

# The Uxbridge COSMOS

Volume 15 No. 29

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, August 1, 2019



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**HAVING SOME FOAMY FUN** - A masked Wonder Woman celebrates at the starting gate to last weekend's 5K Foam Fest, held at Dagmar Resort. Thousands of people took part in the popular annual obstacle course/fun run.

*Photo by John Cavers*

## More at thecosmos.ca

Phoenix leads Dressage team to PanAm Gold  
Foote reveals what TIFF has in store

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## Uxbridge chocolate makers are the ones to watch

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

The sweet smell of success emanates from a modest house at the north end of Uxbridge. It's the smell of bean to bar chocolate - more precisely, one of the top five best bean to bar chocolates in the world.

DesBarres Chocolate is a micro-batch, single origin bean to bar chocolate making company in Uxbridge, and it recently won nine international awards, including two gold awards for two of their bars, and the International Rising Star Award, one of only a few special honours handed out each year. The awards were handed out by the Academy of Chocolate, based in London, England.

"I think it's cool ... to know that our little town has a world class chocolate maker in its midst," laughs Ariane Hansen, cofounder of DesBarres Chocolate along with her partner, Erik.

DesBarres won the two gold awards for its

"Kilombero" 72% bar and its "Ambanja" 72% bar. Several other of their 11 current "flavours" won silver, bronze or received commendations.

What's remarkable about world-class chocolate being made in Uxbridge is that the journey to these prestigious awards only began in 2014. Both Erik and Ariane are professed choco-holics, and after learning stories of how people were making good chocolate from fine flavour cacao beans at home, the two decided they wanted to try it as well. They bought some equipment, ordered some direct trade, fine flavour cacao beans from a reputable source, and began to experiment.

"By the end of 2015 we thought we were on to something, so we designed some packaging and started selling our chocolate locally at places like The Passionate Cook's Essentials, Nexus Coffee and The Second Wedge Brewing Co.," explains Ariane.

"It's been an exercise of passion, discovery, camaraderie and fun ever since," she says. Des-

Barres now sells its chocolate all over Canada, but mostly in Ontario.

"I would say 99 per cent of what we do is education," says Erik. "We've talked to thousands about bean to bar chocolate and the uniqueness of every cacao farmer's product. We've shared our chocolate in our home, in shops and at markets, and have expanded our offerings to include 11 bars and a variety of other chocolate products, all using the cacao beans from only five different producers from around the world."

The Hansens are quite strict about choosing where their product comes from. They say they won't consider some providers because of the labour practices there, for example.

"Either we've been to see the farm ourselves or our broker has," says Erik. "It has to be an ethical practice and of the highest quality."

DesBarres Chocolate is made in small batches

*...continued on page 3*

**Catch the Ace**  
PROGRESSIVE WEEKLY LOTTERY

**THIS WEEK'S WINNER**  
**KIM SENOUR - \$343**

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Lottery rules at [www.uxbridgerotary.com/catchtheace](http://www.uxbridgerotary.com/catchtheace).  
No one under 18 may purchase a ticket or win the lottery.

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# The Township of UXBRIDGE

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## Uxbridge at a Glance

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge  
51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190  
Uxbridge L9P 1T1  
905-852-9181 info@uxbridge.ca

### Notice of Intention to Designate Ontario Heritage Act Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Building 49 Brock Street West, Uxbridge

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge intends to designate the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce building, at 49 Brock Street West, legally described as Brock St W BLK G Pt Lot 1, 2 (Plan 83), Township of Uxbridge, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990, Ch.O.18). A By-law to designate the property is scheduled to be before Uxbridge Council at its regular meeting, to be held on September 9, 2019.

#### Description of Property

49 Brock Street West.

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is a two-storey institutional building prominently situated at the northwest corner of Brock Street West and Toronto Street in the heart of Uxbridge's historic commercial core.

#### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce building's cultural heritage value lies in its association with the commercial and banking life of the Township of Uxbridge for over a century. The solid stone and brick two-storey building was constructed c. 1917 at a 45-degree angle to the intersection of Brock and Toronto Streets, which gives it a prominence unlike any other building in the downtown area.

The Beaux-Arts architectural design of the building is unique to the Township, and underscores the importance of the business conducted within its solid, secure walls. The classical details of the building connect it to the major Canadian bank buildings of nearby Toronto, and the financial, economic and social traditions of the ancient western world. The stability conveyed by the building's architecture has been mirrored by the fact it has been continually occupied by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce since its construction.

Additional information on the proposed designation is available upon request from Debbie Leroux, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk at 905-852-9181 or at dleroux@uxbridge.ca during regular business hours. Any person may, within **thirty days** of the first publication of this notice, send by registered mail or deliver to the Clerk of the Township of Uxbridge notice of their objection to the proposed designation together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts.

Dated at the Township of Uxbridge, this 1st day of August, 2019

Debbie Leroux, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

### The Thomas Foster Memorial

9449 Conc. 7 (Durham 1) 4km north of Uxbridge [www.fostermemorial.com](http://www.fostermemorial.com)

**August:** The Foster is open for tours Wed. to Sun. 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Open Mon., Aug. 5

#### Fridays at the Foster - Concert Series every Friday night

May-Sept 7:30-8:30 p.m. Admission is donation at the door

#### Aug. 2: Marion Drexler - Vocals

Marion is an an inventive musician and creative song writer.

#### Aug. 9: Andrew Heathcote Guitar/Vocals

Andrew performs original songs from past and present, along with his favourites.

#### Aug. 16: Chris Saunders Guitar/Vocals

Chris will keep you entertained with his exceptional rhythm & selection of music.

#### Aug 23: Shimoda Family Ensemble – Instrumental

An evening of recorder, Baroque music. Solo & quartet with harpsichord, using authentic baroque instruments.

#### Aug. 30: Mark Thackway – Guitar

Playing music is his true passion and "occupies 90% of my thoughts."

#### Sept. 6: Gary McLaughlin

Gary will provide an enjoyable evening of Pop tunes from the 70s to now. Come out & enjoy the memories this music brings forward.

#### Sept. 13: Now & Then – Vocals

With 40 years of experience, Rick & Larry will take you back to the years of easy living with oldies that were popular back then.

**Sept. 20: Jamie Thompson** –Urban Flute Project  
Jamie specializes in performing in interesting architectural & natural environments. "Where classical music ...meets urban exploration."

#### Sept. 27: Friday at the Foster Finale - Mike Burns

An entertainer & host to a variety of music styles, Mike performs throughout the GTA & brings a very creative show to the Foster.

FOLLOW US



MORE INFO [www.uxbridge.ca](http://www.uxbridge.ca)

### Employment Opportunities

#### Uxbridge Historical Centre - Curatorial & Collections Intern

The Uxbridge Historical Centre is seeking to hire an unemployed or underemployed college or university graduate as a Curatorial and Collections Intern.

This is an 18 week, full-time, contract position starting in August 2019.

Please apply with a resumé and covering letter to: Pat Neal, Manager/Curator, Uxbridge Historical Centre, 7239 Conc. 6, PO Box 1301, Uxbridge ON L9P 1N5 or [pneal@uxbridge.ca](mailto:pneal@uxbridge.ca)

**Applications will be accepted up to Thursday, August 8, at 4pm.** We thank all those who apply, however, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

*The Township of Uxbridge is an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The Township of Uxbridge will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process to applicants with disabilities and/or needs related to the OHRC. Personal information provided is collected under the authority of The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*

#### Uxbridge Public Library

##### Student Position

The Township of Uxbridge Public Library is looking for secondary school students to work from September 3, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Duties include, but are not limited to, shelf reading, shelving materials and customer service. Students need to be available for shifts after school and on weekends.

Students are generally scheduled for an average of 5 – 8 hours per week.

**Wage:** \$13.15 per hour

**Application Deadline:** August 12, 2019

**Please apply with a cover letter and resume. Resumes can be dropped off at the library or emailed to:**

Corrinne Morrison, Program and Outreach Coordinator: [corrinne.morrison@uxlib.com](mailto:corrinne.morrison@uxlib.com)

Only those students selected for an interview will be contacted. Interviews will be conducted during the week of August 19, 2019. Thank you for applying.

*The Uxbridge Public Library is an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The Uxbridge Public Library will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection process to applicants with disabilities and/or needs related to the OHRC.*

### Council & Committee Meetings

Schedule for the month of August, 2019

#### COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 12, 10:00 a.m.

#### PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING

ZBA 2019-05 EVENDALE

#### DEVELOPMENTS (LOW BLVD)

Monday, August 12, 11:00 a.m.

#### COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING

Wednesday, August 21, 7:00 p.m.

### Bids & Tenders

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL U19-23 Fire Department Utility/Command Vehicle

The Township of Uxbridge is requesting proposals for the supply and delivery of a 4x4 or AWD utility vehicle suitable for outfitting as a fire department command vehicle.

Sealed proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m.

local time Friday, August 30, 2019 by:

Debbie Leroux, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Township of Uxbridge

51 Toronto Street South

P.O. Box 190, Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1T1

#### TENDER U19-16 Tender for Snow Removal From Municipal Parking Lots.

Sealed Tenders will be received until 2:00 p.m.

local time Tuesday, August 6, 2019 by:

Debbie Leroux, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Township of Uxbridge

51 Toronto Street South

P.O. Box 190

Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1T1

Lowest or any bid not necessarily accepted.

These Bid Documents are posted on the Township of Uxbridge's website at

[http://www.uxbridge.ca/bids\\_and\\_tenders](http://www.uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders)

under **Current Bid Opportunities** and are available by following the registration instructions on that page. Please ensure that when you download the document, you add your company's name to the Document Takers List in order to receive any addenda that may be issued. For questions regarding downloading of documents, contact the Clerk's Department at 905-852-9181, Ext. 220.

### 2018 Consolidated Financial Statements

The 2018 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge have been approved by Council and are now available to the public on the Township's website, [www.uxbridge.ca/treasury](http://www.uxbridge.ca/treasury), under the 'Financial Information' section. A copy of the 2018 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Township of Uxbridge is available for pick up (at no cost) upon request, at the Tax Department in the Municipal Building, located at 51 Toronto St., South in the Township of Uxbridge.



Township of Uxbridge documents are available in alternate formats upon request.  
Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at [uxbridge.ca/accessibility](http://uxbridge.ca/accessibility)

email: [accessibility@uxbridge.ca](mailto:accessibility@uxbridge.ca)  
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209





**Sweet success, from page 1**

using beans that have come from one location - hence the single origin label. Beans come from Guatemala, Mexico - the Hansens were eagerly awaiting a shipment from Jamaica when the interview for this article was done - arriving whole and roasted, ready for use. The Hansens painstakingly remove the shell of the beans and break the cacao bean inside down into "nibs." These nibs are combined with a very small amount of organic cane sugar (and a flavour such as freshly ground nutmeg, if it's a batch of "Orange Spice", say) and ground to the perfect consistency. From there, the chocolate can be tempered and then shaped into bars. The bars are shaped and wrapped by

hand.

"It's a whole art, to sustainably farm cacao and to work with it. It takes time and effort all along the chain to make a quality product," explains Erik.

These quality products aren't anywhere near the same price point as mass produced chocolate bars - a 38 g bar retails for \$6.95 on the DesBarres Chocolate website. But the chocolate doesn't taste like those other bars, either. DesBarres Chocolate isn't meant to satisfy hunger, it's meant to be savoured and appreciated, like fine wine or cheese.

DesBarres Chocolate does not contain any extra cocoa butter, and all of the various ingredients that might be added are organic. The saffron used in the Zafara bar is grown by True Saffron, a farm in Warkworth, Ont.

(approximately due south of Norwood). Most of the bars' ingredients labels, however, simply say: Single Origin Organic Cocoa Beans, Organic Cane Sugar.

Choosing a favourite from among the 11 available is difficult, says Ariane. "It depends on the day," she laughs. She does admit that she prefers the ones with a higher percentage cacao, and enjoys what she and Erik call the "experiments" as well.

"We have a list that is pages and pages long of combinations we'd like to try," says Erik. But he readily admits that "Zafara" is the one he picks above all the others, if he's made to choose just one.

Being the creators of one of the top five best chocolates in the world (out of 1,600 entries this year) is not the

Hansens' full time occupation, but they are working on making it become so. They value the feedback and critique that comes with entering competitions and festivals, and are only half joking when they say that they are going for a Golden

Bean Award from the Academy of Chocolate.

To learn more about DesBarres Chocolate and to see the various flavours they make, visit <https://www.desbarreschocolate.com>



DesBarres Chocolate, which is made in Uxbridge, was recently presented with the Academy of Chocolate's International Rising Star Award. The single origin bean to bar chocolate has only been in production since 2015 and has already won 20 awards. *Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove*



## Renowned statue to visit local church

The well-known statue of Our Lady of Fatima is coming to Uxbridge's Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church on Friday, August 9. The statue will arrive at approximately 8 a.m. and will spend the day at the Church. A Mass will be held at 7 p.m.

Our Lady of Fatima was sculpted in 1947 by sculptor José Thedim, under the direction of Sister Lucia (Lucia Abobora, later renamed Lucia de Jesus de dos Santos, was one of the three principal witnesses of the apparitions in Fatima, Portugal in 1917). As the only stop in Durham of a tour marking the centennial of the apparitions, the statue comes to Uxbridge to "bring a message of hope, peace and salvation to those many millions of people who may never have an opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Fatima itself."

For more information, pictures or to confirm attendance, contact Daniel Torchia at [daniel@torchia-com.com](mailto:daniel@torchia-com.com) or visit [fatimatourforpeace.com](http://fatimatourforpeace.com)

**Returning this summer!**

# Maud of Leaskdale

**Starring Uxbridge Actress**  
*Jennifer Carroll as Maud*

Experience the life of Lucy Maud Montgomery during her first 15 years in Ontario (1911-1926), when she became a devoted mother, a world famous author, and the loyal wife of a Presbyterian minister.

It was a time of simple joys and heart-rending tragedy, brought to life through Montgomery's own powerful words. Compiled and directed by Conrad Boyce.

**Three performances only!**  
**August 15, 7pm**  
**August 17-18, 3pm**

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At The Historic Leaskdale Church, 11850 Durham Road 1  
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[www.lucymaudmontgomery.ca](http://www.lucymaudmontgomery.ca)

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**Sundays in August @ Trinity United Church**

**20 First Ave, Uxbridge**  
**Service starts at 10 a.m.**

**August 4<sup>th</sup> – Cyndi Desjardins Wilkens** ([www.cyndistory.com](http://www.cyndistory.com))  
Cyndi Desjardins Wilkens is an author, international speaker, wife, and mom. She has a heart for sharing her story with audiences in hopes that her transparency will be a light for others facing an otherwise dark situation. She thrives in Ontario, Canada.

**August 11<sup>th</sup> – Liz Honeyford** ([www.healingcarecanada.ca](http://www.healingcarecanada.ca))  
Liz is a counsellor, a Spiritual Director and is also President of Healing Care Canada. She has been associate pastor at St. Paul's Presbyterian church in Leaskdale and currently resides in Uxbridge.

**August 18<sup>th</sup> – Ruth Coghill** ([www.wordstoinspire.ca](http://www.wordstoinspire.ca))  
A former teacher and sales executive, Ruth is now an international speaker, author and founder of *Words To Inspire—Lifelong Empowerment From God's Word*. This ministry exists to provide resources to strengthen each person's faith through the empowerment of God's Word.

**August 25<sup>th</sup> – Liz Honeyford** ([www.healingcarecanada.ca](http://www.healingcarecanada.ca))  
Liz is a counsellor, a Spiritual Director and is also President of Healing Care Canada. She has been associate pastor at St. Paul's Presbyterian church in Leaskdale and currently resides in Uxbridge.



# Our two cents

## Sirius-ly sweet success!

We'd like to take this opportunity to send out some congratulations. First, to Erik and Ariane Hansen, owners of DesBarres Chocolate (see story, page 1). To be rated one of the top five best bean-to-bar chocolates in the world is, if you'll pardon the pun, pretty darned sweet! And that delicious chocolate goodness (we can call it that, we tried it) is made to perfection right here in Uxbridge. Good on them!

Second shout-out goes to local equestrienne Jessica Phoenix and her Team Canada Dressage team! This story is so new we didn't have a chance to talk to anyone before we went to press, but Facebook and the official website of the PanAm Games 2019 tells us Phoenix' team took Gold on Monday in the Intermediate 1 /Grand Prix Special. The Cosmos will have more on this in next week's edition, and online at thecosmos.ca Gold for Canada - we like that a lot! Congratulations!

\*\*\*\*\*

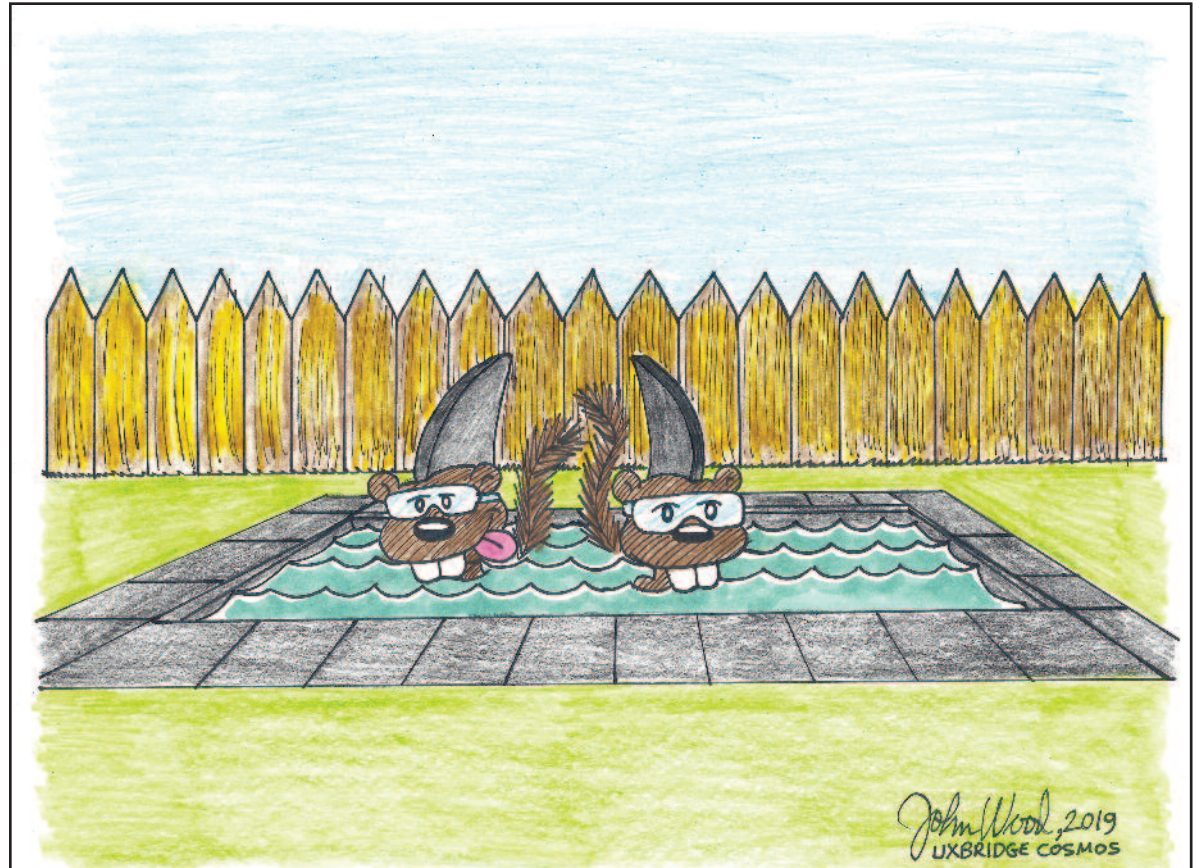
We had someone call the office last week inquiring about a phrase that was recently used in one of John Woods' cartoons - Dog Days. The caller apparently didn't know what the phrase meant, so we thought we'd refresh readers' memories with a snippet of an editorial we ran back in July 2016.

Where exactly did that phrase "dog days" come from? A little research showed us that the phrase actually has very little to do with lazy, heat-stressed dogs, or even with being lazy during any of the summer months. Dogs to figure into it, though - it turns out that the "dog days" refer to the dog star, Sirius, and its position in the heavens.

According to the National Geographic website, which is where we did all our in-depth research, it was the Greeks and Romans who first used the phrase. The ancient Romans called the hottest, most humid days of summer *diēs caniculārēs* or "dog days." The name came about because they associated the hottest days of summer with the star Sirius. Sirius was known as the "Dog Star" because it was the brightest star in the constellation *Canis Major* (Large Dog). Sirius also happens to be the brightest star in the night sky. The "dog days" occurred around the day when Sirius appeared to rise just before the sun, in late July. Sirius is so bright that the ancient Romans thought it radiated extra heat toward Earth, like a mini sun. During the summer, when Sirius rises and sets with the sun, they thought Sirius added heat to the Sun's heat, causing hotter summer temperatures.

Nowadays, the "dog days" of summer don't have anything to do with either dogs or Sirius. Instead, the tilt of the Earth explains why these days tend to be the summer's hottest. During summer in the northern hemisphere, the tilt of the Earth causes the sun's light to hit it at a more direct angle, and for a longer period of time throughout the day. This means longer, hotter days. But most of us already knew that part.

So whether you're doggin' it during the dog days, or working your heart out, on holiday or on call, we hope that you enjoy these dog days of summer. Because doggone it, before you can call yourself a Canadian they will be over and leaves will be falling and we will all be complaining about how cold it is.



## Letters to the Editor

Regarding Bev Northeast's article of last week (Goodwood News, July 25), there is some confusion concerning free pick-up of babies' and small children's furniture items at Chances Are.

According to Health Canada, we are not allowed to sell certain items for safety reasons, and as such we do not give these items away.

We apologize for any confusion regarding the above.

We thank all our customers for their continued support for the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital.

**Gloria Graziano**  
Co-ordinator, Chances Are

**Re: 'Am I Wrong?', July 25, "Where do you get YOUR news?"**

No, Roger. You are right. This is a topic I agree with you on. Probably due to my keen regard for good journalism and my predilection for the smell of fresh newsprint.

I am not on Twitter, nor do I follow the specific accounts you mentioned on Facebook. Consequently, I was uninformed on both matters. I find that frustrating, as I like to be aware of happenings in and around my community. Transparent communication is essential for a healthy, growing society.

Let me share some recent situations. I enjoy reading our local *Cosmos* newspaper. I eagerly await Thursday's mailbox to get my hands on a copy. Frequently I read "...a wonderful time was had by all LAST WEEKEND"... Somehow I had missed the BEFORE information, and I am not sure why.

The *Cosmos* advertised "The Toxic Decision" which is accessed through durhamregion.com This online newspaper lures you to read this informative web-exclusive series by the Torstar Community Brands. You cannot access this series without registering. I do not use my Facebook account to sign up to other websites. I could not create a direct account with Torstar. Plus, I do not want to support an online newspaper.

I was upset as I want to read this important, provincially relevant news story. By *Cosmos* advertising within its pages, an online web-series, negates the purpose of newsprint. Why not offer printed versions of this web series along side this ad?

I do follow my Ward rep, Willie Popp, on Facebook, as he offers plenty of local, newsworthy links, especially on politics, but, again, that is social media accessed.

Going back to your article, I agree totally with the ideology of local journalism/newsprint as the key source of info and opinion sharing. But it's just not happening. I source out local newspapers, online TV news stations, Facebook news feeds and I still miss out on valuable, current news. You tell me what I'm doing wrong.

**Theresa Pilniuk**  
Uxbridge

**Editor's note:** The *Cosmos* did not advertise or endorse anything entitled "The Toxic Decision". This title is on durhamregion.com which is owned and operated by Metroland / Torstar. The *Cosmos* is an independently owned newspaper (which publishes

hard copy once a week and maintains a website, thecosmos.ca) and does not advertise on or for conglomerate news media organizations.

On behalf of the Friends of the Foster, I want to extend our sincere thanks to Take Root Creative for providing us with a new sign to replace the one that was stolen a few weeks ago.

It is bright and eye-catching. We appreciate the gift very much.

The Foster Memorial is a unique building and the Friday at the Foster concerts are the main fundraising events to maintain this heritage structure. Thanks again!

**Pat Asling**  
Sandford

Blessings on two caring, mindful and visionary members of the Uxbridge medical community.

Doctors Jennifer Wilson and Carlye Jensen have looked at the challenges and problems facing primary health care in this town, and have come up with a project that promises to attract and retain physicians in the community, and create a more efficient and effective primary care facility on the grounds of Uxbridge Cottage Hospital. Putting medical offices, diagnostic imaging, blood labs, and pharmacy under one roof seems an excellent idea.

And thank you to Uxbridge Council for supporting the plan by offering financial support and grants. Let's see this project move along in the very near future.

**Barb Pratt**  
Uxbridge

## The Uxbridge COSMOS

9,500 copies of The Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge: 8,800 delivered by mail, 700 available in stores and boxes.

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**EDITORIAL POLICY:** Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of The Cosmos. Letters must be signed and the telephone number provided (number will not be published). Requests that a name be withheld will be honoured only if there is a compelling reason. Errors brought to our attention will be corrected. The Cosmos reserves the right to edit and/or refuse to publish unsolicited material. **ADVERTISING POLICY:** Ad deadline is 12 noon Tuesday the week of publication. The Cosmos reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The Cosmos is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors in advertisements or any other errors or omissions in advertisements. All material herein, including advertising design, is copyrighted, and may not be reproduced in any form without permission.



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## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Get off the phone!

On July 18, the *Cosmos* ran a front-page story on the deal reached between the township and York Durham Heritage Railway that would see the township putting money up front to enable YDHR to pave a parking lot. In the same edition, my column focused on the deal.

On Tuesday (July 30), I came across a video posted on Facebook on July 22 by Mayor Dave Barton in which he attempts to give a full explanation of the benefits of the deal to the township. The video is actually just a shot of columns of figures, with the mayor doing a voice-over.

Given that the deal sees the township putting up tens of thousands of dollars to help YDHR, it would seem that if Mayor Barton deems it necessary to explain the township's position, he should make that explanation to all the residents of Uxbridge, not just those who follow him on Facebook. (To note: there are over 20,000 residents in Uxbridge - the mayor's Facebook page has 1,013 followers) As I said, I just happened to stumble on the video: no one informed me it was there.

In my view, this is no way to conduct township business. Just last week in my column I pointed out how, recently, two pieces of information of interest to many residents generally were put out on social media. That leaves a whole lot of people out of the loop.

The mayor, in my opinion, is much too fond of his cell phone. I have observed him ask a member of the public to text him while in the middle of a council meeting. When council discussed the possibility of a rainbow crosswalk recently, the mayor whipped out his cell phone to show an image of what he wanted in its place.

Technology is grand, but if the mayor wants to post clips of his visit to the Scottish Games or views of him water-skiing or whatever, that's his prerogative. If he wants to talk about township business, he should stick to official channels. Colleen Baskin is the township's communications officer. Her job is to make sure that whatever news the township wants its residents to know about is distributed in a manner that will most effectively reach the majority of said residents. If the mayor insists on going his Facebook route, what's the point of Ms. Baskin's job?

However, while the mayor seems to think that Facebook is the way to go to get infor-

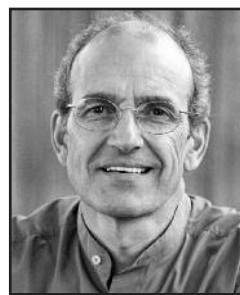
mation out there, he apparently doesn't think it's okay for others to use Facebook to bring newsworthy items to the public's attention. A lady who runs a local dance school complained on Facebook that her basement studio on lower Brock Street was flooded at the beginning of the month, charging that the flooding was the result of the work being done to replace the Brock Street culvert. In responding to her, the mayor noted that "I am disappointed that your first contact me (*sic*) was this public post" and said he would have preferred the complainant to contact him privately by phone. In the same post he said that the woman "appeared to be uninsured for flood damage" (should he really be saying that in a public forum? That's pretty private information) and also posted a redacted copy of an email that had reportedly been sent to her directly.

I bet he would have preferred she contact him directly. This construction project is definitely not proceeding as smoothly or as quickly as we are being told it is. It's been ages since we saw any workers on Brock Street and more than a few people are becoming a little fed up with the delays. So, of course, he mayor wouldn't want this little bit of news floating around.

If the mayor really wants the people of Uxbridge to know just how good the YDHR deal is, he could have put a link to the Facebook video explanation on the township page, which occupies page 2 of the *Cosmos*. Or he could have written an article about it and the local media would have been glad to publish it.

Mayor Barton probably believes his social media postings are bringing him in closer contact with his constituents and I have no problem with any politician attempting to engage the public in a light-hearted, affable manner. I also understand that social media is an acceptable way to reach people now, and is no longer an alternative, but an additional way to disseminate information. But when we're talking about official business, social media should not be the premier media platform turned to to release news and/or information. Not everyone follows Facebook or Twitter and, indeed, not everyone has a computer.

Mr. Mayor, it's time to get off your phone. Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### An heirloom saved and honoured

He took one last look. The transaction had transferred ownership of the property. The farm legally belonged to him now. But the old farmhouse had fallen into disrepair and would have to be demolished. So, Clarence Oancia made one last circuit around the house to see if there was anything worth salvaging. Then, Clarence remembered the attic, a loft in the top of the house, and thought he'd better check it too. He climbed the stairs, opened a closet door. And there it was.

"A World War II uniform jacket," explained Bernie Wyatt, Clarence's nephew. "[It was] in excellent condition."

The RCAF tunic belonged to Bernie's cousin, Stefan "Steve" Oancia, a genuine Second World War hero. But not until his uncle Clarence stumbled over it in that farmhouse closet half a continent away, did Bernie or any member of the family realize just how precious that heirloom was. Because of the history of its owner, it's very possible that jacket had been packed in a suitcase for a transatlantic voyage aboard a troopship in 1942, cleaned for official wartime ceremonies in Britain, and in May 1943 worn by its owner at Buckingham Palace where Sergeant Pilot Stefan Oancia had a Distinguished Flying Medal pinned on his chest.

"Steve was one of the iconic World War II Dam Busters," Bernie Wyatt said. Indeed, as a respected military writer himself (author of *Two Wings and a Prayer* and *Maximum Effort*) Wyatt corresponded with his famous cousin, after the war, but never met him. Like so many of his generation, Stefan Oancia's family had emigrated to Canada from Romania in search of land, opportunity and freedom; his parents - Katie and Demitru Oancia - had settled on land near Stonehenge, a village on the Saskatchewan prairie south of Moose Jaw. Stefan was born there in 1923. When war broke out, Oancia joined the RCAF, training as a bomb aimer and shipping overseas to Bomber Command in the U.K. in 1942. When choosing airmen for the secret raid against the hydroelectric dams that fueled Nazi Germany's munitions factories of the Ruhr River valley, Wing Commander Guy Gibson picked Oancia's bomber crew. Piloted by Ken Brown, coincidentally from Moose Jaw, on May 16-17, 1943, Oancia's Lancaster attacked and damaged one of the three major dam targets that night, the Sorpe dam, and returned safely.

Mind you, "safely" is a relative word. When Bernie Wyatt posted a story about his cousin on his website five years ago, he explained that

veteran Oancia - once repatriated - never truly left the war behind.

"There were times when he'd hear an airplane [even] a crop-duster fly over," Stefan's brother said, "and he'd dive for cover."

Nevertheless, back on civvy street, veteran bomb aimer Oancia went back to school, earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering, and coincidentally got work for a time on dam construction in Quebec.

Amid all the hoopla of the 75th anniversary of the Dam Buster raid, last year, Stefan Oancia's tunic got lost in the shuffle, until Bernie Wyatt learned about it and suggested to the family that the jacket truly belonged with other Dam Busters artifacts and documents at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum (CWHM) in Hamilton. That's when the nearly forgotten jacket began another unique journey. In May, Wyatt's mother travelled from B.C. to Saskatchewan to pick up the jacket. In Regina, she packed it carefully in her luggage, flew home to Port Coquitlam, and mailed the tunic to her son in the East. Bernie Wyatt took advantage of the jacket being in his home in Oakville, Ont. He tried it on, this week, and except for the length of its sleeves, it fit him perfectly. Then, on the final leg of the jacket's cross-Canada trek, Wyatt travelled down the road to Hamilton to present it to CWHM curator Erin Napier.

"The family is calling it 'Steve's Last Flight,'" Wyatt said.

Some might wonder that a family would fuss over something as simple as a wartime RCAF tunic. It's only a jacket from a bygone era. But this week, when Bernie Wyatt told me about "Steve's Last Flight," he said he got emotional about it. I guess he idolized his veteran cousin. Just after three o'clock in the morning, 76 years ago this past May, Stefan Oancia lined up the Nazis' war-harnessed Sorpe dam, and dropped the 10,000-pound bomb right on target. He watched the resulting explosion create a giant waterspout and the crumbling of the top of the dam. And, for his family, that jacket represents "mission accomplished" for Sergeant Pilot Stefan Oancia.

"I regret that I never met [Steve] face to face," Bernie Wyatt said finally. "I'd want to shake his hand ... and thank him, especially for his service during a scary time for him and other youngsters who went off to war. His generation helped save our butts."

**For more Barris Beat columns, go to [www.tedbarris.com](http://www.tedbarris.com)**

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## MOXLEY, Jim

Passed away at home on Saturday, July 27, 2019 at age 70. Beloved husband to Aileen for 42 years. Loving father to Sean (Stacey) and Graeme. Proud Grandpa to Sadie, Scarlet and Liam. He will also be missed by his extended family and friends.

Cremation has taken place and, at Jim's request, no formal service will be held. Donations in his memory may be made to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada. Arrangements entrusted to Low and Low Funeral Home (905-852-3073).

For online condolences, please visit [www.lowandlow.ca](http://www.lowandlow.ca)

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### Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust- Looking forward to another musical year



It always catches me by surprise when the August long weekend comes into view. It is a symbol of the halfway point of a Canadian summer. Time to slowly start looking ahead and thinking about our goals for the next school year.

The UMST is no exception. We are always looking for new committee members to help with our prime fund raising activity which is providing performance opportunities for our local musicians and giving the community a taste of a wide variety of music. Our fee at the door is held in trust for the auditions that occur on the last Saturday of May every year. Based on the performances, applications and post-secondary acceptance, winners are awarded a scholarship to help with their schooling. The amount varies year by year but because of the generous Uxbridge community, service clubs and individuals, we have been able to be quite generous. Since 1999, 61 students have been awarded a total of \$79,950.00.

This year, \$7,000. were available for our recipients **Annika Fabbi** and **Jacob Meloche**.

**Annika, a concert pianist**, has been accepted at the University of Ottawa for a B.Mus. in Piano Performance. **Jacob plays saxophone** and will be attending York University for a BFA in Music. We wish them well.

You can hear both Annika and Jacob perform at the Uxbridge Community Concert Band final concert at **Trinity United Church, 7:00pm, on Saturday, August 24.**

The scholarship trust has celebrated **20 years** of helping music students that wish to pursue their music at a post-secondary institution. **Look for our CD at future concerts** to hear what some of our past recipients have achieved and to support further scholarships to encourage young musicians.

Submitted on behalf of the Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust

By Kathy Normandeau, July 30, 2019

**song, featuring The Diocese of Toronto Girls Choir School.** St. Paul's Anglican Church, 4:30 p.m. Info: [stpauls-uxbridge.ca](mailto:stpauls-uxbridge.ca) or phone 905-852-7016

**Mon., Aug. 12: Crystal Sound Meditation with quartz bowls and crystal harp.** Foster Memorial, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Facilitator Linda Lee Purvis. \$20 Register: 905-640-3966

**Wed., Aug. 14: Uxbridge Horticultural Society meeting.** Uxbridge Seniors' Centre, 7 p.m. Guest speaker William Grainger on "Geraniums and Pelargoniums". Flower show, refreshments.

### UPCOMING

**Wed., Aug. 21: Puzzle Swap.** Bring & Take, no \$. 1237 Cragg Rd., Greenbank. 7 - 9 p.m.

**COMING UP** is a free community bulletin board. If you have a community event for a charity or non-profit organization that you'd like us to mention (AS SPACE PERMITS), email [Lvann@thecosmos.ca](mailto:Lvann@thecosmos.ca) or call 905-852-1900.

## 'Maud of Leaskdale' returns this month

Local actor / director Jennifer Carroll is returning this month in her one-woman show "Maud of Leaskdale." Carroll has earned rave reviews since debuting her performance as L.M. Montgomery seven years ago.

"Maud of Leaskdale" was written and directed by former *Cosmos* editor Conrad Boyce, and the material was compiled from Maud's own journals. The play was first presented in 2011 for the 100th anniversary of Montgomery's arrival in Leaskdale.

This year there are three opportunities to see the play: Thursday, August 15, at 7 p.m.; or August 17 and 18 at 3 p.m. All performances at the Historic Leaskdale Church. Tickets are \$25, seniors and students \$20, available at [starticketing.com](http://starticketing.com) or at the door.

*Artsforum* editor John Arkelian wrote of the show: "Rapt: that's the only fit word to describe this wonderful one-woman show. The life, the times, and the inimitable character of the beloved author are brilliantly distilled in a performance that captures Maud's perspicuity, wry wit, fearless honesty, and eloquence."

### CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN



Last Thursday night's Car of the Week was a 1931 Model A, owned by Sathler Orcilio from Ajax.

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## CLASSIFIED

Classifieds are \$10/week up to 25 words; \$0.10 per additional word (plus HST). Payable in advance by cash, cheque, debit or credit card. Contact Lvann@thecosmos.ca or 905-852-1900 Deadline: Tuesday, 12 noon. Ask about online link possibilities, too.

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