aside from not wanting Coe back, why should someone choose you?

So my flag now acts as a beacon. Who can I confidently state will stand up for us?

IPSC Food Bank Expands

The market-style food bank at Iroquois Park Sports Centre has expanded its operations from one to two days per week, providing even more people with an accessible, dignified, and equitable way to access free food bank services and healthy food options in a community setting.

The change is being made to better address significant community need at the Whitby location, with the existing 160 pre-booked time slots to visit The Market each week consistently filling in less than two minutes. Going forward, a combined total of 260 slots will now be offered.

The market is operated by Feed the Need in Durham (FTND), supported by volunteers and the Town of Whitby to address food insecurity in the community.

How To Access The Food Bank

Pre-registration is required to access the free 'shopping-style' experience at The Market located at Iroquois Park Sports Centre (500 Victoria Street West). First-time registration can be done at The Market each Thursday or Friday between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. First-time registrants will receive a

client ID from FTND that can be used to book future shopping experiences. Once you receive a client ID, it can be used to access online booking, which opens each Friday at 10 a.m. for the following week and will remain open until all shopping spots are filled.

In response to significant community need and FTND's commitment to ensuring sufficient food availability, 260 booking spots will now be offered per week for families or individuals. Should spots be filled, free pre-packaged food bags will be offered at The Market during hours of operation to anyone in need of food.

Instead of putting a pre-selected food hamper in someone's hands, registered visitors can move freely through the space, browsing the shelves and choosing the foods that best meet their families' needs. All food is provided to visitors at

no cost. In addition to providing a variety of choices for visitors,



The Market at Iroquois Park Sports Centre will allow access to more fresh and frozen foods, like meat and produce, in addition to non-perishables, to be shared with those seeking

support; this empowers visitors to meet their unique dietary needs and family preferences. With extended evening availability, the market meets rising demand and helps fill current gaps in local food bank services.

How To Support The Food Bank

Addressing food insecurity is a community effort. There are several ways that community members can help support The Market:

Donate Funds: make a monetary donation to FTND online or over the phone at 905.571.3863. The donation line is staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday each week, or you can leave a voicemail, and a member of the team will get back to you.

Donate Food: You can drop off non-perishable food donations at Iroquois Park Sports Centre (500 Victoria Street West) in Whitby during facility operating hours or at the FTND warehouse (371A Marwood Drive) in

Oshawa, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A list of most needed items can be found at: <https://cms.feedtheneedindurham.ca/media/Documents/Most%20Needed%20Items.pdf>

Volunteer: complete an online volunteer application form to help support The Market.

QUICK FACTS

- Working with partners to address food security concerns is a key action item of Whitby's new Community Strategic Plan.

- The 2022 Price of Eating Well in Durham Region report found that many families are struggling to afford a sufficient and healthy diet, with 15 percent of households categorized as food insecure, which means they either worry about running out of food, settle for lower quality food, or miss meals altogether.

- Feed the Need in Durham has reported that between April 2023 and March 2024, there were:

- 72,837 visits to food banks in Whitby (a 7% increase from the previous year)

- 8,695 unique Whitby food bank clients (a 20% increase from the previous year)

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on how the Town is working with partners to support those in need, visit whitby.ca/CommunitySupports.

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Next Issue: Friday, March 7, 2025

Deadline: Friday, February 28, 2025

The Whole Picture: Vote Like Your Life Depends On It

By Deputy Mayor
Rhonda Mulcahy



I sit on the board at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), initially appointed by my Durham Region council colleagues and then elected

by the membership across the province. It's a peculiar process in that it requires support of politicians from across Ontario.

The role at AMO is to collaboratively lobby policy at the provincial and federal levels based on the needs of our communities. We are the "boots on the ground" and know what challenges we face. Certainly I wasn't elected to that board to stand down.

Of course many Ontario communities' issues are different from ours. But collectively they fall into the same buckets: homelessness, housing, and healthcare. AMO recently launched the "Vote Like Your Quality of Life Depends on It" campaign in advance of potential federal and provincial elections.

Housing

During the recent provincial leader debate, Bonnie Crombie (a former AMO colleague) surprised me by supporting eliminating development charges. Chrystia Freeland echoed the same sentiment in her federal leadership platform.

The Ford government introduced Bill 23 which carved off a chunk of development charges. This sent us into a tailspin at AMO and Town Hall. I wasn't expecting the same rhetoric to come from the other parties, but here we are.

Development charges on new homes pay for water, sewer, roads, parks, community centres, etc. If the plan from the powers-at-be is to eliminate them, then how do we ensure this discount applies to new homes and doesn't go into the developers pockets? Furthermore, how do we ensure our property values don't drop when new homes are selling for a couple hundred grand less than ours?

Then there's this: How do we fund

the municipality's infrastructure needs? Because I certainly don't want to pay for it on my property taxes which happens to be the only other revenue tool we have.

Ontario must invest in municipal infrastructure to make housing more affordable. From my seat, it looks like the burden of increased taxes is going to land on the lowest level of government, the municipalities, making you pay more and local council the "bad guys" because no one is telling us where the money will come from.

Healthcare

You don't have anything if you don't have your health, right?

Last week, I had my annual call from Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB). At the end of it, they asked a survey question to help them guide policy direction in the upcoming elections.

As a small business owner, I have never felt less supported by our federal government. It's my opinion, but I doubt I'm alone.

We have nothing without good healthcare. From a business standpoint, bad healthcare means lost time and revenue. It also means a sad existence for many and life or death for others. Except we have bad health care.

Note these

alarming stats: An estimated 230,000 Durham residents are without a family doctor practicing in the region and over 1,500 babies born in Durham Region are discharged without a primary care physician. About 75 per cent of Durham Region adults are also worried about their own or a household member's mental health.

Whitby is currently one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Canada, with a population expected to grow from about 140,000 to 190,000 by 2031. As rapid growth continues, more healthcare infrastructure and services are needed to support residents of today and tomorrow, including a new hospital, family doctors, and mental health supports.

Homelessness

This is a complex problem. But there is AMO support to restore provincial investment in social housing, mental health

and addiction services, and basic income support. We all want to feel safe again in our communities.

Here are the undisputed steps needed to get there:

A recent report released by AMO on Jan. 9, 2025, shows that more than 80,000 Ontarians were known to be homeless in 2024. That number has grown by more than 25 per cent since 2022. Municipal spending on homelessness and housing programs has also skyrocketed since 2020, to more than \$2.1 billion in 2024.

Unlike other provinces, Ontario downloads billions of dollars onto municipalities. This has been a major contributor to increasing municipal property taxes. Here, that portion largely affects your regional taxes through our health and social services department.

Tone it down?

I was asked by some colleagues to put in a word at AMO to tone down the messaging. I suppose if your specific community is enjoying grants you may feel like you shouldn't rock the boat. However, I don't think we will see

movement on the three issues mentioned above unless we work together, which is what the AMO is about anyway.

So then, Brooklin, consider these questions:

Do you have parents who are without a family doctor? If you are lucky enough to have a cottage, what are your thoughts about there being no emergency room at the local hospital? Are you on a wait list for a doctor, a surgery, a specialist, a scan? Would you like your property taxes to go up to pay for new housing infrastructure? How do you feel about people literally living in the bushes?

We don't know what Trump will do from one day to the next, but there was no need for this election to deal with it. So now that we do face an early election, this is an opportunity to stand up and ask: What are you doing about housing, healthcare, and homelessness?

With Mayor Elizabeth Roy on the executive board of Ontario Big City Mayors and Whitby CAO Matt Gaskell and I on the AMO board of directors, Whitby is well represented. We need your help by asking the big and important questions at the door.

Learn more at whitby.ca/townadvocacy or check out the AMO campaign at voteONQualityofLife.ca



Applications open for community projects

Residents and small, not-for-profit community groups aiming to reduce violence and support positive youth development can apply for Durham Region's Community Micro-Grants through the Building Safer Communities Grants Program.

Applications to receive funding are open and should align with the Durham Region Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan and Durham Region's Strategic Plan. The CSWB Plan aims to support safety in communities and addresses needs related to education, health care, food, housing, income and cultural expression.

This grant program supports residents and small, not-for-profit community groups in addressing youth violence by encouraging leadership and supporting positive youth development.

When: Applications for Community Micro-Grants are officially open and will close on March 28, at 11:59 p.m.

How to apply: Review the Application Guidelines and complete the application form available on **Your Durham**. Submit a completed application form to cswb@durham.ca.

Results of the applications will be announced in late May and the project implementation period will begin June 1 to December 31, 2025.

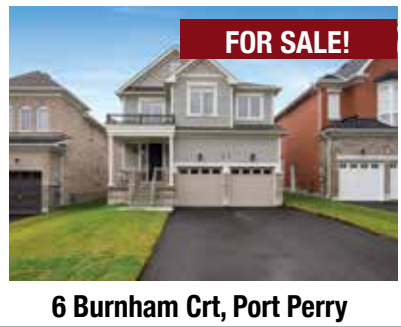
Information sessions will be held in February and March to answer any questions and to provide comprehensive details to grant applicants. Details and additional information about the **grant program** are available on **Your Durham**.



Tanya Tierney Team

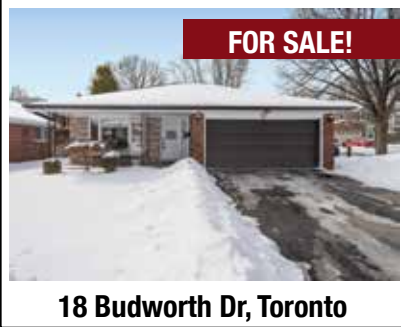
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SOLD!

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SOLD!

6 Olpi Hills Crt, Ashburn



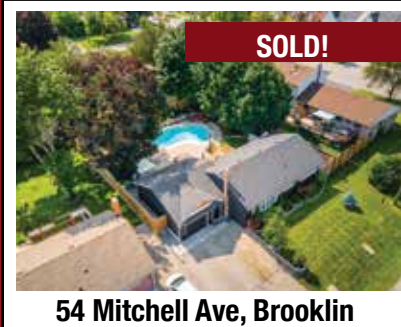
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SOLD!

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Brooklin Family Matters: by Leanne Brown

How I Found My Voice



My daughter is lying on the couch texting with a friend. It's Saturday night and she appears to have no plans. I scan the movie show times for *Wicked*. I'm envisioning that we'll grab a bite, see the movie and then do our own "Defying Gravity" on the ride home, singing to *Wicked's* hit song. I'm almost giddy with anticipation.

"Want to see *Wicked* with me tonight?"
 "Can't," she replies "Going with a friend tomorrow."
 "Okay." I try not to sound deflated. "Why don't you go with her?" she suggests.
 "I would love to, but she moved, remember?" I attempting to put on a happy demeanor.

She puts down her phone. "Sorry Mom, I forgot. You need to make some new friends." She was right. That's what led me to become involved with Oshawa Little Theatre's 75th Anniversary Cabaret and meet a whole new community. The Feb. 22 show has been sold out since mid January.

I'd done musical theatre and show choir years ago as a kid. So when I showed up for the ensemble's first rehearsal, I almost chickened

out. I'm glad I didn't.

The 64-person cast and crew includes moms, dads, retirees, young couples, and singles of all ages. The talent ranges from none to years on the stage.

I find the alto section and quickly make friends. My new show mates share what brought them to get involved and I marvel at their stories. One is new to the area while another is a dentist known by his young patients as "Buddy" due to a role in *Yet* another has been in over 25 shows and was "discovered" while repairing a roof. Someone heard him singing while he worked and talked him into auditioning. We've been rehearsing for weeks now with the show taking the stage at the end of the month.

We show up each week, relying on each other to do our parts: learning lyrics, mastering harmonies, and laughing through missed dance steps. Every voice matters. The soloists may get the spotlight, but the magic happens when the entire cast and crew come together as one.

It reminds me of what's ahead with the upcoming elections. Much like a community production, an election depends on everyone showing up. Every vote adds richness to the final outcome, just

like every voice adds depth to a performance. When we all step up, we create something greater than ourselves, a symphony of voices shaping our shared future.

As I try on my costume for the show, my daughter looks on. "You look good, Mom! I'm excited to hear you sing." She plays with my hair. "What are you doing for make-up and your hair?"

I shrug. I hadn't really thought about it yet.

"I'll do it for you," she says.

"I'd love that." I listen to her humming one of the songs she's heard me practice and joins in.

Together, we're "Defying Gravity" once more.



Sports Complex Update - Proposed Playground Design

Construction continues on the Whitby Sports Complex and outdoor park space. As a next step, the Town has selected a proposed playground design - and wants to hear from you!

View the rendering and share a comment now through March 4.

The proposed playground features a variety of play structures designed for children of all ages and abilities, including accessible junior and senior play structures, inclusive swings, seating/picnic areas, shade structures, and more. It offers engaging play experiences that promote cognitive, emotional, physical, sensory, and social

play development.

This design reflects significant community input gathered through past engagement opportunities, including feedback on the complex and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The outdoor park space at the Whitby Sports Complex will also feature a variety of recreational amenities including lit pickleball, tennis, and basketball courts; a lit multi-purpose sports field; a skatepark and pump track; and more. Visit: connectwhitby.ca/sportscomplex/surveys/playgrounddesign

Brooklin Bafflers: by Liz Lowe

Across

- 1 Big trouble
- 9 Aerobic bit
- 13 A substance that unites or bonds
- 14 Throw or move with great effort
- 15 Mideast money
- 16 Dash
- 17 Copycat
- 18 Bowie's weapon
- 20 Workout rooted in military training
- 22 Blockhead
- 24 Baby's first word, maybe
- 25 In the direction of
- 26 Written in abbreviated or symbolic form
- 30 Goose egg
- 31 Walk in water
- 32 Belfast grp.
- 33 Baby's first word
- 34 Elderly
- 35 A mountain range extending the length of the Italian peninsula
- 37 Connects a noun with the preceding word
- 38 Belief system
- 39 Dress (up)
- 40 Chart-topping
- 43 Start of a refrain
- 47 Hems' partners
- 48 Colo. neighbor

- 50 Type of superfood used in smoothies.
- 51 Biblical brother
- 52 Small idols or household gods in ancient times
- 54 Eye affliction
- 55 Spreads thickly

Down

- 1 "Listen!"
- 2 Father of Balder
- 3 Asian tongue
- 4 Prosperity
- 5 To the same degree
- 6 End
- 7 Always
- 8 Causing strong moral disgust or loathing
- 9 Tall fur hat; worn by some British soldiers on ceremonial occasions
- 10 A lightweight hat worn in tropical countries
- 11 The latter part of the day
- 12 A framework that supports climbing plants (pl.)
- 19 "Humanum ___ errare"
- 21 Atlantic catch
- 23 Goods carried by a large vehicle (pl.)
- 26 Moves with or cause to move with a whistling or hissing sound
- 27 A position to which a flag is

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13									14			
15					16				17			
18				19		20		21				
			22		23		24				25	
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40		41				42		43		44	45	46
47					48		49		50			
51					52			53				
54					55							

- lowered in mourning
- 28 Funny
- 29 "Chances ___"
- 30 Photographer Goldin
- 33 Two successive letters (especially two letters used to represent a single sound)
- 35 Blonde shade
- 36 Excluding
- 38 It's debatable
- 41 Not at home
- 42 Casting need
- 44 Stomach woe
- 45 Animal house?
- 46 Goals
- 49 Maidenform product
- 53 Expresses position, direction or location



The Beethoven Lodge Turns 150

By Jennifer Hudgins



That little building at the corner of Bagot St. and Cassels Rd. is home to the Brooklin Branch of Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF). Otherwise known as Beethoven Lodge No. 165, it is part of the worldwide IOOF, an international fraternal organization, one of the world's oldest and largest such orders. This year marks the local branch's 150th anniversary as it was founded on June 16, 1875.

It is named after Beethoven probably because IOOF Lodges often chose names that were meaningful or inspired by famous figures or ideas that were important to its members.

Thomas Wildey founded the IOOF in Baltimore in 1819 and it was originally chartered by the Independent Order of Odd fellows Manchester Unity in England. The IOOF's stated mission is to improve the character of mankind through service.

Small numbers

It began with six charter members (titles in brackets): D.P. Wyatt (Noble Grand), A. Farewell (Vice Grand), J.B. Watson (Secretary), J. Chisholm (Treasurer), and Dr. D.H. Warren (Permanent Secretary). Five members who were later initiated included P. McPherson, W. Rodd, John Burns, B.F. Campbell, and J.W. Card.

The primary goal of the Odd Fellows was mutual aid, support, and fellowship, especially for widows, orphans, and the sick, during a time when government assistance was limited. In the beginning, the lodge met every Friday evening, regardless of holidays, and members considered attendance a duty, reflecting their commitment to the Order's principles.

Initially, the members rented space at the Masonic Hall on Cassels Road, paying \$45 per year. However, this became financially burdensome, leading the members to seek a more affordable location. In 1883, the



lodge moved to the third floor of 58 Baldwin Street. After spending \$200 on renovations, the new meeting hall was dedicated on April 5, 1884, with a ceremony followed by a community concert.

Cheap rent

Although the Odd Fellows' rent was \$50 annually, more than at the Masonic Hall, they offset costs by leasing space to other organizations, such as the Royal Templars of Temperance (\$45/year) and the Independent Order of Workmen and the Order of Chosen Friends (\$30/year each). The rent remained at \$50 per year until 1949, when it rose to \$100.

As the hall became overcrowded, safety concerns led to the construction in 1955 of a new Temple at 42 Bagot Street. The building was funded through various community activities including auctions, car parking at local events, and hosting concerts, card parties, and dances.

The Odd Fellows played a key role in building the Luther Vipond Arena and supporting the community during World War II by sending food parcels and cigarettes to soldiers and organizing regular blood donation clinics for the Red Cross. In 1950, local women established a sister lodge, the Rebekahs, followed by the formation of Kinoven Lodge #353 in 1953 with 12 charter members.

Honouring a leader

Despite declining membership over the years, many credit Noble Grand Dr. J. McKinney's strong support and guidance for helping

Beethoven Lodge and Kinoven Lodge to continue serving the community. In his honour, the Rebekahs



incorporated part of his name into theirs - 'KIN' from McKINney and 'OVEN' from BeethOVEN. Ten years after the new temple was built, members gathered to burn the mortgage using Dr. McKinney's barbecue.

Noble Grand Allan Carson, Chairman of the 1975 Committee



for the Odd Fellows Centennial Celebration wrote, "The challenge today is the same as it was in June, 1875. If we continue to put into action the principles of our Order and let them guide and direct our daily walk of life; if our motto is engraved on our minds and if we re-seed the membership with those who will be an honour and pleasure to sit beside during the meetings, then, to be sure, The Independent Order of Odd Fellows will continue to prosper in Brooklin."

As the Lodge marks its 150th birthday, it continues its legacy of service, fellowship, and community spirit, a testament to the dedication of its members, both past and present.

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What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby



Spring Program And Summer Camp Registration

It may be cold outside, but our spring recreation wish list opens on February 19 with aquatic program registration beginning on March 4 and recreation registration on March 6. The summer camp wish list opens on March 12 and registration begins on March 26 for residents. Learn about all of the camps we offer at whitby.ca/GetActive

New Traffic Calming Policy to Support Safe Roads

The Town is working to support safe roads in neighborhoods by developing a new Traffic Calming Policy and Guidelines - and wants to hear from you! Share your thoughts at an in-person or virtual meeting or complete a short survey by March 14. Learn more at connectwhitby.ca/TrafficCalmingPolicy



Share A Comment on the Proposed Whitby Sports Complex Playground Design

Construction continues on the Whitby Sports Complex and outdoor park space. As a next step, the Town has selected a proposed playground design - and we want to hear from you! View the rendering and share a comment now through March 4. connectwhitby.ca/SportsComplex



Cash-Back Incentives for Greener Homes

The Durham Greener Homes deep retrofit incentive provides eligible residents with up to a \$5,000 rebate towards the cost of reducing their home's energy use. This incentive jumps to \$10,000 for Whitby residents, thanks to the Town of Whitby allocating Housing Accelerator Funds to match funding. Learn more at durhamgreenerhomes.ca



On Feb. 15, the 60th anniversary of Flag Day was celebrated at the Brooklin Community Centre. Special guests included author and historian Ted Barris who shared stories of five unknown Canadian war time heroes. Former astronaut Chris Hadfield sent a congratulatory message while musician John Prince sang the national anthem and then performed his own song "Proud to be Canadian," which is now on the BTC site.



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