

Less than Half the Picture *By Richard Bercuson*



The Day the Snowmen Died

Brooklin, 2043 - When Brooklin attained provincehood status in 2034, newly minted Premier Rhonda Mulcahy proudly pointed to the community's crime-free history as a Whitby suburb. Even her opponent in that first election, Lorne Coe, admitted the fledgling province was off on the right foot.

Major crimes were practically non-existent. While some Brooklin residents had been charged with crimes outside the area, none had been arrested for locally crimes committed. One young man serving time for a minor drug charge confessed that committing a crime in Brooklin was like robbing your grandmother. Be-

sides, he said, there were just too many cameras and too many people who knew everything about everyone. "I'm not the smartest bulb in the drawer," he said from his cell. "But I know there are much lesser and fewer risks stealing somewhere else."



A Brooklin snowman is approached by its assailant whose flying sidekick leaves the victim with just a third of its former self.

Then, seemingly randomly, petty crimes increased. By 2037, graffiti started to appear on trees. Stop signs were painted yellow. Barking dogs were secretly snuck fatten-

ing treats; the picturesque streets had desperate owners trying to get their rotund woofers to walk off the weight. Recycle bins were moved to adjacent streets, pitting neighbours against each other.

No one can pinpoint exactly when the trouble began. However, a Brooklin Provincial Police (BPP) behaviour and historical data analyst (BEHIDA) did submit a report in late 2038 that suggested the wave of petty and "really stupid" criminal activity actually had its genesis 20 years earlier. The report, which was ignored, was recently unearthed by an intrepid Brooklin Town Crier reporter who'd just returned from an assignment covering the secession of California from the United States.

The report stated that in February of 2018, a series of attacks on snowmen in Brooklin were not investigated by what was then Whitby police. Despite video evidence, police didn't seem motivated to address the crimes. One officer, wishing to remain anonymous, cracked wise that the snowmen would have died anyway in the spring. Hastening their demise, however violently, he added, just saved everyone emotional trauma later on.

For some years after, Brooklin remained relatively quiet, although every couple of years, attacks on snowmen (and igloos and forts) resumed. No one was ever arrested and the crimes remained unsolved on both the Whitby and BPP books.

The analyst, now retired, still believes that had the snowman attacks been investigated and solved, the later crime surge would not have occurred.



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Next Issue: Friday, March 2, 2018

Deadline: Friday, February 23, 2018

Town of Whitby

February 16, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

Whitby Youth Rooms

Youth ages 12 to 18 years are invited to drop in to any Youth Room on February 22, at 4 p.m. for a Just Dance Competition. whitby.ca/youthrooms

Black History Month Panel Discussion

Sunday, February 25, from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Whitby Public Library. Presented by the Congress of Black Women of Canada (Ajax/Pickering Chapter), Durham Welcome Centre and Immigrant Services, Culture Expressions Art Gallery Inc. and the Whitby Public Library. Register at whitbylibrary.ca/events

March Break Camp

March 12 to 16, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Brooklin Community Centre and Library. Register at whitby.ca/getactive

whitby.ca/calendar

Council Meetings

Council

February 20 at 7 p.m.

Special Council (Budget)

February 22 at 7 p.m.

Planning and Development Committee

February 26 at 7 p.m.

These meetings will take place at Town Hall, 575 Rossland Road East. For a full listing, visit whitby.ca/civicweb

For more information, contact the Clerks Department at clerks@whitby.ca or 905.430.4315

Notices

2018 Interim Tax Bill Due February 22

Residential, Farmland, Pipeline and Managed Forest Properties
The first instalment of the Interim Tax Billing for 2018 is due February 22. For more information on how payment can be made, visit whitby.ca/tax or call 905.430.4304

News

All 2018 Community Development Fund Applications Due by March 31

Community groups in need of financial support for initiatives and projects this year can apply to the Mayor's Community Development Fund and Performing Arts Community Development Fund. The final deadline for all 2018 applications is March 31. whitby.ca/communityfunds

New 2018 Spring / Summer Activity Guide

The new Activity Guide will be available at whitby.ca/getactive starting February 19. As of that date, you can go online to browse the new guide, and create and save activity wish lists in advance of registration.

Holiday Waste Collection

Waste and green bin collection will be bumped one day forward starting Tuesday, February 20. View the waste calendar at whitby.ca/waste

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