

# The Uxbridge COSMOS

Volume 15 No. 28

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, July 25, 2019



**ONE HOT BEAR** - Toronto Maple Leaf's mascot Carleton the Bear could hardly "bear" the heat last Friday at the Uxbridge Arena when he appeared at the fourth annual Summer Jumpstart Games, but over 240 children were glad he did! The Games, hosted by the Canadian Tire Uxbridge Jumpstart Program in conjunction with the Township summer camps program, featured a day of free activities, including wheelchair basketball and a BBQ.

*Photo by John Cavers*

## Uxbridge rower going for Pan Am gold

*by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove*

A former Uxbridge Secondary School student will be on the Canadian rowing team for the Pan Am Games, which begin tomorrow in Lima, Peru. And rowing for Canada in Peru is one step closer to Jaclyn Stelmazyk's dream of being on the Canadian Olympic team in Tokyo in 2020.

Stelmazyk (née Halko) rows in the Lightweight Ladies Doubles Rowing category with rowing partner Kate Huber. The pair won gold in the Challenge West/BC Championships, held in British Columbia last weekend.

Stelmazyk began rowing in 2004 with the USS Rowing Tigers. After completing her education, she traveled to Poland to continue her rowing career. While there, she worked at an internship for the non-profit organization, Athletes in Action. The Polish Rowing Federation also offered Stelmazyk international rac-

ing experience that she felt she would not have had in Canada. She has since competed in Hungary, Poland, Germany, Australia, and the United States, earning medals all along the way.

Former USS Rowing Tigers coach Sue Palmer has kept in touch with Stelmazyk, following her successes and experiences.

"Jackie uses her experience and expertise to empower other women in sport, and she especially focusses on her family who, in turn, support her," explains Palmer. "As a volunteer guest athlete for Fast and Female [a charity whose mission is to keep girls healthy and active in sports by introducing girls ages 8-14 to inspiring athlete role models like Stelmazyk at events all over North America], she encourages girls to play different types of sports. Rowing, empowering female athletes, family. Those are Jaclyn's priorities, although not necessarily in that order!"

Although Stelmazyk, her husband and their one-year old daughter call Uxbridge home, Stelmazyk has been intensively training with the Team Canada rowing team in Victoria, BC.

Stelmazyk's placement on Team Canada for the Pan Am Games does not guarantee her a spot on the team for the Olympics, although it is a major plus. The World Championships later this year are the qualifier for the Olympic team.

An event supporting Stelmazyk in her Olympic aspirations will be held after her return from Peru, on Sat., Aug. 17 at the Latham Centre in Port Perry. This semi-formal dinner and silent auction, co-hosted by Stelmazyk and the Durham Rowing Club, will feature Toronto Raptors home game announcer Herbie Kuhn as guest speaker.

For more on Stelmazyk and her journey to the Pan Am games, visit [www.rowingrd.com](http://www.rowingrd.com)



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## Uxbridge at a Glance

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Uxbridge L9P 1T1  
905-852-9181 info@uxbridge.ca

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

### Council & Committee Meetings

Schedule for the month of July,  
2019

#### DURHAM REGION STRATEGIC PLANNING TOWN HALL

Tuesday, July 30, 7:00 p.m.

Schedule for the month of August,  
2019

#### COUNCIL MEETING

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

#### COMMITTEE OF

#### ADJUSTMENT MEETING

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

### Bids & Tenders

#### TENDER U19-16

Tender for the 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.

This Bid Document is 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**  
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9181, Ext. 220.

### Canada Day 2019

The Township of Uxbridge would like to thank the many volunteers who helped  
make the 152nd Anniversary Celebrations in Elgin Park a Canada Day to  
remember.

Thank you to the Canada Day Committee: Robin Coombs, Elaine Leigh,  
Michelle Viney, Gloria Eng, Joel Speers, Hunter Jarvis, Logan O'Connor, Adam  
Ruppel, Councillors Willie Popp and Pam Beach, and the following volunteers  
and sponsors for their generous support of Canada Day:

York Durham Heritage  
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Dave Dickie

Jennifer O'Connell MP

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Uxbridge Times-Journal

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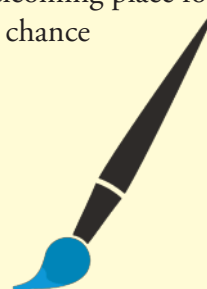
### Artists on the Hill

The Uxbridge Historical Centre is opening its doors to artists this summer for  
five drop-in studio sessions. Our open studio days offer a welcoming place for  
artists practicing in all media to gather on Quaker Hill for a chance  
to chat, share tips and tricks, work on projects, and refresh  
their creativity.

Upcoming dates are August 2, 16 & 30.

For more info call 905-852-5854 or visit

<https://www.uxbridgehistoricalcentre.com/new-for-2019>



### Attention All Pet Owners!

Please help keep our community clean by picking up after your dogs. Not only  
is it the responsible thing to do, it's also the polite thing to do. It only takes a  
moment to do your part! Let's continue to keep Uxbridge a clean and healthy  
environment we can all enjoy!



### 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,  
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Township of Uxbridge documents are available in alternate formats upon request.  
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email: [accessibility@uxbridge.ca](mailto:accessibility@uxbridge.ca)  
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209



## Tennis Club hosts mini tournament

The Uxbridge Tennis Club (UCT) hosted its annual Davis Cup Championship on Saturday, July 13, and had its largest turnout yet..

Head coach Colin Hooper divided the members of the Uxbridge Club into four teams, which were named after the four major Grand Slam Tournaments: Wimbledon, French Open, Australian Open and US Open.

With only two courts and three hours of time available for the event, the club had to shorten the amount of play time, and each team was awarded 1 point per win.

Despite the condensed schedule, Team US Open managed to clinch the title. Playing on the team were Carrie Fleetwood, Jack Coleman, Ross Dubé, Cydèle Fadeeva, and

John Harder.

Fadeeva, who has been a member of UTC for five years, commented on the mini tournament: "This was the best UTC event I have been to so far. The weather was perfect and lots of our members showed up to play. Unfortunately, we weren't able to get as much playing time as we would have liked."

Fadeeva also mentioned that the local club is getting larger and that some members have to travel to Port Perry, Goodwood and Ballantrae for more court time.

"Hopefully, Uxbridge will be getting more courts soon so that we can continue to have these fun events in our own home town."

For more on UCT, visit [uxbridge-tennisclub.com](http://uxbridge-tennisclub.com)



**TENNIS PROS:** The Uxbridge Tennis Club recently held an in-house tournament and Team US Open played hard to become the Davis Cup Champions! From left: Carrie Fleetwood, Jack Coleman, Ross Dubé, Cydèle Fadeeva, John Harder.

*Submitted photo*

## Goodwood News with Bev Northeast

Even in the midst of a the heat wave, the programs at the Community Centre and the Baptist church have been busy! Many children are registered for various programs, and there is a two-week camp - August 12-23 - coming up.

The camp is a theatre camp which has the children working on the production of a play, with acting, singing and dancing being taught, and no experience is necessary! The children also do relay games, survivor-style games, theatre games, eat cool treats every day, and their final production is featured on the last day of camp. That is a full slate of fun and learning for all who attend! If interested, call 647-458-3125 to register.

If you are looking for items for babies, small children, etc., then check out the back of Chances Are [on Bascomb St.] on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays between 10:30-12 noon, for items that have been put out for free. Please remember, however, to only take the items that have been put out for the taking! All the money that Chances Are earns goes back to our Cottage Hospital, so they need to sell as many items as they can.

The Goodwood Baptist Church will be holding Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m. for the summer

months; all other programs will be back at the end of the summer.

There is a fox or a coyote that has been spotted recently, coming into town looking for food and water, so please keep your pets indoors during the night, and don't leave any food outside or garbage overnight. Also watch small children, as I'm sure everyone saw or heard about the attack on the three year-old in Aurora in June.

With the high volume of truck traffic and the Region making the Goodwood Area a truck bypass, we deserve a break in our taxes, and I mean a major break. Contact MPAC and let's see what they will do.

Thank you, as always, to all who drive through the hamlet at the posted speed limit (which, as an aside, is too fast and should be lowered).

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# Our two cents

## Getting back on track

The *Cosmos* has covered the goings on of the York Durham Heritage Railway (YDHR) a lot lately, and it appears that we’ve gotten our wires (or our tracks) crossed a bit when reporting on Uxbridge’s heritage train organization. Since some of the issues don’t quite fit into a small “Corrections” notice, we thought we’d address them here, and get things, to extend the metaphor, back on track.

Back in April of this year, YDHR announced that a new CEO had come on board to help steer the organization in a new, dynamic direction. Randy Bird, who had come from Waterloo Central Railway, had big ideas for YDHR, approaching the township with talk of Disney-style entertainment, more themed train rides, and visions of overhauling the downtown railway yard, which included installing fencing and more parking. He also said that YDHR would have a payroll of around \$500,000. This number piqued our interest, of course: how could this seemingly low-key, low-budget operation have such a huge payroll? And what were all these grandiose plans going to do to, or for, our YDHR?

The *Cosmos* started to ask questions, but Mr. Bird never made himself available to answer them for us. Then, in June, it was announced that Mr. Bird had left YDHR because, as president Ron Layton put it, he had been “trying to make YDHR his own,” and not following the organization’s vision.

We were having difficulty pinning down what exactly was happening within the ranks at YDHR, and our confusion led to reporting the following: that YDHR was operating as a business, and that it had a payroll of almost half a million dollars.

Enter John Perks. Mr. Perks is now the executive director for YDHR, and he recently visited us for a delightful chat, and to set the record straight.

York Durham Heritage Railway is, as Mr. Perks explained to us, “a non-profit organization that is running as a business.” Its mandate is “to preserve and promote the heritage of Canadian railways of South-Central Ontario.” (ydhr.ca) Mr. Perks also made clear that the \$500,000 figure that we were using encompasses “operations and staffing” for YDHR; it is not all going strictly to payroll.

“York Durham Heritage Railway is a million dollar operation,” said Mr. Perks. “There have been so many changes lately because it had outgrown the structure needed to support it from within.”

We recognize that YDHR does a great deal for Uxbridge – it brings in thousands of tourists over the year, what with Thomas the Train, a Wizards Festival, the Santa Train, and other themed events. It gives train enthusiasts a destination. It gave Canada Day \$12,000 (and asked for donations during the event, and said that donation money would go towards giving Day Out with Thomas tickets to less fortunate children. Give-take-give again).

Mr. Perks made it quite clear that he is open to any questions the media or anyone else may have for YDHR. “We want to be accountable to the public, and fair on all sides” were his exact words.

The *Cosmos* wants to be fair to YDHR too, that’s why we’re writing this. We hope that this clears up any misunderstandings caused by unclear reporting, and when future news about YDHR comes up, the *Cosmos* will ensure that its information stays “on track”.



## Letters to the Editor

Several years ago, my girlfriend from Uxbridge mentioned to me the Thomas Foster Memorial concerts on Friday nights, noted how beautiful this building was, and said I should go see it.

A couple of weeks ago, my mother saw an article in the *Toronto Star's* Travel section that mentioned the Foster Memorial and how it was inspired by the Taj Mahal (which she had seen). So we went for a drive.

If you like history and architecture, there so much to see in just one building, built in 1935-6 by former Toronto mayor Thomas Foster. From the colourful domed ceiling, the Byzantine marble floors, the 1880s pipe organ to the 16 marbled columns, everything is different. There are even the three family sarcophagi in the southern transept. The gorgeous stained glass windows are the original ones designed by Yvonne Williams, and the craftsmanship is impeccable.

I encourage everyone to go see “The Jewel on the Hill” (yes, we bought the book!). Wander around or take

the tour. It is \$5 well spent.

*Holly Anderson  
King City*



# Thank You

The Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Auxiliary would like to thank the following sponsors and donors for their support of our **12th Annual Run for the Diamond Run/Walk**

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GREG JESS, KATHERINE GRANGER AND JOHN CAVERS.  
THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO OVER THE YEARS HAVE HELPED TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS.

## Culvert work closing Centennial Drive

Crews working on the Downton Culvert Project are closing Centennial Drive from Wed., July 24 through to Wed., July 31, in order to replace a storm sewer adjacent to the Brook.

Centennial Dr. will be closed to through traffic, but all parking lots and driveways on the street will be open. The excavation at the site of the road closure will also close that section of the road to pedestrians.

All stores and parking lots remain open in the area. The downtown businesses appreciate your continued support during this closure and during culvert construction.

# 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.

Publisher/Editor Lisha Van Nieuwenhove 905.852.1900  
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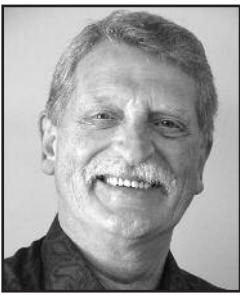
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## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Where do you get YOUR news?

Were any of you aware that the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital was without running water for several hours a week ago? I learned about it the day it happened.

How many of you knew that part of the trail system in the Fields of Uxbridge was cordoned off because a giant hogweed - a particularly nasty type of weed that can cause serious burns - was discovered along the trail? I learned about it the same day I heard about the hospital's water woes.

How did I hear these two pieces of news? On Facebook and Twitter.

As I understand it, the water shut-off at the hospital was planned and not the result of an emergency. So why did the Markham Stouffville Hospital, with whom the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital partners, think the best way to inform people of possible inconvenience was to post the fact on social media the day it was happening? Wouldn't it have made more sense and reached more people if they had let the local news media know in advance?

As for the hogweed, couldn't the township that claims to be the Trail Capital of Canada have informed the local news media about it so they in turn could warn all potential users to be careful using that particular trail, instead of just the few who might have seen it on Facebook?

The trend towards using social media for this type of announcement has been growing by leaps and bounds for some time now, especially by government and quasi-government institutions. But they ignore one obvious fact: unless you have chosen to "follow" these accounts on Facebook or Twitter, you're not going to see their announcements. On the other hand, if the two aforementioned entities had shared their news with the local media, it's almost guaranteed that every household in the township would have been informed of the water woes and the giant hogweed, one way or another.

It's the particular job of newspapers to let people know what's going on, either locally via community newspapers, or nationally/internationally via major operations like the dailies. Using social media to inform the public of current events is a hit-or-miss prospect at best. You put your post out there without having any real idea who will see it or where it will travel. But newspapers, generally, have a specific audience and, once published, they can't be tampered with or altered.

Newspapers have been around for over 400 years. Apparently, Johann Carolus published the first weekly newspaper, called *Relation aller Fürnemmen und gedenckwürdigen Historien* (Ac-

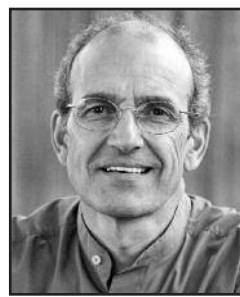
count of all distinguished and memorable news) in Antwerp in 1605. It is recognized by the World Association of Newspapers as the world's first newspaper. Despite the recent gloom-and-doom news about the newspaper industry, I simply cannot envisage a world where newspapers are no longer important or relevant, particularly community newspapers. Where else would you learn of goings on at council, the details of forthcoming community events, what's happening with local service clubs and sports teams or what new groups have been formed? You won't hear about those things on the television, perhaps not on radio news - or social media.

Newspapers are also about the only resource most people have for expressing their opinions, by way of letters to the editor. Obviously, one can post one's opinions on social media, but in doing so one leaves oneself open to insults, name-calling and derogatory comments from so-called trolls. One only has to briefly peruse the comments section of on-line news stories to know that there are legions of people just ready and waiting to jump all over your opinion. Not so in the letters to the editor: if someone wishes to respond to your published letter, you can be sure the editor will not allow personal attacks and insults.

Of course, I have a personal interest in the continuation of newspapers. I started in the news game as a copy boy with the Canadian Press when I was only 16 years old. It was, quite simply, the only business I was interested in. There have been a couple of blips along the way, but basically I have spent the best part of the last 62 years writing news. I came to this love of newspapers at an early age: we had a newspaper delivered every morning, every evening and three on weekends and I read them all. Given that background, I would be devastated if newspapers were to completely vanish.

Most of you may be far less enthused about newspapers than I, but think for a few minutes about what life would be like if you didn't have access to a community newspaper. It's likely you would have to do some rummaging to find out when the Santa Claus parade will pass through town, what plays are showing at the Music Hall, what new bylaws have been passed and, more importantly, what's happening with the latest township budget. It seems to me, those who use social media to spread their news are just throwing it in the wind, hoping it will land where they want it to land.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### The 'just in time' mentality

Over coffee the other day, some friends shared an experience about modern-day delivery. A clothes washer had broken down at their house, so they weighed their options. Junk the old one and buy new, or try to extend the life of the old washer by attempting a repair. Not surprisingly, my friend went online, learned about the problem and determined that a \$10 part might repair the washer. The question was: How long would it take the part to arrive? It was a Saturday, but he ordered the part anyway.

"They guaranteed next-day delivery," he said, then added sarcastically, "Sunday delivery? Not likely. Sure enough, though, next day we got back from church and this van pulled up to deliver the part. Couldn't believe it!"

I couldn't either. In fact, my friend and I both wondered how expensive it must have been to have that washer part sourced in Mississauga, Ont., loaded on a truck, transported across the GTA, and then hand-delivered on a Sunday to a home in Uxbridge. I mean the cost of the gas round-trip alone would have totalled \$100, and minimum wage for the driver for several hours, another \$100. And I thought, is the race for my business that cut-throat these days that a firm has to deliver a \$10 part within a day to Uxbridge in order to stay competitive? And from the customer's perspective, is it that vital for me to have that washer part, a piece of clothing, a household accessory, a book, a CD ... that fast, for me to remain loyal to a business?

I guess it's a sign of the times. I'm old enough to remember when mail ordering by so-called "snail mail" was a phenomenon. As a kid, I could clip a coupon from the back of a comic book and send in for sea-monkeys or a replica of the Polaris nuclear submarine. The days/weeks of anticipation nearly drove me crazy. But, oh, the satisfaction when they arrived, somehow made the experience of receiving them all the more rewarding. I used to send away for "first day covers," when postage stamps were first issued from Ottawa or U.S. locations, or the United Nations; receiving the brand-new stamps with special cancellation on the envelope at my home address or the post box was the equivalent of a Christmas present from the post office.

When we lived on a farm near Bethany, and later on an acreage outside Saskatoon, each

spring I even mail-ordered evergreen trees - pines and spruces. I guess if I ordered such things today they'd come to me in some high-tech box for greenery, again overnight. But back in the 1960s and '70s, once the order was ready, we actually had to travel to the Lands & Forests tree farm where the seedlings had been planted and bring home bundles of trees in the back of the truck, all ready for planting.

Somehow part of the joy of ordering these things - sea monkeys, sub replicas or Christmas trees - came from the anticipation and often the hands-on ways in which we brought things home to be enjoyed. All of this is lost today in a "just in time" and "overnight delivery guarantee" environment.

In contrast to my friend's surprisingly rapid receipt of his clothes washer part, this week, a couple of weeks ago, I went to a local automotive repair shop in town. The air conditioner in my car had decided to die just as the recent heat wave began. The mechanic quickly located the problem. He said that the high-pressure liquid line - a narrow tube - connecting the condenser and the evaporator - two vital parts of the A/C unit - needed to be replaced.

"OK," I said. "When can you fix it?"

"I can't right now," he said. "I checked for the part and they told me, 'There are none in North America.' I couldn't believe it either."

It occurred to me, on the other side of that overnight delivery guarantee that my friend enjoyed, is a 21st century system that produces parts on a "just in time" basis, meaning that with rapid delivery, a manufacturer can delay making a part (i.e. save money) until the very last minute. Then, when an order arrives, s/he makes the part, quickly sends it to a distributor and completes the delivery overnight. Except that in this case, it's likely that the auto builder had not anticipated a sudden call for high-pressure liquid lines (i.e. their design suddenly experienced failure all over North America at the same time) and they couldn't cope with the surge in demand. Now weeks later, we're still in a heat wave. I have no part and no car A/C. I've found myself wishing my clothes washer had broken down instead of the air conditioner in my car.

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



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welcome! 7 p.m.

## NEXT WEEK

**Tues., July 30: Ride to Remember In Memory of Brent Foster.** Register at [ride-to-remember-brent.com](http://ride-to-remember-brent.com) or on the day. Registration/Show 'N' Shine, 9 - 11 a.m., Canadian Tire Uxbridge parking lot. Riders leave at 11 a.m. Final destination to be determined. \$45 per bike, \$55 double. Proceeds go to Bereaved Families, [www.bfodurham.net](http://www.bfodurham.net)

**Fri., Aug. 2: Artists on the Hill - Open Studio.** Uxbridge Historical Centre, 1 - 3 p.m. A drop-in studio for artists. Session is self-driven. Suggested donation \$10. Tea & coffee provided in the School House. Take advantage of our air-conditioned heritage building.

**Fri., Aug. 2: Greenbank United Church 44th Annual Beef Bar-b-que.** 4:30 - 7 p.m. Rain or shine. Music by Adam Hunter with John Foster, Jackie Stickwood & Kevin Luciani. Bring your own dishes! Tickets: Adults, \$20, chil-

dren 6 - 12, \$5, under 6 - free. Available by calling 905-985-2522 or 905-985-3586.

## UPCOMING

**Sun., Aug. 11: Traditional Evening, featuring The Diocese of Toronto Girls Choir School.** St. Paul's Anglican Church, 4:30 p.m. Info: [stpauls-uxbridge.ca](http://stpauls-uxbridge.ca) or phone 905-852-7016

**Sat., Aug. 17: Needle Felting Workshop.** Uxbridge Historical Centre, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Len de Graaf's workshop invites those interested in the process of transforming wool fibre into amazing, colourful creations. Open to all skill levels, including beginners and experienced fibre artists. Cost: \$65.

**Fri., Sept. 6: Blood Donor Clinic.** Uxbridge Seniors' Centre, 1:30 - 7:30 p.m. Refreshments provided by the Uxbridge Rotary Club.

**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.

## CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN



Last Thursday was a hot night for hot rods!

The Car of the Week was a 1967 Plymouth GTX, owned by Earle Hoover.

Don't forget - this week (July 25) is Ladies Night again! See you if it isn't raining!

The Cruise-in is every Thursday night from 5 p.m. till dusk at Elgin Park.

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