

# Whitby Gifts The Best Centre \$250,000

Whitby Council unanimously approved a pledge of \$250,000 over up to ten years to The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre (Best Centre) on Columbus Road. The pledge is directed to the building on the Best Expansion Campaign with a goal of renovating and expanding the Centre.

The Best Centre announced the Building on the Best Expansion Campaign last May. With a goal of \$5 million, the Centre is working to raise funds to renovate and expand its current heritage site. The building expansion will include construction of a new Welcome and Reception area that will connect the two existing structures, as well as renovation of the main house.

### Major renos

It will also allow for a renovation of the two existing structures and an addition of a supplementary conjoining space. Upon completion, the new centre will have full first floor accessibility, 18 patient

counselling spaces, a new large event and education space, six meeting rooms, and an additional clinic room with a children's play area.

"Expansion is a necessity as we expect patient demand to double in the next five years" said Lorrie Hagen, Executive Director at The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre. "The Town of Whitby has been supportive of our work for years. We are grateful for Council's ongoing support and this newest pledge demonstrates their belief in the importance of the Best Centre and the well-being of our residents."

The Building on the Best Expansion Campaign has the support of many community volunteers such

as Whitby Regional Councillor Liz Roy, who sat on the campaign Taskforce. "To see the Building on the Best campaign progress and garner support from the Town of Whitby is very special" stated Councillor Roy. "The Best Centre is an integral part of our community and expansion will not only benefit the residents of Whitby, but the entire Region."

### Mayoral support

Whitby Mayor Don Mitchell was present at the virtual announcement of the Building on the Best Expansion Campaign earlier this year. "We are proud to be home to The Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre," said Mayor Mitchell. "We

have been pleased to support their services and much needed expansion through our Community Development Fund in past years and now through a long-term pledge of this size."

The Best Centre delivers one-of-a-kind patient-centred healthcare exclusive to type 1 diabetes. As Canada's only stand-alone centre and charitable organization specializing in type 1 diabetes, the staff provides highly responsive and individualized care. The interdisciplinary care team includes registered nurses, dietitians and social workers who provide frontline healthcare and education throughout patients' lifetime.

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## 2022 Brings More of the Same

People say the real estate market has been "unsustainable" for almost a decade now. The pandemic hasn't been enough to cool the market. With inflation hitting an 18-year high in October, the Bank of Canada is expected to respond by raising its overnight rate multiple times in 2022. The Big 6 banks have predicted the Bank of Canada will raise its overnight rate by one per cent by the end of 2022. Only time will tell what impact this will have on the market, but given current levels of supply and demand, a one-per-cent hike is unlikely to be a significant factor on sales or prices.

Chris Alexander, president of Re/Max Canada, anticipates a bump in activity ahead of rate hikes, but feels the Bank of Canada's "slow and gradual" response won't be much of a deterrent for buyers overall.

The Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) projects the number of sales to drop by 12.1 per cent next year. With housing inventories at historic lows there will be fewer homes for sale. Canadians will have even fewer — yet more expensive — homes to battle over.

Industry experts have attributed the rapidly rising price of homes to the housing supply shortage, which was amplified by a notable spike in demand in 2020 and 2021. This is expected to continue, with 1.2 million people expected to

immigrate to Canada by 2023 and all of them need a home. With no major increase in listings or new construction expected, industry experts suggest market pressures could mount, putting ever greater pressure on prices.

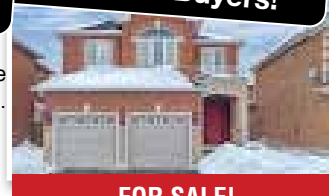
By the end of 2021, 97 per cent of Canadian housing markets analyzed by RE/MAX Canada (37 out of 38) were expected to be seller's markets in 2022, characterized by low supply, high demand and rising prices. This is likely to continue in 2022, given that adding supply to the market isn't a quick fix.

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