

# Newtonville puts the fun into community

‘Everyone knows each other, loves to help each other’

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## coverstory

When my editor asked if I'd like to visit Newtonville, I jumped at the chance. The community had been on my radar since the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November, when news clips featured goat yoga offered by Newtonville's Haute Goat Farm. Goats and yoga? That's a winning combination in my books.

Before making the trip, I chatted with Municipality of Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster. "We call Newtonville the 'far east' of Clarington," he said. "It's at the eastern edge of the municipality as well as the eastern-most part of the Greater Toronto Area. That's its claim to fame."

The rural village is located close to urban amenities in Clarington, which boasts villages and towns like Bowmanville with quaint main streets, farmers' markets, craft breweries, parks, trails, golf courses, marinas and many annual festivals. It's also within minutes of Northumberland County, where you can discover the history and culture of Port Hope, spend a day at Cobourg's famous beach or explore the Ganaraska Forest.

"Its population is in the hundreds, not thousands," Foster says. "Newtonville is never going to turn into a metropolis so you'll see larger houses on larger lots. You won't have a whole series of subdivisions going in there."

Case in point: Eden Park, an enclave of 28 estate-size lots by Fourteen Estates, which has earned a reputation for building high-end custom homes but is expanding its focus here

by transitioning into high-tech engineered homes. Eden Park is expected to be especially attractive to Durham Region or Toronto homeowners who can capitalize on the equity they've acquired and invest here.

Newtonville is located a stone's throw from Hwy. 401 to the south. A new section of Hwy. 407 will open early in the new year, taking drivers from Harmony Road in Oshawa, past Enfield Road and south to Taunton Road in Clarington. Hwy. 407 east to Hwy. 115/35 is on track for completion by 2020.

I visited Newtonville on a recent Saturday. First stop: the Newtonville General Store, where locals were chatting with one another while picking up odds and ends or having lunch or all-day breakfast in the store's café. "We're the only store here," says Lisa Kerswell, who owns the store with husband, Darryl. "It's a tightknit community."

From there, I made my way to Tea Grannys & Friends Victorian Tea Experience, where owner Kimberly Chant-Allin greets me in 1800s costume. "I love the Victorian time period," she says in a room filled with bone-china teapots, a Christmas tree decorated with teacups and pieces of heritage lace, clothing, boots and more.

Tea Grannys has welcomed nearly 1,000 customers this year, many as part of multi-generational families and some around the world. Chant-Allin partners with Crooked Creek Garden Centre to offer a country tea

and garden getaway. "It has a very community-minded atmosphere," she says of Newtonville. "Everyone knows each other and loves to help each other."

Next, I made my way along country roads to Haute Goat on the Port Hope border. Owner Debbie Nightingale lets me take in picturesque views of the expansive Northumberland Hills on our way to the barn, where dozens of Nigerian Dwarf Goats are eager to say hello.

She and her husband moved to Newtonville two years ago after living in Campbellford and before that Toronto, where Nightingale had a small TV production company. "It's hectic but peaceful, if that's possible," she says of life on the farm. "I go to Toronto once a week and when I leave I feel like I'm vibrating. The pace of life is different."

Nightingale has been asked so often how she made the transition from city to farm that she decided to offer a 'making the leap from the city to the country' workshop. It's designed to give city folks insights on whether the move is right for them. Haute Goat also offers a number of classes, workshops, tours and other learning opportunities that offer hands-on experience in a number of different aspects of farm life, including farm stays, beekeeping, milking goats, raising chickens, geese and ducks. And goat yoga? It offers that, too, ensuring a return visit!



Newtonville is in the 'far east' of Clarington — at the edge of the municipality and at eastern most part of the Greater Toronto Area.



LAURA BERMAN

Haute Goat Farm offers a variety of hands-on farm life experiences, including goat yoga. It's offered year round, with the next classes starting on Jan. 13.



Builder Fourteen Estates of Ajax is working with BONE Structure, a leader in sustainable construction, to create Eden Park in Newtonville.



Kimberly Chant-Allin, owner of Tea Grannys & Friends Victorian Tea Experience, dresses in 1800s costume. Reservations are required.



The rural village of Newtonville is located close to all the urban amenities offered by Clarington, including its quaint main streets, farmers' markets, craft breweries and many annual festivals.