



# LIVING IN SHARON!

by Anita Kotsovos

Sharon is a former village now incorporated into the Town of East Gwillimbury. The first settlers (the Quakers) came to Sharon in the 1800's. Their place of worship was the now historic Sharon Temple, which is the area's best known landmark where you can enjoy concerts and other events or take a tour of the pioneer village.

This once tiny village currently has approximately 3,000 residents, and Sharon's population is expected to reach 10,000 over the coming years.

Sharon is a place where everyone feels welcome and the Town Council and Mayor Virginia Hackson, pride themselves on providing outstanding recreational programming and community events, giving everyone the opportunity to become part of the community, get to know their neighbours, interact with town council and enjoy culture, arts and recreation.

In the mid to late 1980s housing developments were built in and around Sharon and further developments had occurred slowly since 2002. With 2nd Concession complete with the new bridge, and other major road construction, new residents are set to pour into Sharon and the surrounding towns of Queensville, Mt. Albert and Holland Landing. According to the Town, 1,162 new homes have been sold in Sharon, 643 in Queensville, 335 in Holland Landing and 207 in Mt. Albert. Add it all up and that's 2,347 new homes sold so far. Ideally the Town would like to have a stable future building rate of about 800 homes per year.

These new homes are feeding the insatiable demand for housing stock, which has seen home prices continue to skyrocket and can be attributed to a number of issues including a lack of houses for

sale compared to demand, resulting in more competition and aggressive offers.

Anita Kotsovos, Real Estate Representative for Re/Max Realtron Realty Inc., has represented a large portion of the sales and resales of the existing homes in the Sharon area for over 16 years, and realizes that the quaint small town atmosphere in Sharon will undoubtedly change with all the new homes being built, but the upside is the improvement to the community's amenities such as an expansion of retail services like the Vince's Market store expansion, the 10 acres allocated for new retail/commercial development across from Vince's, improved bus service by York Region, and increased commuter train service from GO Transit. The Town is working on plans for a new Healthy and Active Living Centre featuring recreational facilities, a pool and a library in the coming years, once the population reaches the target number.

Sharon and East Gwillimbury are home to an extensive Trail system and the Rogers Reservoir, all part of an extensive network that connects to Newmarket and Aurora. If hockey and skating are your passions, the East Gwillimbury Sports Complex has 2 rinks that offer ice time year round as well as floor time for ball hockey and lacrosse. From the Easter Bunny Hike to the Canada Day celebrations to the Santa Claus Parade, there are events to enjoy year round. Also be sure to visit the Farmers market and the summer music concerts at Civic Square as well as the weekly Antique Car Shows — there is something for everyone to enjoy here in fabulous Sharon!!

*Written and submitted by Anita Kotsovos.*

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