



METROLAND FILE PHOTO

BROOKLIN -- Catherine Rees and Bradley McIlwain looked over the Brooklin Poetry Society's book, 'Crossing Baldwin', during an event to celebrate its launch Nov. 27, 2013. The Town of Whitby has declared Poetry Month in April.

## Celebrating the art of poetry in Brooklin

Members of local poetry group meet regularly to share their work

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BROOKLIN -- It's National Poetry Month and local residents are doing their part to get the word out.

Members of the Brooklin Poetry Society recently dropped by Whitby council chambers to raise awareness about the craft.

"Poetry is alive and well in Durham Region," said John Di Leonardo, president of the organization at a presentation on March 29.

"We've been active for about 10 years ... we have monthly meetings with readings, all members are published poets and also members of the Ontario Poetry Society and the Writers' Community of Durham Region."

Established in 2008, the Brooklin Poetry Society is composed of members from across the region who meet regularly to read their work and provide feedback to one another. The group also attends various community events and published its first anthology of works, *Crossing Baldwin* -- featuring poems from 10 local poets -- in 2014.

Longtime member and Brooklin resident Bradley McIlwain launched his

latest poetry book, *Elementals*, last year.

"It's an absolute honour to be able to promote poetry," he told Whitby council before reading two of his poems, *Stanzas for Spring* and *Roots*. Inspiration for the latter poem came to him while hiking in the Heber Down Conservation Area in Whitby.

"I love going out in nature and (for) this book, *Elementals* ... I came up with the idea of telling a story through the four different elements -- earth, air, fire, (and) water -- in the spirit of how we interact with nature on a daily basis and how we navigate wilderness inside of ourselves as well," he said.

Mr. Di Leonardo thanked council for meeting a challenge issued by Calgary mayor Naheed Nenshi to mayors across Canada to have a local poet read a poem at the start of a council meeting to "uplift and promote the art of poetry."

"It's this open mindset in civic leaders like yourself that make our community flourish in a positive way," said Mr. Di Leonardo.

Council passed a motion declaring April National Poetry Month in Whitby.

The Brooklin Poetry Society meets on the second Sunday of every month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Second Cup, 304 Taunton Rd. E., Whitby. New members are welcome. Contact johndileonardo@rogers.com for more information.

## Residents can take part in online survey about future development

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To stay abreast of local developments, the owner of PuroClean Restoration Services regularly attends Brooklin Java Jolt meetings.

Hosted by the Whitby Chamber of Commerce, these sessions are held every other Wednesday to bring business owners together for coffee and conversation.

"I've lived here since 2005 and we've heard since then that the area is growing but I didn't actually know all the details about what's really coming until today," said Mr. Wilton at a Java Jolt meeting on March 30, which included a presentation by Town of Whitby planner Susan McGregor.

"I keep hearing rumours from neighbours and friends about what's going on but never actually the hard facts," Mr. Wilton added.

The Town is undertaking a study of the Brooklin area to determine land use planning and transportation needs for future growth in and around the existing community.

The study will result in a comprehensive secondary plan and transportation master plan for the area.

"This study started in early 2014," said Ms. McGregor.

"We had a public information centre in April 2014 which was really all about what kind of vision does the community have for Brooklin, and we took the input that we received through that exercise and that helped us move forward in thinking about what Brooklin should look like."

Following that, the Town's consultant team prepared background reports and two other public information centres were held -- in February 2015 and most recently this past March -- to gather input on land use options.

"Typically when we do a planning study, we don't just simply say here's the plan we came up with," explained Ms. McGregor.

"We say it could look like this, or it could look like this ... and we try to provide a little bit of variety and range and get feedback on all of that."

Brooklin's population currently sits at about 22,000. It's expected to rise to more than 56,000 by 2031 and upwards of 80,000 by full build-out beyond 2031.

"That also includes about 25,000 jobs as well so there is a significant change happening here," said Ms. McGregor.

Members of the community are encouraged to complete an online survey by Saturday, April 30 as part of the ongoing public consultation process. The survey and all supporting documents for the study can be found at [www.whitby.ca/brooklinstudy](http://www.whitby.ca/brooklinstudy).

The next Brooklin Java Jolt will be held on Wednesday, April 27 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Lotus Home Interiors, 15 Baldwin St. N.

Registration and chamber membership are not required.

Contact Kyle Paterson at [kyle@whitbychamber.org](mailto:kyle@whitbychamber.org) for more information.

### BROOKLIN STUDY PRINCIPLES

- Maintain downtown as focal area for shopping, dining and entertainment
- Create "main-street feel" on Baldwin Street as safe and comfortable for walking and cycling
- Protect heritage character of downtown area and existing mature neighbourhoods
- Create diverse and vibrant mixed-use urban village at Baldwin Street and Winchester Road
- Provide range of transportation choices for people of all ages and mobility levels
- Establish connections to south Whitby, surrounding rural areas, trails, parks and recreation areas
- Promote active and healthy living through parks, trails, walkable streets and recreational facilities
- Provide diverse range of employment opportunities on lands along Hwy. 407
- Encourage community and cultural amenities and events
- Offer range of housing options to meet needs of variety of residents
- Improve traffic flow and ease congestion

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