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Brooklin High Students Among Tops in Ontario With Unique Project

Savithu Wijesuriya (left) and Bowen Li display their medal, web site and project as part of their DECA Project. See the story on page 3.

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Less than half the picture: And in this circus ring...

By Richard Bercuson



The opening comments by Integrity Commissioner (IC) Jeff Abrams at last Monday's Special Council meeting should have been sufficient to launch the required vote shortly thereafter. All that was needed was perhaps 20 minutes. Maybe 30.

They weren't though. It took over two hours of circuitous yakky-yak, punctuated with brief periods of either middle school whining by one councillor (that had to be shut down by the Mayor) or dismissive, insulting commentary by another who even questioned the IC on his training. That took a whole lot of gall.

Abrams stated to council at the outset, "The question before council today puts it... in a disciplinary mode, in an adjudicative mode... You're sitting in a different capacity than you usually would when you sit in a legislative or a political capacity."

In short, he was saying you are there to vote on whether or not the sanctions recommended in his report should be taken against Councillors Chris Leahy and Steve Yamada for comments and actions that occurred in council last October. Council could choose to vote for it as written, or not. Full stop.

In the end, the vote was 6-1 in favour of his recommendation to dock them each a week's pay. (Note: Those councillors were not permitted to vote.)

Four individuals were registered to speak, however, council decided not to hear from them

as the nature of the meeting was different from the norm. Town Clerk Chris Harris had advised delegates in advance that this could happen.

Around and around went the commentary about eliminating racism, the importance of council maintaining its integrity, the nature of micro aggressions, and how the IC arrived at his conclusions. The Mayor and Whitby CAO Matt Gaskell had already announced the hiring of an external legal investigator to examine whether or not racism existed on council, with a report to come to council. One would think that it, along with Abrams's first words, would have been enough. Clearly not.

Note, too, that at no time since the October incidents has anyone on council registered a complaint about racism or racist comments.

It was only Councillor Maleeha

Shahid who pretty much crystallized it all by pointing out where we are right now in these cockamamie times. She as much as said it was time to honour council's responsibilities and get back to work with their mandate to govern Whitby.

The entire afternoon was somewhat reflective of a political circus, a bit reminiscent of the U.S. doc series *The Circus* which aired till November of 2023. Our own Council needs to be reined in and refocus on its role. While the March 17 meeting had to be held and the vote taken, it was hardly managed efficiently.

Who owns that problem?

The Integrity Commissioner's Report can be found on the main page of brooklintowncrier.com or at <https://www.whitby.ca/en/town-hall/council-meeting.aspx#calendar> under Special Council Meeting for March 17, 2025.

Mayor Elizabeth Roy's Statement on Integrity Commissioner's Report Findings

March 13 - The Town of Whitby published the agenda for a Special Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 17.

The agenda includes an **Integrity Commissioner's report titled "Recommendations Regarding Complaints Against Councillors Leahy and Yamada."**

I appreciate the Integrity Commissioner's thorough and independent report, which concludes that both Councillor Leahy and Councillor Yamada violated the Council Code of Conduct in October 2024 when they made unfounded allegations of racism against me, members of Council, and Town staff.

The report notes that "no persuasive evidence" has

been provided to substantiate the claims of racism made by Councillors Leahy and Yamada.

Council will receive the report at the March 17 meeting and vote on the recommendations, which include one-week suspension of pay for both councillors.

The report findings underscore the importance of accountability, integrity, and truth in public service.

As elected officials, we must recognize the weight of our words and the responsibility we bear to maintain public confidence in local government.

Thank you to the residents of Whitby for your continued trust and support as we move forward together.

Whitby, Feds Announce \$1 Million For 55+ Rec. Centre

The Government of Canada and Town of Whitby recently announced a more than \$1 million investment to significantly upgrade the Whitby 55+ Recreation Centre.

The project will upgrade key equipment at the facility, resulting in a more comfortable experience for staff and users, reduced energy costs and emissions, and an improved ability to meet the needs of changing activities at the centre. Equipment upgrades will include new air handling units, rooftop unit condensers, replacement of hot water tanks, and building automation system upgrades. Work will also enhance the Customer Service Desk, improving accessibility.

The 55+ Recreation Centre supports senior residents to engage in social and physical activities. Improvements for this facility will help to make the facility more inclusive and accessible for users of all ages, while extending its lifespan and reducing its impact on the environment.

This investment supports the Town's Zero Carbon goals and Community Strategic Plan objective to "demonstrate environmental leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change".

"The 55+ Recreation Centre is one of Whitby's most valued community spaces," said Whitby Mayor Elizabeth Roy. "This investment through the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings fund will help us make energy retrofits and accessibility improvements that ensure the facility remains a sustainable, inclusive, and welcoming space. Thank you to Whitby MP Ryan Turnbull and the federal government for recognizing the importance of this project and investing in our community."

QUICK FACTS

- The federal government is investing \$798,486 in this project through the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) program. The Town of Whitby is providing \$297,121.
- The project will upgrade the HVAC system by replacing mechanical equipment, improving automation, and fine-tuning operations to support net-zero goals.
- Interior renovations will enhance accessibility and improve the user experience by updating the customer service desk, installing new plumbing fixtures and washroom partitions, replacing basement flooring, and refreshing interior finishes.

Brooklin TOWN CRIER.com

Brooklin's Community Newspaper
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Email: RhondaMulcahy1350@gmail.com
Next Issue: Friday, April 4, 2025
Deadline: Friday, March 28, 2025

Students Create Unique Campaign For Local Restaurant

By Richard Bercuson

Over the years, Brooklin High School students who have participated in the school's DECA program, a business-based extracurricular activity, have displayed some extraordinary projects reflective of their ingenuity and creativity.

So when grade 11 students Bowen Li and Savithu Wijesuriya came away recently with top 12 in Ontario honours in their category, it was in keeping with the successes the school has seen over the years. In their case, the marketing plan they created for Michael Kelly's Restaurant also earned them a trip to Orlando in late April to compete in the international ICDC event which will feature students from Canada, U.S., and other countries. (ICDC stands for International Career Development Conference.)

The two students will themselves foot the bills to the tune of approximately \$2,000 each for their trip though a fundraiser is being planned to help them defray the costs along with sponsorship money.

Downtown provincials

They'd passed the first stage, literally a written test, for Durham Region and then went to provincials in Downtown Toronto in February to present the full project. Around 10,000 students competed provincially, which

makes their finish even more impressive.

Interestingly, neither is so sure they will wind up in the business world. Savithu is looking at medicine and going into neurosurgery while his partner in this project, Bowen, contemplates engineering as one option. Certainly, from the looks of the few hundred hours they've invested in the project, putting in the time and effort to earn post-grad degrees will not be new to them.

The option they chose was to do a written plan for an existing business which is detailed in their 11-page report. Michael Kelly's, under the new ownership of Mayur Amin since 2023, didn't have much advertising. "We took a look at smaller places and their websites and Michael Kelly's wasn't really that much. I don't even think it worked actually," said Bowen. "So that's why we decided to make all the advertising before we came in, had a meeting with Amin and talked about social media advertising."

Social media hits

Within a few weeks, the Instagram posting they designed had around 500 visits and there were around 100 Facebook followers, too.

The two had learned from their



Savithu Wijesuriya (left) and Bowen Li (right) flank Michael Kelly's owner Mayur Amin who holds the poster they created as part of the marketing plan.

DECA experiences the previous year. "I think our strong suit is really like preparing ahead of time and getting all the stuff done and then practicing over and over again so we really perfect our performance with the judge," said Savithu. He and Bowen had high praise for the school's business department and former Brooklin HS teacher Susan Shoemaker who retired last year. It was she who suggested the integrated marketing campaign they undertook while staff advisors Sarah Jones and Kevin Kerr helped them with the project.

As part of the project they held a school-wide event in November with food provided by Michael Kelly's - and the cafeteria was jammed.

"Yeah, it was a really big hit," added Savithu who displayed the detailed spreadsheet on his laptop of who bought what and for how much. The butter tarts were a favourite of many students.

Improved communication

DECA as a whole and especially this project provided both students with an array of

essential skills they feel will stand them in good stead for university applications, communication skills being at the top of the list.

Aside from honing powerpoint skills in creating insanely creative slides, they learned how to present their case, manage language and manage their time. "It's all about communicating what you know to the judge and being unique," Savithu said.

The prize at the end of the rainbow in Orlando is the DECA Glass award, which is widely recognized as an enormous achievement. However, the very fact they will be there to compete is impressive enough. Along the way, the other major winner in the project is Michael Kelly's restaurant whose web site will soon be upgraded to reflect the improvements made by Bowen and Savithu. That plus the other social media connections will help put the restaurant, a Brooklin staple for decades, on the proverbial map.

All thanks to Savithu and Bowen, two enterprising high school students and their stunning DECA project.

Whitby Chamber of Commerce AGM

You're invited to our Annual General Meeting (AGM), an important opportunity to review our accomplishments, introduce the new Board of Directors, and network with fellow members.

Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Time: 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM (Registration & Networking at 8:30 AM)

Location: Town Hall, 575 Rossland Rd E, Whitby, ON L1N 2M8

Agenda Highlights:

- Review of the Chamber's activities and achievements
- Introduction of the 2025-26 Board of Directors
- Treasurer's and Auditor's reports
- Celebration of new members and volunteers
- Announcement of the Jim Lavelle Volunteer Award recipient

If you're unable to attend, please find your proxy form here, whitbychamber.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1f38810dcc23c41848ac34401&id=5113eae561&e=3e488d189f fill out this form, and send the email directly to karey@whitbychamber.org.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Tues. April 8th

DECA

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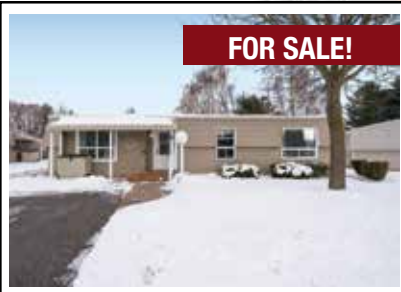
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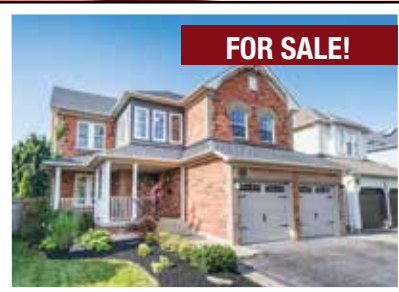
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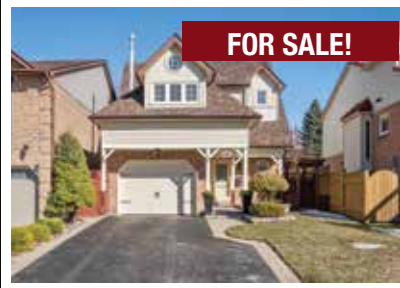
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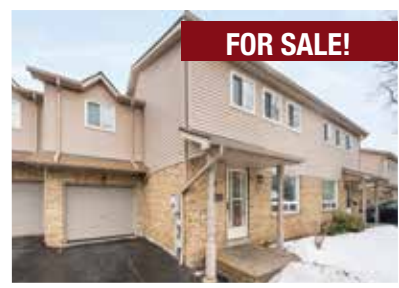
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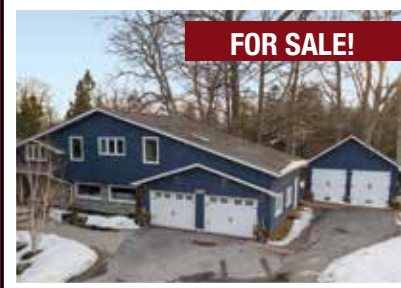
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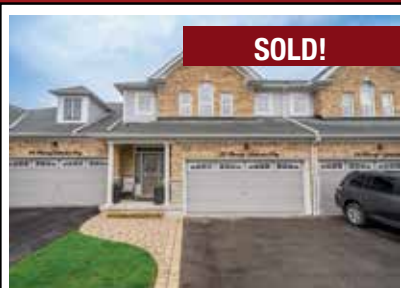
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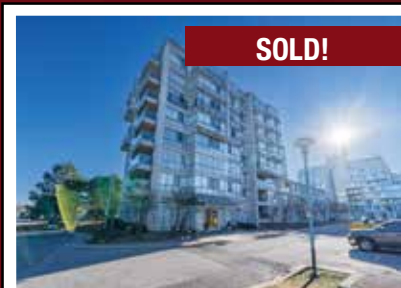
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SOLD!

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SOLD!

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407 Toll Removal Motion Coming to Whitby Council March 24

Regional Councillor Rhonda Mulcahy and Ward One Councillor Steve Lee will again raise the issue of the 407 east tolls at the March 24 council meeting. The motion is not new but some of the wording is.

This time, the motion, which passed on March 18, 2024, will include the recent campaign promise of February 27th, 2025, by Premier Ford to remove the tolls. As well, the motion will refer once more refer to the upcoming closure of Winchester Road by the Region to complete the lane work. (see below)

The councillors are asking for the province to expedite the promised removal of the tolls ahead of the Winchester Road closure to provide relief to traffic.



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Update on Winchester Rd.

According to the Region, work on Winchester Rd is expected to resume by the end of April and be completed by the end of next summer. The installation of the light signal at the St. Thomas/Queen/Winchester intersection

will also be completed as the underground cabling has already been done.

A public notice will be distributed with more exact dates once known.

What You Need To Know This Week In Whitby



Calling All Whitby Youth And Emerging Artists

The Town is inviting youth and emerging artists (ages 12 to 25) to showcase their creativity by applying to be chosen as the artist to paint our summer street piano displayed at Whitby's waterfront. The themes are what makes Whitby home and what does Whitby mean to you. Scan the QR code to apply by March 31.



Gardening Speaker Series

New to gardening or unsure where to start? Join our free online webinars with the Durham Master Gardeners and gain expert tips to transform your garden. Webinars start at 7 p.m.

- April 2 - How to Plan a Successful Garden
- April 9 - Herbs in Your Garden

Scan the QR code to register.



Register For Summer Camp

Summer camp registration begins on Wednesday, March 26. Children can enjoy a variety of camps, including art camp, multi-sport camp, and more. Learn more and register at whitby.ca/GetActive



Stay Informed and Connected on Town News

There are many ways that residents can stay connected and informed on Town news and updates, including:

- Online Newsroom - Subscribe to "All News" on whitby.ca/Subscribe
- Facebook and LinkedIn - Follow the Town's corporate social media channels @TownofWhitby
- Facebook - Follow the Whitby Fire & Emergency Services page @WhitbyFire
- Instagram - Follow the Town's Explore Whitby account @ExploreWhitby

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From “White church” to Bank to Pub

By Jennifer Hudgins



Known as the “White Church,” the frame structure built in 1847 at the corner of Church and Albert Streets served as the Methodist Episcopal Church for nearly

four decades.

According to the 1876 Directory of Ontario County, in addition to it, there were also the Presbyterian Church (1862), the Wesleyan Methodist Church (1867), the Bible Christian (1867) and the Church of England (1870). However, religious unification in the community eventually led to the Episcopal Church’s closure in 1884 when the Bible Christian, Methodist Episcopal, and Wesleyan Methodist congregations merged to form what is now the Brooklin United Church.

For a brief period in the 1880s, the vacant church building found a new purpose when the Salvation Army used it for its gatherings. But soon after, the building stood empty, its future uncertain.

Moving the church

In the early 1890s, the church’s use changed when businessman George Pringle arranged for it to be moved to 45-47 Baldwin at Roebuck Street where the building took on a new purpose. The south half (#45) became home to the Standard Bank, later replaced by the Imperial Bank of Canada. The north half (#47) was repurposed as

Brooklin’s hardware store, serving local residents with essential goods and supplies. Meanwhile, apartments were created above the commercial space.

The building underwent another significant change in the 1920s. Local businessman George Vick, who would later serve as Whitby Township’s Fire Chief, oversaw its reconstruction, replacing the original wooden frame with a brick building. This also marked a shift toward the development of Brooklin’s main street.

The banking industry remained a key part of the building’s history throughout much of the 20th century. When the Imperial Bank of Canada merged with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in 1961, the branch at 45 Baldwin Street became part of the newly formed Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC). However, this location ended on February 11, 1972, when the bank moved across the street to 50 Baldwin, leaving the 45 Baldwin vacant.

New purpose

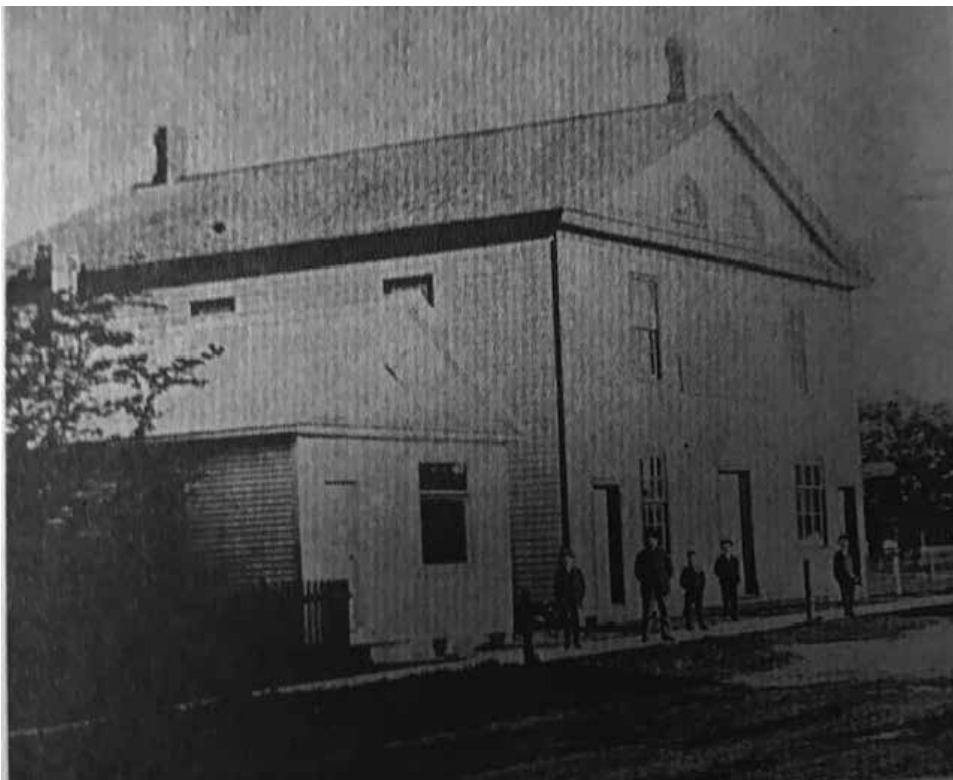
After several years of dormancy, the old bank building found new life in 1977 when the Consolidated Building Corporation renovated the interior and launched the Community Concept Centre for Brooklin. This initiative sought to engage residents in discussions about the town’s future growth and development.

Meanwhile, the hardware store



at #47 changed hands several times over the years. Following George Pringle, the business was managed by Samuel Manning, then Uriah Jones, George Vick, John Samuel Jephson and lastly Ken Greer. After Greer’s passing, the hardware business relocated to 58 Baldwin Street. Following the hardware store’s departure, the building hosted Brookgreen Antiques, operated by Grace Vaughn.

Today, both buildings continue to serve the Brooklin community, though in very different capacities. The Brooklin Antiquarian store, run by David Stewart, occupies the north side and offers a selection of vintage and collectible items. Meanwhile, the south side is home to Baldwin Bistro, a place where residents can gather for a meal. And, as a reminder of its past as a bank, the Bistro still retains the vault from its days as a financial institution.



Brooklin Bafflers:

by Liz Lowe

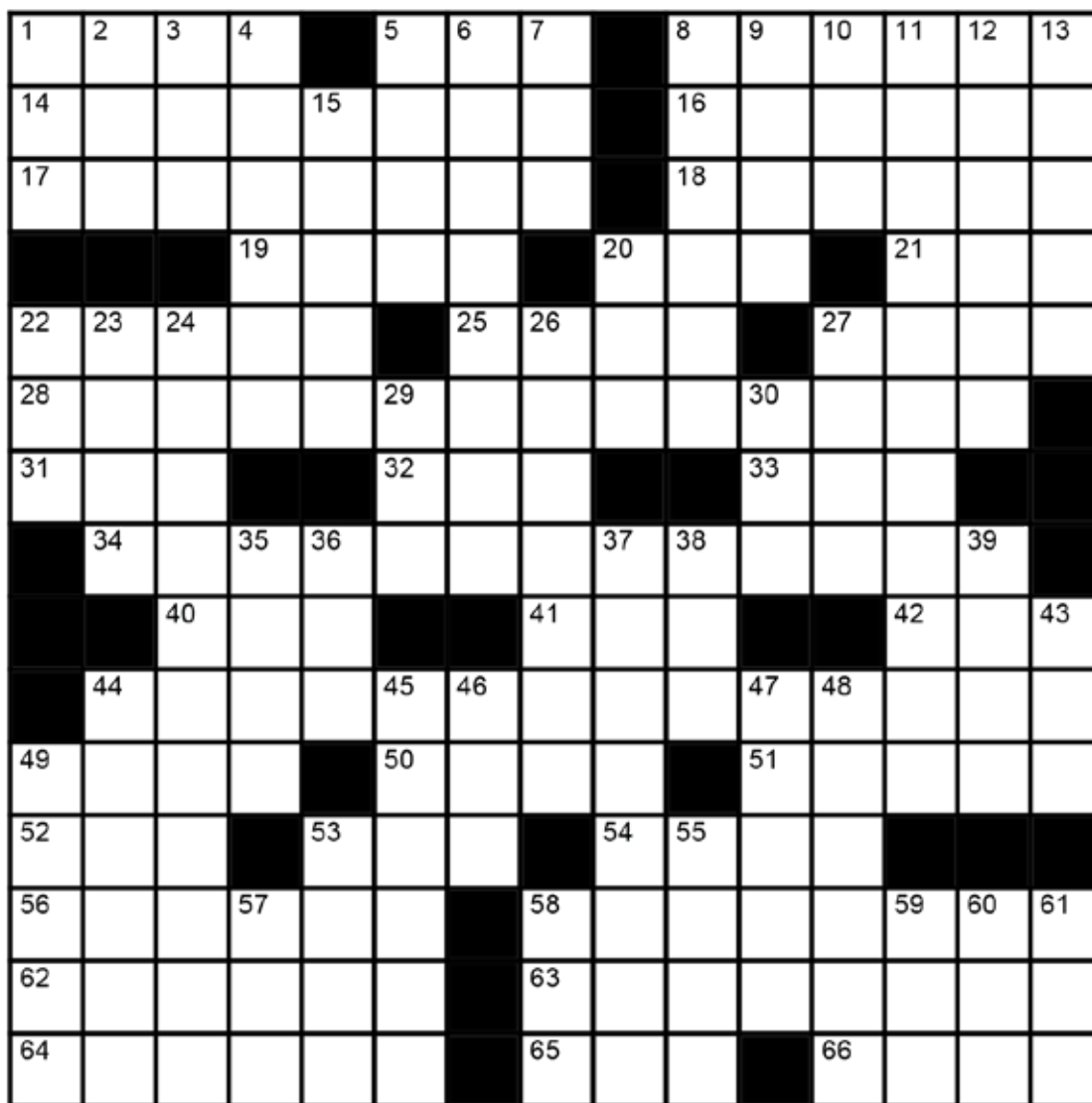
Across

- 1 Basic input/output system
- 5 Trident-shaped letter
- 8 Made in _____
- 14 Type of: fellow member
- 16 A Latin word meaning "for the eighth time"
- 17 Outlets of a river, drain or other source of water
- 18 A form of address for a man
- 19 Up to the task
- 20 Spoiled
- 21 U.S.N. officer
- 22 Prefix with red
- 25 Nae sayer
- 27 Unwavering
- 28 Personnel that enforces discipline and guards prisoners
- 31 Layer
- 32 Jiffy
- 33 Zeta follower
- 34 Very funny
- 40 Zilch
- 41 United
- 42 Yuletide beverage
- 44 Coalescing of bacteria or red cells when held together by antibodies
- 49 Central points
- 50 Word processor command
- 51 Sleep disorder
- 52 In the past
- 53 "Monty Python" airer
- 54 Pigeon's home
- 56 Virility drug

- 58 To record again
- 62 Reach
- 63 Type of graphic artist
- 64 Tenant
- 65 Porker's pad
- 66 South American rodent

Down

- 1 Sis's sib
- 2 Slip in a pot
- 3 Giant Hall-of-Famer
- 4 Type of expedition
- 5 Tablet
- 6 An employhee who represents a business and sells its merchandise
- 7 Social connections
- 8 A rounded fruit that is eaten as a vegetable or in salads
- 9 Battery fluid
- 10 T.G.I.F. part
- 11 Used to disperse crowds (especially crowds of rioters)
- 12 Means of approach
- 13 Like Vikings
- 15 Morocco's capital
- 20 Some jazz
- 22 Trickster
- 23 Guitarist Lofgren
- 24 Large seaplanes that float with its fuselage in the water
- 26 Resembling a circle



- 27 South American monkey
- 29 Biblical beast
- 30 Allow
- 35 Temporary living quarters
- 36 Addition
- 37 Free from evil or guilt
- 38 Mad Hatter's drink
- 39 Missing
- 43 Govt. property overseer
- 44 Type of mineral
- 45 Polished
- 46 Shamus
- 47 Spud
- 48 Medicinal syrup
- 49 The "N" of U.S.N.A.
- 53 French cheese
- 55 Unrestrained revelry
- 57 Tank filler
- 58 ___ gestae
- 59 Fertility clinic stock
- 60 Minister: Abbr.
- 61 Like some wines

Brooklin Family Matters: by Leanne Brown

This Summer's Teen Fashion Trends



Want to keep up with your teen's style this summer? Take notes.

On a recent shopping spree, my daughter schooled me on what's hot and trending. And let me tell you, this year's trends are way cooler than anything I wore at her age. Just don't tell her that.

First, the soft grunge look is back, though with a more relaxed vibe. Because it's grunge, she loves the idea of it, except for looking like you rolled out of bed and into a mosh pit. Think graphic tees, plaid miniskirts, boots, and a big, cozy cardigan. Comfy, edgy, and easy to wear. Plus, she swears it gives off "cool but casual" energy, basically, the perfect vibe.

For dreamy romantic vibes without the full-on countryside aesthetic, the cottage look is in. Floral dresses, pastel colours, and cute

slides. It's like living in a fairy tale with a touch of edge. The best part is my daughter loves that it feels romantic without being too over-the-top. To pull it off, try a ruffled dress with a cropped cardigan and ballet flats. Voila! Magical and cute.

Because I was obsessed with the early 2000s, I'm living for this Y2K comeback. Baby tees, low-rise flared jeans, shiny accessories, and yes, the return of the iconic claw clip. A nostalgic throwback, it's also fun and easy to wear. For that insta-ready look, pair flared jeans with a holographic belt, throw on a cropped baby tee, and add colorful sneakers. It's the perfect way to channel your early 2000s fashionista.

Athleisure is stepping up this summer with matching sweat sets, sporty skirts, bike shorts, and tennis-inspired outfits, a look that's all about comfort with style. My daughter loves this for casual hangouts. A pleated tennis skirt paired with an oversized hoodie and sneakers exudes an

effortlessly cool vibe, making it a chic yet comfy option.

Have a creative teen? Then they'll love upcycled fashion. Think vintage hoodies, patched-up jeans, and hand-painted sneakers. It's about showing off individuality and getting crafty with unique pieces. My daughter's bestie is into hand-painted denim that looks cool with a simple tee and chunky sneakers. Not only is it one-of-a-kind, but it's also eco-friendly.

For those who dare, bright and bold is the trend for those who love playful, attention-grabbing fashion. Neon tops and vibrant accessories are everywhere. If you want to stand out, try an oversized neon sweatshirt with denim shorts.

Preppy is still going strong, with pleated skirts, collared shirts, and sweater vests leading the charge. It looks polished yet trendy, perfect for school or a smart casual day out. Layer a pastel sweater vest over a collared shirt with a pleated skirt for a stylish combo.

Finally, swimsuits. Bold prints

with animals, florals, and abstract designs are everywhere. Cut-out one-pieces, bikinis with side slits, and crisscross straps are popular, too. High-waisted bottoms are still going strong, giving that retro vibe we secretly love, while monokinis are making a comeback. Plus, sporty swimsuits with racerbacks and swim shorts are perfect for active days.

So now your teen's summer wardrobe just got a major upgrade. Trust me, you'll want to get in on this! And maybe I'll try a few of these looks myself - if she'll let me. Metallic ballet flats are calling my name.



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NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

Welcome to Brooklin Family Dentistry:



A New Dental Office Redefining Oral Health Care

In a world where a confident smile can make all the difference, the emergence of a new dental office promises not only oral health care but also a refreshing approach to dental wellness. Nestled in the Brooklin Boroughs Plaza at 5540 Baldwin St. S., **Brooklin Family Dentistry** opens its doors with a commitment to redefine the dental experience. From its state-of-the-art facilities to its compassionate team, **Brooklin Family Dentistry** aims to be more than just a dental clinic but a sanctuary for smiles.

Brooklin Family Dentistry embraces cutting-edge technology to ensure the highest quality of care for its patients. From digital X-rays that minimize radiation exposure to intraoral cameras that provide a detailed view of oral health, every tool is carefully chosen to enhance diagnosis and treatment. The incorporation of advanced software streamlines administrative processes, making appointments seamless and convenient.

At **Brooklin Family Dentistry**, oral health is viewed holistically, recognizing its interconnectedness with overall well-being. The dental team takes the time to

understand each patient's unique needs and concerns, crafting personalized treatment plans that prioritize both oral health and comfort. From preventive care to restorative procedures, every treatment is designed to promote long-term wellness and preserve the natural beauty of the smile.

Central to **Brooklin Family Dentistry's** philosophy is a commitment to patient-centered care. Every interaction, from the initial consultation to follow-up appointments, is guided by empathy, respect, and open communication. Dentists take the time to educate patients about their oral health, empowering them to make informed decisions and take control of their smiles. For nervous patients, options such as nitrous oxide are available to ensure a stress-free experience.

Schedule your next appointment with us today at **(905)995-5353** or stop in and say hello. You can also visit us online at brooklinfamilydentistry.com.

Brooklin Family Dentistry is open Monday to Wednesday from 9am to 8pm, Thursday from 9am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm.

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