

## Community



JIM  
MCGROREY

### Sharing the roads in Brooklin

**S**pring and summer are just around the corner and with that, it's important to remember to share the roads for safety.

For those new to the healthy world of cycling, the Town of Whitby is fast becoming an increasingly bike-friendly community. Cycling information can be found at the Brooklin Community Centre and Library, as well as many other

town locations such as the Whitby Civic Recreation Centre and Station Gallery. For those cycling beyond Brooklin, information can be found at [www.ontario-bike.ca](http://www.ontario-bike.ca).

Drivers can help to keep Brooklin streets a bit safer by not parking in bike lanes and by exercising caution when passing or overtaking a cyclist, skateboarder or in-line skater. Motorists should never try to overtake a cyclist unless they can safely do so by leaving at least one metre between their right front mirror and the left handlebar of the bicycle.

As more cyclists ride our roads this summer, "dooring" could become a problem in heavy-traffic areas. This occurs when a person leaving a parked vehicle opens their vehicle door into the immediate path of a cyclist. Please use caution when opening vehicle doors on local streets. A relative advised me of the "Dutch reach" technique whereby

drivers open their door with the right hand, which causes drivers to look behind them for oncoming bicycles, skateboarders or in-line skaters.

Visit [www.whitby.ca/activetransportation](http://www.whitby.ca/activetransportation) to learn more about various healthy and active forms of transportation throughout Brooklin and Whitby. For those people interested in walking, hiking or biking throughout Whitby's many parks and trails, check out [www.whitby.ca/trails](http://www.whitby.ca/trails) for valuable information regarding our most beautiful natural environment that often gets overlooked as we speed by (hopefully not in school zones).

Very disappointing to read that during a week-long school zone safety blitz more than 1,000 tickets were issued by Durham Regional Police Service, according to a Jan. 19 article in This Week. The territory was across Durham and not restricted to Brooklin; however, I find it disappointing that so many

drivers are not focused in school zones. Our most precious asset -- our children -- were walking to and from school while more than 1,000 drivers received citations for speeding, stop sign violations, not stopping at red lights and distracted driving.

With most students back in school now after March break, I plead with drivers to please remain focused, particularly in school zones. Please watch for those bicyclists who have a legal right to use the roadways and for those skateboarders and in-line skaters who may happen to be rolling along, often unexpectedly.

Wishing all Brooklinites an active and safe spring and summer in 2017.

*-- 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*

### Veteran banners program could be expanded in downtown Brooklin

Local legions request additional funding from town to install 65 more banners in 2017

PARVANEH PESSIAN  
[ppessian@durhamregion.com](mailto:ppessian@durhamregion.com)

**BROOKLIN** -- Residents travelling through downtown in the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day last year may recall being greeted by the faces of local men and women of the past and present who served their country.

The Honour our Veterans banner program -- an ongoing legacy project that pays tribute to local veterans, deceased veterans and active service members through the display of banners with their photos on lampposts every year between Oct. 1 and Nov. 12 -- was rolled out for the first time in downtown Brooklin and Whitby in 2016. Due to the overwhelming response from the community, organizers are now hoping to expand the program for this year.

"(The) program was very successful in both Whitby and Brooklin," wrote Brooklin resident Emma Inkpen in a letter sent to the Town of Whitby on Feb. 16.

Inkpen approached the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 152 in Brooklin with the idea in 2015 after seeing the initiative undertaken in Uxbridge and also volunteered her graphic design services with Inkpen Studios to the project.

"We had 40 banners available for each branch and sold out weeks before the application deadline. Most banners were sponsored by the veteran's family, some were sponsored by local businesses and councillors. We have applications on a wait list to sponsor more veteran banners for 2017," she said.

“

We had 40 banners available for each branch and sold out weeks before the application deadline. Most banners were sponsored by the veteran's family, some were sponsored by local businesses and councillors.  
-- Emma Inkpen

"The project was well received by not only the families of the veterans, but also the general public with lots of positive feedback."

The program is funded through sponsorship of individual banners at a cost of \$150 each.

The town is being asked to expand the budgetary allocation for installation of the banners (it cost about \$2,500 for a total of 81 banners last year) to add 40 more banners in Whitby and 25 more in Brooklin this year.

"Our hope is to continue expanding the project each year, with the knowledge the demand will decrease over the next few years," Inkpen wrote.

"The lifespan of the banners is estimated at 10 years, and we have set the fee for the banners to allow for them to be replaced if damaged."

Council passed a motion on Feb. 27 to refer Inkpen's letter to staff for consideration as part of the 2017 budget deliberations and for development of a comprehensive community banner policy.



METROLAND FILE PHOTO

**BROOKLIN** -- Brooklin resident Emma Inkpen donated her graphic design services as owner of Inkpen Studios to the Honour Our Veterans Banner Program. Both the Whitby and Brooklin branches of the Royal Canadian Legion were involved in the initiative, which paid tribute to local veterans and active service members through the display of veteran tribute banners on lamp posts in town between Oct. 1 and Nov. 12. Due to the overwhelming response from the community, organizers are now hoping to expand the program for this year.

Certified Footcare Nurse RPN  
Specializing in Diabetics

Green Shield & Veteran Approved

- ✓ Nail Trimming
- ✓ Callus Reduction
- ✓ Foot Scale
- ✓ Massage
- ✓ Other Footcare Services Available

**905-655-0922**  
6550922@gmail.com