

Less than Half the Picture *By Richard Bercuson*



Top Story of 2017

Last February 1, the free ride ended.

All trips on the Ontario-owned portion of the new highway 407, from Brock Road in Pickering to Harmony in Oshawa, as well as the 412 connector to/from the 401, became paid trips. Just as quickly, commuters clogged every arterial road in the region.

Coffee klatch and beer cooler conversations now focused on alternative north-south options to reach the 401. Generally, Lakeridge seemed to be the winner.

It wasn't because we're cheap. People seemed to prefer to spend the extra time in traffic on Winchester or Taunton than pay the province for exorbitant tolls, among the three highest (per kilometre) in North America, as we reported in 2016.

The other problem of course was

that the 412 remains the GTA's only toll connector to the 401. This raised the shackles of Brooklin (and Durham) residents. Why were we being subjected to tolls at all, let alone leaving every other community west of us without them?

We published two stories on the topic. In January, we printed a piece about local resident Adrian Piccolo who'd amassed nearly 6,000 signatures on an online petition he sent to Minister of Transportation Steven Del Luca. Nothing came of it. The signees might have had more impact had they appeared at his office.

In August, we ran a feature about 412's usage once the freebie ended. Unfortunately, knowing the average workday number of vehicles on those roads in June was 41,800 meant little without context.

The impact is magnified in Brooklin which has become the conduit for

free arterial road access to other northern points of Whitby, Oshawa and even Courtice. With the current booming growth in development, transportation in and through this community is worsening almost daily.

We also published information about the master transportation plans for Whitby, Brooklin, and Durham, including how they pertain to public transportation. In other words, what is the likelihood of busing alleviating current traffic woes? In the near future, not much. When will we see the promised arterial south of and parallel to the 407 which is aimed at

bypassing Winchester Road's daily parking lot?

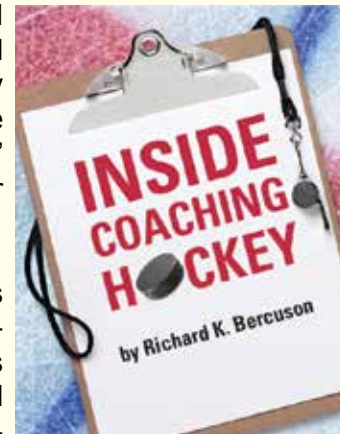
Indeed, the top story was the ongoing transportation issue. It affects Brooklin and its residents in so many ways well beyond commuting to and from work. It's caused traffic and noise and accentuated safety problems as drivers seek shortcuts which really don't exist.

But for now, let's set it all aside. My best regards to you, dear readers, for a happy and restful Christmas and New Year. See you on January 5, 2018.

Hockey Coaching Manual Available

BTC Editor Richard Bercuson's manual for minor hockey coaches, "Inside Coaching Hockey" is now available for \$20.

The manual covers topics like how children learn and skills are acquired, drill design, planning, being creative, teaching small area tactics, and more. There are testimonials from Hockey Hall of Fame journalist Roy MacGregor and Hockey Canada coaching program instructors. MacGregor wrote, "This is the way all our kids should be coached...wise about



every facet of the game - and fun..."

Bercuson has spent decades coaching and teaching in Canada, the U.S., and France, from the youngest house league levels to the provincial and national programs. He is an OHF/OMHA coaching program

instructor and field evaluator and lead mentor for Oshawa minor hockey where he created a unique development program.

To obtain the book, email: rbercuson@gmail.com



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Editor, Richard Bercuson

613-769-8629 • editorofbtc@gmail.com

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Next Issue: Friday, January 5, 2018

Deadline: Friday, December 29, 2017

Town of Whitby

December 15, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

Whitby Youth Rooms

Youth ages 12 to 18 years are invited to drop in to any Youth Room on Tuesday, December 19, at 4 p.m. for Holiday Movie Night and Thursday, December 28, at 4 p.m. for Board Game Day. Learn more about Youth Room activities and events whitby.ca/youthrooms

Family Multi-sport

Drop-in sports every Saturday, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Brooklin Community Centre and Library. whitby.ca/schedules

New Year's Eve Family Skate

Sunday, December 31, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Iroquois Park Sports Centre. Get ready to ring in the New Year with this family-friendly event.

whitby.ca/calendar

Council Meetings

Meetings will resume January 15, 2018. For a full listing visit whitby.ca/civicweb

Notices

Downtown Parking Study

The Town has initiated its review of the current and future parking needs in Downtown Whitby and Downtown Brooklin. Have your say and complete an online survey by December 15. whitby.ca/parkingstudy

Whitby Public Library Holiday Hours

All Whitby Public Library locations will be closed:

- December 17
- December 23 to 26
- December 31
- January 1

The virtual library is open 24/7. Visit whitbylibrary.ca for access to digital content and upcoming program information.

News

2018 Budget Forecast

The Town's 2018 Budget Forecast is now available at whitby.ca/budget. As part of the annual budget process, the forecast sets a Council-approved target for the 2018 Budget. The detailed 2018 Budget will be released in February 2018.

FREE PUBLIC SKATING

Saturdays, December 16, 23 and 30, from 2 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. at Luther Vipond Memorial Arena

Saturday, December 30, from 3 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. at Iroquois Park Sports Centre.

Sponsored by:



WHITBY NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY SKATE

Sunday, December 31

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Iroquois Park Sports Centre
500 Victoria Street

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
SKATING | RESOLUTION WALL
FACE PAINTING | SNACKS
FREE ADMISSION

Ring in the New Year at this active, family-friendly event!

Presented by Scotiabank®

whitby.ca/newyeareve

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Phone: 905.430.4300
Email: info@whitby.ca

@TownofWhitby
whitby.ca