

# The Uxbridge COSMOS

Volume 15 No. 30

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, August 8, 2019



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**STAR TRAILS AND OLD TRAINS** - Cosmos photographer John Cavers created star trail magic above the some of older train cars sitting in the York-Durham Heritage Railway yard in Uxbridge on the weekend. YDHR will experience more excitement this weekend when Thomas the Train comes to town for the fifth time. *Photo by John Cavers*

## Thomas the Tank Engine is on the move

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

It may be the fifth time that the famous Thomas the Tank Engine is coming to Uxbridge, but new things are in store for those planning to visit the popular blue steam locomotive.

In the past, the Day Out With Thomas event, which is held the second and third weekends of August, was centred around the train station. This year, the action is being moved to the ice pads in the arena, and shuttle buses will transport train riders to and from the train station.

"There have been some concerns in past years from some of the business owners in town, when Thomas came to town, so we decided to move the event up to the arena in the hopes that we can help these businesses and the township," explained John Perks, executive director

of York-Durham Heritage Railway (YDHR), who is hosting the event.

According to Perks, some business owners complained of the lack of parking available to their customers when Thomas visitors arrived in town, along with the unwelcome garbage clean-up that followed each weekend. Some even decided to close their businesses completely when Thomas came to town, as they claimed it wasn't worth staying open during the event.

The loss of parking behind Coffee Time/Circle K due to the ongoing culvert project was also a concern, so alternate arrangements were made.

"We are helping YDHR do this because of feedback that we received from the Business Improvement Area (BIA) regarding traffic and parking," said Mayor Dave Barton.

Christina Curry, chair of the BIA, makes it clear that the BIA did not ask for Day Out With Thomas to move locations.

"We [the BIA] never made a direct request to have Thomas moved from the YDHR location," she stated. "We were just trying to work out the issues that my business owners were telling me about."

The only activity that will now happen at the train station is the loading and unloading of passengers who have tickets to Day Out With Thomas. The rest of the Thomas-themed activities will be held at the arena, where guests will have to both park and register to participate.

"We have jumping castles, and all the entertainers there, and outside will feature Zoo-to-You, and the Splash Pad will be accessible too,

...continued on page 3

### Inside Your Cosmos

No place like home . . . . . page 5

The mayor is the message. . . . . page 9

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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

### Employment Opportunities

Complete details of these positions are available at  
[https://uxbridge.ca/employment\\_opportunities](https://uxbridge.ca/employment_opportunities)

#### Uxbridge Public Library - Student Positions

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.

#### 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.

#### 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 resume 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.**

#### UxPool - Fall and Winter Instructors and Lifeguards

Refer to our website (see above) for qualifications required for each position. All interested applicants must be available for mandatory staff training. Resumes with cover letter may be emailed to Carolyn Clementson at [cclementson@uxbridge.ca](mailto:cclementson@uxbridge.ca)

**Application Deadline: 4 pm, September 10, 2019**

*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.*

### 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.

August 16 & 30. For more info call 905-852-5854 or visit <https://www.uxbridgehistoricalcentre.com/new-for-2019>

#### Uxbridge Arena - Full-Time Attendant, Contract

The position requires 80 hours/two weeks, working a variety of day, night and weekend shifts. A certificate in Basic Refrigeration is mandatory.

Resumes clearly marked with the job title may be dropped off at the Uxbridge Arena, 291 Brock Street W, attention Bob Ferguson, Arena/Parks Manager, or emailed to [bferguson@uxbridge.ca](mailto:bferguson@uxbridge.ca)

**Application Deadline: Friday, August 23, 2019.**

#### Uxbridge Arena - Part-Time Student Attendant

The position requires 30-60 hours/two weeks, working a variety of day, night and weekend shifts. Students must provide their own CSA approved safety boots.

Resumes clearly marked with the job title may be dropped off at the Uxbridge Arena, 291 Brock Street W, attention Bob Ferguson, Arena/Parks Manager, or emailed to [bferguson@uxbridge.ca](mailto:bferguson@uxbridge.ca)

**Application Deadline: Friday, August 23, 2019.**

#### Uxbridge Arena - Part-Time Adult Attendant

The position requires 40-60 hours/two weeks, working a variety of day, night and weekend shifts. Preference will be given to individuals that possess the following skills: Olympia Operations / Ice Maintenance / Janitorial Duties / Customer Service.

Resumes clearly marked with the job title may be dropped off at the Uxbridge Arena, 291 Brock Street W, attention Bob Ferguson, Arena/Parks Manager, or emailed to [bferguson@uxbridge.ca](mailto:bferguson@uxbridge.ca)

**Application Deadline: Friday August 23, 2019.**

We thank all those who apply, however, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

FOLLOW US



MORE INFO

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

### 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

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** and is 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.

### 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!



### 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.

#### Fridays at the Foster

Concert Series every Friday night  
May-Sept 7:30-8:30 p.m. Admission is donation at the door

#### 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

Mark is a roots, bluegrass, country guitar player who has written and recorded a number of albums

#### 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.

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Tues. and Thurs. evenings, 7 - 8 p.m.  
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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

Thomas on the move,  
from page 1

so it will still be a full day!” said-Perks.

In previous years, the streets directly beside the train station were closed off and fencing temporarily put in place so that all the activities occurred right by the train station.

The decision to move the majority of the event to the arena only occurred very recently ago, so the Township and YDHR have had to work quickly in order to ensure that guests have a smooth experience when coming to Uxbridge this weekend and next.

“We’ve invested a lot of money in signage so that people will really understand how it’s going to work,” explained Perks.

“YDHR’s decision to move their Thomas event to the arena shows that this small enterprise is nimble and flexible,” explains Barton. “The township needs to work with YDHR, the BIA, our Tourism Committee and our local businesses to ensure that our businesses receive the maximum benefit possible with the additional traffic. We want our local merchants to benefit from the incredible economic opportunity that YDHR provides.”

The Township’s tourism trailer will be on-site both weekends to help local businesses market themselves, as well as direct visitors to Uxbridge to the many things Uxbridge has to offer.

Barton also ensured that both by-law officers and public works staff would be on hand throughout the event to make sure that “Uxbridge puts its best-face forward to visiting tourists with minimal disruption to residents.

Tickets are still available for Day Out With Thomas in Uxbridge on both weekends. For details, see pages 6 and 7 of this paper, or visit ydhr.ca



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**888-982-8343**  
**budgetblinds.com**



USS student travels to Vimy thanks to prestigious prize

Another Uxbridge Secondary School student is travelling to Europe to study World Wars I and II, but this time it’s with a prestigious scholarship.

Maya Burgess-Stansfield won one of 16 Beaverbrook Vimy Prizes, which is a fully funded, two-week educational program in France, and Belgium that studies the intertwined history of various countries during the aforementioned wars.

Presented by the Vimy Foundation,

a Canadian charity, Burgess-Stansfield and 15 other students (from Canada, the UK, and France) the prize will see the students attend intimate history lectures, pay their respects at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, learn from experts at Ypres, Passchendaele, and Beaumont Hamel, walk along Juno Beach and other key sites in Normandy, and participate in unique commemoration ceremonies at the Menin Gate (World War I) and at Dieppe (World

War II).

Burgess-Stansfield, who will travel between Aug. 7 and 20, says she is anxious to take a camera to Vimy. The young photography enthusiast wants to practice her documenting skills while visiting the historic battlefields of northern France and Belgium.

As a History Club member at USS, she says she has a firm grasp on the impact World War I had on women’s empowerment in Canada.

“We no longer have any veterans of the First World War still with us: we have lost that direct connection with their stories - of the reasons why they enlisted to fight, of the impact of the war on them, their families, and their countries.”

The Beaverbrook Vimy Prize program exists to keep alive the legacy of those who fought in both the Great War and World War II, so it aims to engage today’s youth in discovering more about a shared past.



Durham York Energy Centre Process Capacity Increase  
(From 140,000 to 160,000 tonnes per year)



Public Information Centre #1

Works Department August 7, 2019 Public Notice

The Regional Municipalities of Durham and York, the owners of the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC), have commenced an Environmental Screening Process in accordance with the Waste Management Projects Regulation (Ontario Regulation 101/07) of the Environmental Assessment Act to amend the Environmental Compliance Approval for the DYEC.

The Environmental Compliance Approval for the DYEC currently allows the facility to process up to a maximum of 140,000 tonnes per year of waste, for disposal at the facility. The Regions are proposing to increase this amount by 20,000 tonnes per year, for a total of 160,000 tonnes per year.

Members of the public, agencies and other interested persons are invited to actively participate in the planning process by attending public information centres held at several stages throughout the process.

You’re invited to Public Information Centre (PIC) #1



We invite you to drop in to the first PIC to view displays and provide comment. The PIC will introduce the project, discuss the Environmental Screening Checklist, and outline the Streamlined Environmental Assessment and the consultation processes.

**Date:** August 21, 2019 **Time:** 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
**Where:** Region of Durham Headquarters **Address:** 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby,  
**Room:** LLC (on the lower level)

Additional information is available on the website [durham.ca/DYEC160K](http://durham.ca/DYEC160K).

Comments may also be submitted by the public or interested parties through the project manager listed below:

Andrew Evans, M.A.Sc, P.Eng  
Project Manager  
Durham York Energy Centre  
905-404-0888 ext. 4130  
[info@durhamyorkwaste.ca](mailto:info@durhamyorkwaste.ca)

 [facebook.com/RegionOfDurham](https://facebook.com/RegionOfDurham)  
 [twitter.com/RegionOfDurham](https://twitter.com/RegionOfDurham)

Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the EA Act, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter and will be released, if requested, to any person.

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3560.

The Regional Municipality of Durham Works Department  
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario L1N 6A3  
Telephone: 905-668-7711 or 1-800-372-1102  
[durham.ca/DYEC160K](http://durham.ca/DYEC160K)

# Our two cents

## Let's be more than meets the eye

It's year five for Uxbridge hosting a Day Out With Thomas, and just when we thought we were hitting a groove, really knowing how things should go, it's all changing. Well, not all of it, but a good portion of it. We have our fingers and toes crossed that it's all going to be ok.

There are only a few days until Thomas chugs his way out of the train station for the first of many, many trips this weekend and next. And ultimately, all we care about is that a) visitors to Uxbridge get the exceptional experience that they came for, and b) these visitors take some time to explore the area that exists beyond the arena and the train station.

We totally agree with Mayor Dave Barton's belief that the things the York-Durham Heritage Railway (YDHR) plans to do (see pages 6 and 7 for all that's coming up) in the next little while can only be good for the township. Let's review some math.

Around 20,000 (or thereabouts) tickets will likely be sold for rides on the real, authentic Thomas the Tank Engine. Let's say half those tickets are for the under-six crowd (although we're inclined to think there are a million of them at any given moment) towards whom the event is geared – 10,000. Let's be harsh and say three-quarters of those people take their kids, get off the train, get in their cars and go home (silly people). That still leaves 2,500. Two thousand five hundred adults and children potentially wandering around Uxbridge. Halve that and spread it over the two weekends – around 1,250 adults with kids in tow each weekend, needing something to eat, needing an ice cream, a cold (adult) drink, some Advil... Even if they just happen into a shop to look around, that's one more person in the shop than had been in it before. Say only 10 per cent of those 1,250 adults buy something – that's 125 purchases, and another 1,250 people that could very well be back in the future. Even better – they tell friends and family about their fabulous find.

However, they have to be made to *want* to come back. Now, we know that our downtown is anything but beautiful at the moment. The lovely hanging baskets do little to offset construction signs and orange and black pylons. But a few sidewalk sale signs out the front of a couple of stores aren't going to draw them along the street and inspire them to drop their bucks. We're wistfully hopeful that all of Uxbridge will roll out its finest and show itself off to the thousands of visitors that are going to descend on our little town, not just during Thomas, but during all of these promising events.

We hope to see tonnes of people walking the streets, and being enticed to check out everything we have here, and beyond, too. Go to Blue Heron Books, then visit Forsythe Family Farms, or Willowtree Farms. On the two Sundays of Thomas, visitors would be *crazy* not to walk over and visit the Farmers' Market. We know from personal experience that hundreds of people at Thomas ask staff where the nearest bank machine might be. They can only go to the CIBC – that gets them into town. What happens after that is up to the town itself.

That said, if Thomas et al. is just too much, look forward to the Lions Club and Art in the Park on August 17 and 18. You don't have to be an "artsy type" to dig the various collections that will be on display.

Great lengths have been gone to to make things a little more convenient for the downtown area – let's show some support by welcoming visitors and showing that Uxbridge is more than a train station and construction zone.



## Letters to the Editor

Re: "Am I Wrong?", Aug. 1 edition

If Mayor Barton wants to communicate with constituents by Facebook videos, he should ensure that all constituents first have fairly priced Internet service that's robust enough to handle his output.

Many rural residents in Uxbridge don't or can't watch online videos because our Rocket and Turbo Hubs are slow and suffer dropouts. Nor do we spend much, if any, time on Facebook or Twitter because bandwidth is limited and quite expensive.

Rural Pickering has the same problem, as highlighted recently when singer Drake said he has trouble getting music from his producer who lives and works there. So does Scogog.

Perhaps Mayor Barton should heed Roger's advice while forming an alliance with mayors of all the affected townships to work jointly to bring us into the 21st century.

**Bruce Cohen  
Goodwood**

Yes! Roger, you are wrong.

You are confusing the exhilaration of pounding an old Underwood manual typewriter, ripping out multiple pages sandwiched with carbon paper, charging into the typesetting department and yelling "Stop the presses!" with journalism, which is the act of investigating events and letting the public know about it.

That is the true heritage of the newspaper tradition. The need for information has not changed but the delivery method is changing. As a veteran reporter, you must have come across the phrase "the medium is the message." It has even more application today as many industries switch from "the old way" to the new digital way of doing things. There have been major revolutions in the recording, photography and graphics industries

to name a few.

In ancient times, news was written on clay tablets, then papyrus, then finally paper. Today that medium is being replaced by digital delivery on smart phones and the Internet. Today's papers realize that the need for the printed page is dwindling, but digital copy is in greater demand; thus they offer online subscriptions and news feeds that are current and immediate with more pictures and sidebars.

The newspaper tradition is not dying, it is evolving. Yes, it is presumptuous to expect that a simple Facebook post that only reaches a handful of subscribers will take the place of a proper news delivery service that can reach tens of thousands. That oversight is definitely the fault of the information provider and they should be heavily criticized. Proper communications procedures by anyone responsible to the public must be used to insure that the majority of the public knows what is happening. Your point is correct, but your solution to use print is not the final answer.

To argue that without a newspaper you can't find out when the Santa Claus parade is being held is an incredibly inane suggestion that does not help your argument. Obviously it is plastered on town web sites, your own *Cosmos* website and a plethora of community/tourism/information web sites, all accessible by computer and smart phone.

To criticize Facebook users for not using your printed newspaper without mentioning the main obvious deficiency, "that you are a weekly publication", is in the same category as your Santa argument. The copy deadline of Tuesday afternoon, or the fact that even with a Wednesday evening delivery, most people don't read the paper until Thursday at the earliest also comes to mind.

The harsh reality is that the paper is always two to seven days behind reporting any fast breaking immediate news. That is why newspapers realize they have to do more. They provide additional content to supplement a week-old event on their pages and they use their own digital media to address the immediate information needs of their readers.

You do have a salvation. Spend more time paying attention to Facebook and Twitter accounts which are reporting news as it happens, and you will also receive those precious public announcements and be able to act on them and inform readers as a true journalist would.

Step into the future, just like every other modern investigative reporter who has accepted that the medium is changing, but take solace in the fact that the job of reporting stays the same.

**Stuart Blower  
Uxbridge**

A few years back our Uxbridge Market was basically nothing much to write home about. Well, if you would go there now, you'd be totally surprised.

The fresh vegetables and berries from our local farmers, the many fresh home made breads (absolutely delicious), we now can't do without. The incredible selection of sausages, salamis and cheeses – nowhere is the selection bigger than here, and now it also includes smoked fish – incredible! People are lining up at some places and have to come early to pick from the best selections.

This and much more is awaiting you at the Sunday morning Uxbridge Farmers' Market. Come early for a nice parking spot in the shade and to find what you are looking for.

At 11 a.m. the Second Wedge Brewing Co. opens for a cold one, right

*...continued on page 11*

## 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  
Advertising/Sales 905.852.1900

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**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday to 4 p.m.

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## A Blonde Moment

column by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

### A Prince among men

He's not as famous as many of the people he directed over the years, but in the theatre world, Harold Prince is a name that practically everyone knows. Prince, who passed away last week at the age of 91, was a renowned theatre producer and director who worked on too many productions to list here, and won Tony Awards for many of them.

Not being the calibre of actress with whom Mr. Prince would likely have preferred to work, I am still able to say that he afforded me one of the highlights of my entire life to date.

Way back in my university days, two friends and I decided that we would try to get standing room only tickets to the production of *The Phantom of the Opera* that was playing at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa one Thursday night. We dressed up in our student finest and headed down to the theatre, only to find a line-up at the box office - we apparently were not the only students trying to score cheap tickets.

As luck would have it, we three were the very next in line when NAC staff came out to tell everyone still waiting that all the tickets were gone, the evening was sold out, standing room included. My friends and I were heartily dismayed, to say the least, and decided that, since we'd dressed up, we might as well go somewhere and treat ourselves out of our disappointment.

We wandered across the road and into the Chateau Laurier, figuring we may as well spend our ticket money on a drink, whine a little at our misfortune, and then head home. We sat down at the bar, ordered our beverages, and commenced our pity party. The bartender arrived with drinks, but they weren't what we had ordered. Instead, three glasses of champagne - *Veuve Clicquot*, if you will - were set down in front of us, along with a shiny, silver bowl brimming with fresh strawberries.

We tried to tell the bartender that we had the wrong order, and he insisted that, no, it was correct, the man there was paying for it. He pointed to a lone gentleman sitting further down the bar who simply waved at us, said we looked like we could use a pick-me-up, and never asked for anything more than our profuse thanks.

Not believing our luck, we tucked into the berries and champagne, thinking the night's fortunes were definitely swaying back the other way. As I stuffed a plump berry in my mouth, I glanced towards the entrance to the bar, and then whipped around to face my friends.

"That's Harold Prince!" I half-spit, half-whis-

pered. "Harold Prince just walked in!"

My bewildered friends listened while I explained his greatness to them, and encouraged me to go talk to him. Never could I approach him, I argued! But the champagne won.

I boldly but respectfully walked up to his table for two, excused myself for bothering him, and told him that I simply adored the work that he had done with *Phantom*. We exchanged a couple of pleasantries, and he invited me sit with him a moment.

I sat. He asked had I seen the NAC production, and I relayed our tale from earlier in the evening. He suggested that, if we could, the following evening, go to the stage door and he would try to set aside three standing room tickets for us, we could pay the door man.

Gobsmacked, I went back to tell my friends the news, and we all rearranged work schedules for the following night, then finished our champagne. Mr. Prince said a cheery "Good night!" to us as he left, and we floated home.

As instructed, the following evening we arrived at the stage door at the appointed time and stated our business. After a wait that seemed a little too long, the door man presented me with a grey envelope. We went to give him our money, but he refused, saying that Mr. Prince had insisted we be his guests.

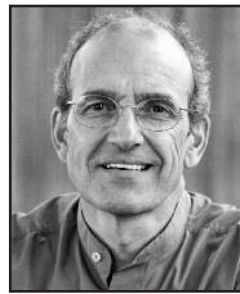
We peeked in the envelope and found that two seats were together in the orchestra, and another was in the front row of the first balcony. Since my friends hadn't seen the show, we agreed they should sit together. It was my fourth time, I could go it alone.

My friends were in the eighth row. I sat with the understudies, the swing cast, and other members of the production who had nowhere else to be that night, but weren't needed on stage, either. When one said to me, "Hey, you're not Hal," I realized that I had his seat. His. Seat.

If we had floated home the night before, we soared home that Friday night. The following day the show was closing, so we made haste in buying a thank you card for Mr. Prince, and we delivered it to the Chateau Laurier, along with a single, long-stemmed red rose, a reference to the *Phantom* playbill at the time.

He will never know how much three "starving students" appreciated his gesture. He didn't need to speak to me at the hotel, he could have shushed me away. He didn't need to secure us tickets, let alone the best seats in the house.

I have thought of his kindness often, and hope it rewards him now that he's gone.



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### The pros and cons of stay-cationing

In recent weeks, I've taken to walking early in the morning. Every day. I follow a number of routes around town, each about five or six kilometres in length, each taking 40 or 50 minutes to complete. The walks - sometimes I jog - remind me of early mornings or late afternoons back at high school when I would run 10 or 15 kilometres with the cross-country team, without even batting an eye. Anyway, one day last week, an acquaintance greeted me during my walk. "Why so early in the day?" he asked.

"Beat the heat, for one thing," I said. "And because there's nobody around."

It was true. Particularly last weekend. Beginning Thursday and going right through the holiday weekend, our town felt like a ghost town. Everybody seemed to have vacated for somewhere else. Not unusual for summer, I guess, what with cottages, camping and people travelling abroad when the kids are not in school. And I've realized that there are some definite advantages to spending summer closer to home. At the very least, at our grocery stores, the queues are shorter. Service has been quicker at the bank too because there are fewer customers, including at peak times. I even made a rare trip to the regional waste management facility (a.k.a. the dump) and I was in and out of there in minutes. I've come to the conclusion that this must be what a "stay-cation" looks like.

Canadians understand the value of vacation time. Like most people living in northern hemispheres on the planet, they recognize the temperate days between June 21 and September 21 are limited and precious. They mostly plan their time away from work in summer, and they make the most of those days they can spend comfortably outdoors. And this summer is no exception. This year, some members of my family took advantage of the seasons to take the train from Halifax to Vancouver; in particular they've relished the leg through the Rocky Mountains. Close friends have gone overseas for a long-awaited cruise around the Adriatic. And others have fled to cottages in Ontario's wilderness to leave work, cellphones, and the rat race behind until the cool air of late August descends.

In addition, it turns out that some citizens of this country have specifically avoided travelling to the "excited States of America" this year. Offensive presidential tweets and aberrant gun behaviour have dissuaded many from spending their holiday bucks there. A market researcher from the Vancouver area has gathered data

from such organizations as the U.S. International Trade Association and from U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Barb Justason, quoted in the *Vancouver Sun*, says Canadian visits to the U.S. have dropped steadily since 2013. It's due partly to fluctuations of the Canadian dollar.

"(But) the election of Donald Trump has emboldened racists, homophobes and misogynists," she said. "I don't want to go there and enjoy privilege as a white person that other people don't have."

Between 2014 and 2016, the Canadian dollar dropped 22 per cent in tandem with a drop of 20 per cent in the number of Canadians crossing the border. In 2017 - roughly the midpoint of Trump's current presidency - Canadians made 48 million trips to the U.S., or about 14 million fewer than the year before. The same *Sun* story quotes a research group in Vancouver, Insights West, who've learned from their studies that 31 per cent of Canadians were reconsidering travel to the U.S. because of the political climate there. They call it "the Trump effect," and yet one in five Canadians in the survey did say they would visit the U.S. as they normally do.

Whether U.S.-bound or not, a lot of people in our town seem to have flown the coop this summer. There are times - not only during my early-morning walks - when you could shoot the proverbial cannon down any street and not scratch anybody. As I say, check-out lines in stores aren't as long and waiting times to get services, at least from my perspective, have felt shorter. However, it depends on what service or product you need, especially at the height of vacation time.

On Civic Holiday Monday, I noticed some stores were open, so I dropped in to buy some fresh corn. I visited two local grocery stores. Both had tables where the grocers had laid out cobs of corn. But both stores had none left. I asked one of the grocery clerks why there was no corn.

"They cleaned us out on Thursday," she said. "People heading out of town bought all the corn we had."

I guess that's the trade-off. I get to enjoy a lot more peace and quiet around town during my stay-cation, but when the summer travellers escape, they take all the supplies they'll need for their vacations with all the comforts of home.

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



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**Eric Braeden**  
Victor Newman on  
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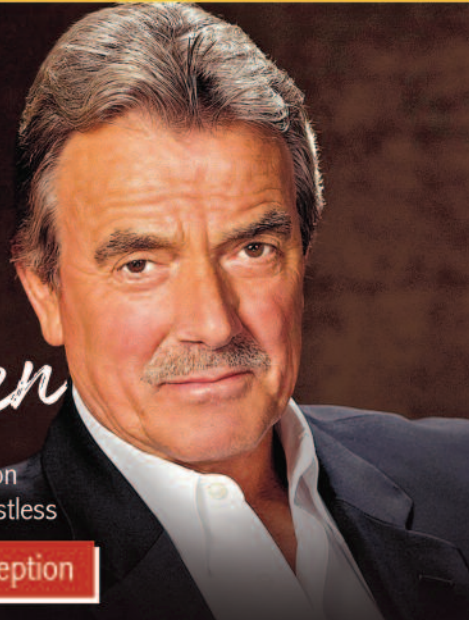
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# COMING UP

## THIS WEEKEND

Fri., Aug. 9: Oak Ridges Trail As-

sociation Hike, 9:30 a.m. Glen Major West. This is a fast pace 2 hr., 10 km

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[1] <https://www.aticon.ca/hearing-aid-users/hearing-aids/products/opn-s>

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loop hike or with some hills. Meet at the parking lot on the east side of Conc. 6, 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Town Line or 5.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. Contact: Russ Burton 905-830-2862.

**Sat., Aug. 10: Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike**, 7 a.m. Al Shaw. 1

hr., 4 km moderate pace hike. No dogs please. Join us for breakfast afterwards. Meet at roadside parking on the west side of Conc. 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. Contact: Russ Burton 905-830-2862.

**Sun., Aug. 11: Oak Ridges Trail**

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**Association Hike**, 9:30 a.m. Leader's Choice. 2.5km; slow; 2hrs; Certified in Japanese Forest Medicine, Pat will lead a hike to introduce the principals of forest bathing and explain the health benefits of being outdoors in nature. If possible, please bring a water-proof mat or something to sit on. Meet at Uxbridge Countryside Preserve parking behind Walmart, 6 Welwood Dr., Uxbridge. Contact: Pat Baldwin 905- 985-5257 (before 9:00 p.m.)

**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

**Sun., Aug. 11: Glen Major Church 1873 Summer Sunday Sunset Services at 7!** Freedom Bound musical group. Everyone welcome! 7 p.m.

## NEXT WEEK

**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.

**Sat., Aug. 17 & Sun., Aug. 18: Art in the Park**, presented by the Uxbridge & District Lions Club. Elgin Park, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Donation at the gate. Visit [uxbridgelionsartinthepark.com](http://uxbridgelionsartinthepark.com) for more information.

## UPCOMING

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

**Fri., Aug. 30: Elvis Presley & Patsy Cline**, Trinity United Church. Dinner at 5:30 p.m., show time 7 p.m. Dinner & Show \$40, Show only \$20. For tickets email [trinityuxbridge@powergate.ca](mailto:trinityuxbridge@powergate.ca) or visit Presents in Uxbridge.

**Wed., Sept. 11: Uxbridge Horticultural Society meeting.** Uxbridge Seniors' Centre, 7 p.m. Guest speaker Wayne Hingston on "Orchids and Hoyas". Flower show, yearbook cover photo contest, refreshments.

**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.

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# A note from Dave's desk

column by Mayor Dave Barton

## Setting the media record straight

Hello all!

I thought I would take bit of my column this week to rebut Roger's "Am I Wrong" column of last week.

I do like my phone, Roger is not wrong there. I have published my cell number and I try to keep up with voice, text and email communication with Township residents. I do like the immediacy and flexibility that Facebook, Twitter and Instagram provide. They allow me to share pertinent information quickly using text, photos and video. This might be why the majority of the business community is working on creative ways to reach out to their potential customers using social media.

I also like being connected to my Council colleagues and staff when I am not in the office because it speeds up decision making. I believe these are good things, so I won't apologize for that.

We heard repeatedly during the last election that communication was a major issue. We have updated our municipal page to make it more legible, and we share that information on social media to expand our reach.

We go on-air every Tuesday morning on 105.5HitsFm radio to update the community. We also work with the radio station to deliver timely news in the moment.

I write a monthly column for this

paper and one other to update readers who aren't online.

We have even changed our website URL to uxbridge.ca to make it easier to deal with. It is not all radio, all digital or all print; with us it is a little bit of everything.

I'm also communicating closely with the Durham Region Police Service (DRPS), as we are focusing on traffic safety issues and unfortunately, have also had a rash of vehicle break-ins and graffiti incidents.

Please lock your vehicles, and avoid keeping valuables in your vehicle whether you are in town or in the country – especially at a trailhead.

As always, be alert for unusual ac-

tivity on your street or when out and about, and notify DRPS if you have any concerns.

Follow DRPS North Division on social media or share your concerns at their monthly "chat with an officer" coffee houses the first Tuesday of every month in Uxbridge.

As you read this, crews are beginning work at the north end of the culvert in downtown Uxbridge. After months of preparation, they are finally ready to begin excavation. Things will really start to get dusty and noisy downtown, but I am happy that work is progressing.

And finally, Uxbridge is set to welcome loads of tourists for the Thomas the Train event this weekend and next. York-Durham Heritage Railway has moved some of the activities to the arena, so our local residents should find it easier to get around and park downtown.

Some of our merchants are worried that between the construction and Thomas that they will see reduced store visits by customers. Let's prove them wrong – get out and shop local!

## MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of our July monthly draw for the 2019 Trip of the Month

**1st: The Indiana, Illinois and Iowa trip was won by Dr. Jennifer Wilson of Uxbridge, Ticket #121 sold by Lisa Brooks**

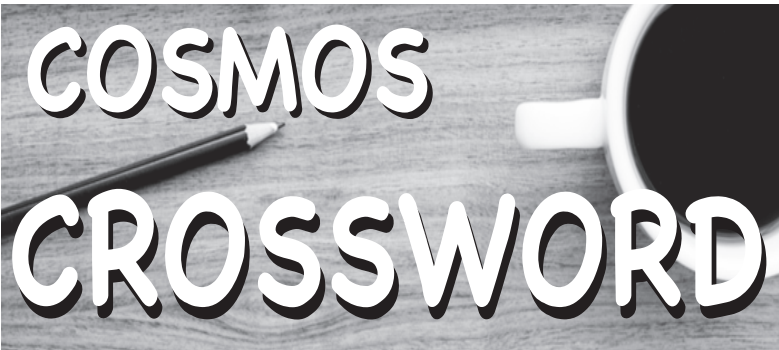
**2nd: \$150 prize was won by Sheila Henderson of Sharon, Ticket #8 sold by Ian Morrison**

**3rd: \$100 prize was won by Keith & Debbie Miller of Oshawa, Ticket #299 sold by Dale Hickey**

Congratulations to our July winners, and best of luck to all our ticket holders for the August trip - "Monkey Mania", which includes round trip, direct, non-stop airfare to Liberia, Costa Rica, with 7 nights' accommodation at the 5-star Riu Palace Costa Rica in an Oceanfront Suite, all meals, snacks, beverages and gratuities and daytime activities and nightly entertainment, plus round trip transfers.



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1 Page  
5 Wildebeest  
8 Turn on a pivot  
12 Mental flash  
13 Trotted  
14 Graceful sea bird  
15 Turnpike (2 words)  
17 Tee off  
18 Small generator  
20 Small growth  
23 Browning's Ben Ezra, e.g.  
26 Copy  
27 A pike fitted with an axe head (old weapon)  
29 Accelerate sharply  
30 Conclusion  
31 Feel bad  
33 Comeback  
35 Hardship  
36 Pertaining, old word  
37 Triangular river deposit  
39 Apologetic  
42 Any minute  
45 Charitable clubs  
49 Expert adviser  
50 "\_\_\_ Got the World on a String"  
51 For this reason  
52 Aid in a crime  
53 Video maker, for short  
54 New Mexico resort
- Down**  
1 It may be boring  
2 Tokyo, 1700  
3 Slippery one  
4 Flourishing  
5 Rum and water  
6 Indian flatbread  
7 Support  
8 Synchronized light  
9 Orchid arrangement  
10 Internet letters  
11 Barcelona to Rome direction  
16 Popular music category  
19 Place holders  
20 Golf score  
21 Daytime TV, with soap  
22 Protagonist in "Anna Karenina"  
24 Free-for-all  
25 Blockhead  
27 Memorable  
28 Hill dweller  
30 Arial  
32 Grassy area  
34 Oil source  
37 "Law and Order" concern  
38 White heron  
40 Astronomer's sighting  
41 Agenda point  
42 Civil leader title (Turkey)  
43 Gist  
44 Raw metal  
46 Portfolio part, in brief  
47 Idea of oneself  
48 Call for rescue letters

## CORRECTION

In last week's "Our two cents," the *Cosmos* referred to local equestrienne Jessica Phoenix and her "Team Canada Dressage team" as having won a medal at the PanAm Games.

Ms. Phoenix is not part of the Dressage team, nor is she the team captain. Ms. Phoenix is part of the Eventing team.

The *Cosmos* apologizes for any confusion this error may have caused.

\*\*\*\*\*

An update on Ms. Phoenix - Team Canada took the bronze medal in Eventing, and individually, Ms. Phoenix and her horse Pavarotti finished 5th.



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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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### WANTED

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1	B	2	E	3	P	4		5	G	6	N	7	U	8	S	9	L	10	U	11	E
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49	G	U	R	U		50	I	V	E				51	E	R	G	O				
52	A	B	E	T		53	C	A	M				54	T	A	O	S				

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**Letters, from page 4**

next to the market. What else could one ask for? See you at the market next Sunday morning. We absolutely love it.

*Heinz Nitschke  
Uxbridge*

When I approached Council with ideas for the preservation of our historic Uxbridge Township Municipal Hall [in Goodwood], suggestion number one was for the building to be relocated to the museum grounds.

I approached both the Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society and the Uxbridge Heritage Committee for possible letters of support for the relocation, but was told that there was no room for the building at the museum, and that it was also unnecessary because the museum already had the former Scott township hall, built in 1860.

Now there is to be a presentation at the museum entitled "Ballots and Bibles," described as "an in depth look at the history of events that led to political divides and changes in Uxbridge."

It's a shame that the historic Uxbridge Township Municipal Hall, a result of probably the first big change in local politics, isn't taking pride of place as part of the "Ballots and Bibles" display.

The change I'm referring to happened when the village of Uxbridge started growing and didn't want to be encumbered by the rest of the township when village expenditure decisions were made. So the town-

ship and the village became two municipalities. The township's municipal hall was finally erected in Goodwood in 1875.

FYI, this historical municipal building, which is now up for sale, hosted

another big change in local politics, the very first ever secret ballot in Uxbridge township.

*Eleanor Todd  
Goodwood*



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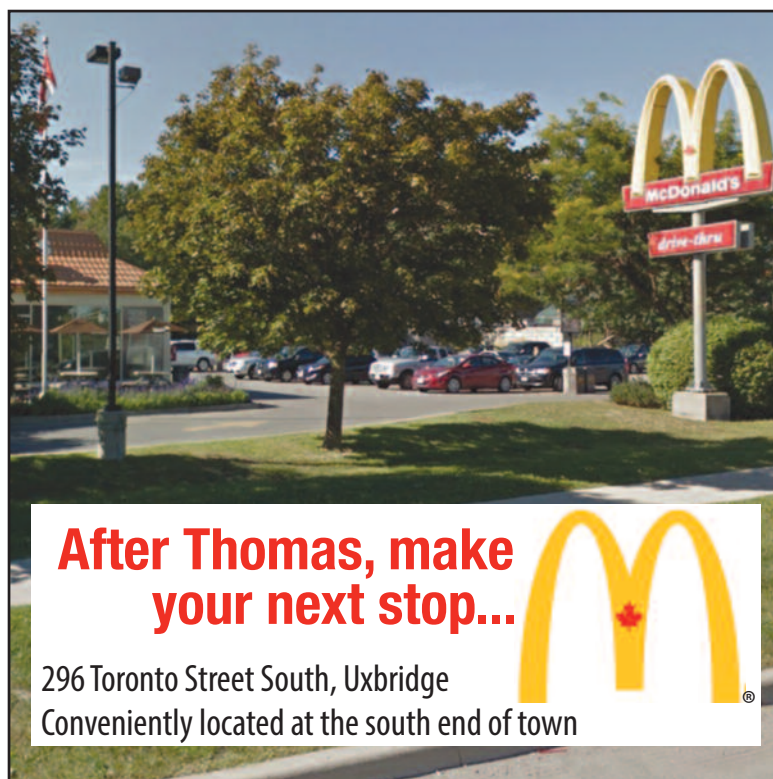
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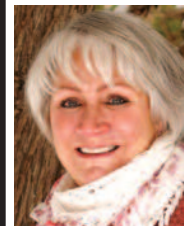
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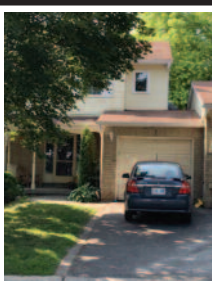


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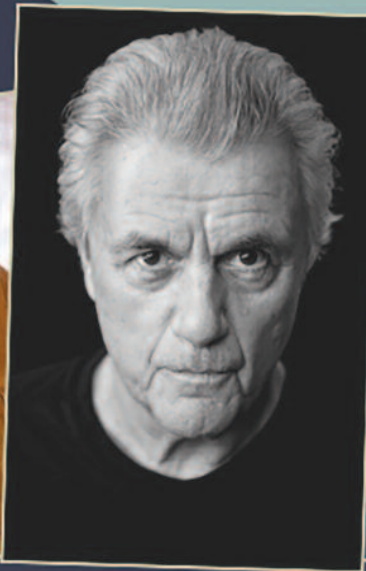


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