

Opportunity awaits as you enter Village of Brooklin

Once upon a time, when our family first planted roots in Brooklin, I began exploring what it might mean to live in a quaint, relaxing village.

It's not so relaxed now I would say; however, the feeling of home grows on residents more each day.

I am particularly pleased with the Town of Whitby's emphasis on developing and maintaining safe "green" routes for cyclists, walkers and those folks wanting to embark on perhaps a healthier lifestyle.

In the face of increasing traffic volumes, these trails and bicycle lanes can offer a chance to return to active transportation. Remember the days when we all walked to school or rode our bikes to the corner store?

I offer a suggestion to Brooklin residents to explore all that the Village of Brooklin has to offer right at their doorstep. With the impending expansion of retail and commercial services throughout Brooklin, residents are perhaps more able to bike or walk or even run to a local store, restaurant or organized activity.

Time after time, my experience in Brooklin shops and stores has been focused on positive customer-driven service. Whether buying a hammer or some new clothes, getting a haircut, accessing interior design services or going out with the family for dinner, service is the name of the game in Brooklin.

Many volunteering opportunities are possible right here in Brooklin. On Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Brooklin Pub, the Satellite Rotary Club will be hosting its second annual service clubs meeting. About 20 different volunteer groups will gather to engage in service-driven discourse.

For those folks whose schedules per-

Community



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mit, volunteering to help others can offer intrinsic rewards to the giver as well as providing needed services to the recipient. In future columns I will provide contact information for these opportunities.

The 2017 Brooklin Spring Fair Parade will be held on Saturday, June 3. The parade starts at 10:30 a.m. at Brooklin High School and runs south on Baldwin Street turning east on Winchester Road through to Watford Street. Applications will be available after March 1 online at www.brooklinspringfair.com or directly through me at mcgrorey25@rogers.com or via text at 905-259-5480.

Due to the overwhelming response and turnout last year, we will be capping the entries this year. The Brooklin Spring Fair itself runs Thursday, June 1 through Sunday, June 4.

For more than a century, the fair has been providing loads of fun for the entire family. The 106th instalment carries a long tradition rich in agriculture and promises many exciting entertaining and educational activities for young and old.

Twelve years later, I still enjoy reading the welcoming sign that lets me know not only that I am entering the Village of Brooklin, but that I am home.

-- Jim McGrorey is a Brooklin resident, chair of the Brooklin Spring Fair Parade and volunteer and events co-ordinator for the Whitby Road Watch Committee

Whitby mayor's fund applications due March 31

WHITBY -- Organizations that positively impact the lives of Whitby residents are encouraged to apply to the Mayor's Community Development Fund (MCDF) for lead cause or charity grants.

Applications to receive funding support for community initiatives and projects are due by Friday, March 31. Requests for smaller community grants of up to \$5,000 are accepted throughout the year.

"I encourage community groups and individuals to think of the Mayor's Community Development Fund as a resource when planning initiatives and projects," said Mayor Don Mitchell. "All applications are carefully considered, so the fund may support as many activities as possible

that strengthen our community."

A council-appointed citizens committee reviews the applications according to evaluation guidelines approved by council. High priority is given to community-focused activities with a strong, local presence and those that promote inclusion and civic engagement. Financial support may also be awarded to individuals in special circumstances.

Since 2010, the MCDF has supported community activities that benefit Whitby residents. In 2016, \$25,000 was awarded to the Victorian Order of Nurses to help build a residential hospice in Durham. Another \$25,000 was given to the Alzheimer's Society of Durham Region to launch the Blue Umbrella campaign, which provides free dementia-friendly customer service training to local businesses, services and organizations. An additional 31 community grants were awarded, totalling \$61,079.

Visit www.whitbyca/mcdf for more information.



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