

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 17 No. 28

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Digging dining out • Cable capers • Film with Foote



DON'T ROCK THE BOAT - UxCamps counsellors and volunteer assistants brush up their canoe skills before taking young campers onto Elgin Pond. Several of the UxCamps programs this summer include canoeing and other water-based outdoor activities. From left: Counsellor Sean Cummings; volunteers Juliette Ste. Marie and Evan Skachakov; and Counsellor Emily Clyde. For more on UxCamps Summer 2021, visit uxbridge.ca

Photo by John Cavers

Kids celebrate summer with opening of new play space

by Justyne Edgell

Uxbridge children now have a new place to play indoors at Kids Pop, an indoor play and party venue, which just opened on July 16 at 141 Reach St., near the ReStore.

Along with its party room and soft toddler play space, Kids Pop has a large, three-level play structure with bridges, tubes and a spiral slide. The main feature that sets it apart from other indoor play places is the “grass” area for open play, where children can run and cartwheel and play freely.

Matthew Cranswick, father, resident of Uxbridge and co-owner of Kids Pop, says that his family has been looking for a place like Kids Pop since the closure of The Clubhouse, a similar operation that used to be located at Technology Square, on Main St., just north of town.

“We were going regularly down to Oshawa and Bowmanville to play centres, and we also noticed a need for a facility to hold birthday parties in North Durham,” said Cranswick.



Kids Pop is a new, innovative indoor play space in Uxbridge, offering open play and party spaces. Photo by Justyne Edgell

“We hope that this will give the kids in the area a place to play and be active and social, without

any screens!”

Cranswick says they have been in close contact with Durham Public Health and have implemented all advised safety measures and COVID-19 precautions.

“The play structure and heavily touched surfaces are sanitized regularly and masks are mandatory when not playing in the structure,” said Cranswick.

Kids Pop is open for both drop-in play and booked events. Parents or guardians must sign a waiver prior to admission. This can be done on site or online ahead of visiting at kidspop.ca

Kids Pop asks that birthday parties and other group celebrations be booked in advance so as not to overcrowd the facility. Kids Pop offers unlimited play for children. Three years old and under are \$7; 4 and up are \$10, and it's open 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. every day.



The Township of UXBRIDGE

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MORE INFO

www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for July, 2021

Tuesday, July 26

6:00 p.m.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND
TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Meeting Schedule for August, 2021

Monday, August 9

10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

4:00 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 10

7:00 p.m.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE

Proclamations for the Month of August

Saturday, August 2, 2021

Flight of the Monarch Day

Closures

- Lane restrictions on Brock Street East from Nelkydd Lane to Regional Highway 47 will be in effect until the end of August, 2021 as the Region is installing underground services.
- Planks Lane roadway and sidewalks will be closed from Third Ave. to Franklin St. until September 6 to facilitate multiple ongoing service upgrades.
- Victoria Street will be closed each Sunday (7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) from Brock St. W. to King St. W., from May to October due to the Farmer's Market.

Employment Opportunities

Details of all current positions are available at

www.uxbridge.ca/careers

Uxbridge Library – Part-time Library
Assistant

Closes July 25, 2021

Parks Department – Attendant, Unskilled,
Contract (Union Position)

Closes July 30, 2021

Parks Department – Horticulture Worker,
Adult, Contract

Closes July 30, 2021

Uxbridge Library – Part-time Student
position

Closes August 6, 2021

Public Works Department – Truck Driver

Closes August 31, 2021

Public Works Department – Truck
Driver/Backhoe Operator

Closes August 31, 2021

We are 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.

Uxpool is Reopening Aug. 3

Registration is required for all programs.

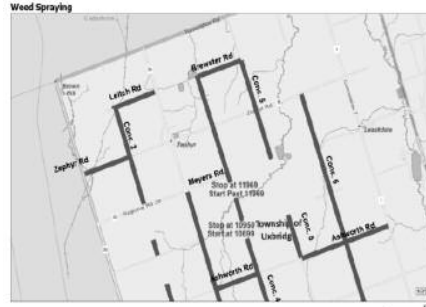
Registration opens on Activenet

July 27 at 9:00am.

www.uxbridge.ca

PUBLIC NOTICE – PESTICIDE USE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE

The Township of Uxbridge intends to control noxious weeds along the following rural Concession roadsides north of Regional Road 8:



The Township of Uxbridge intends to control noxious weeds along rural roadsides under their jurisdiction using Clearview Herbicide, which contains the active ingredients, Metsulfuron-Methyl and Aminopyralid. PCP Registration Number 29752 under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada), in combination with Hasten NT Spray Adjuvant, which contains active ingredients Methyl and ethyl oleate (esterified vegetable oil). PCP Registration Number 28277 under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada).

Commencing on July 23, 2021 weather permitting and ending August 14, 2021

We are control Noxious Weeds under Public Works Exemption of the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban to the promotion of public health and safety.

For more information call collect:

Township of Uxbridge
Bill Rynard, C. Tech, CRS
Road Operations Manager
905-852-9087

Green Stream
Steve Ford
905-510-1229



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Donations made to the Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter are now available under the Township of Uxbridge Animal Control webpage:

www.uxbridge.ca/en/living-here/animal-control

Monetary support directly impacts animals in your community by feeding, housing, and providing veterinary services to animals in need.

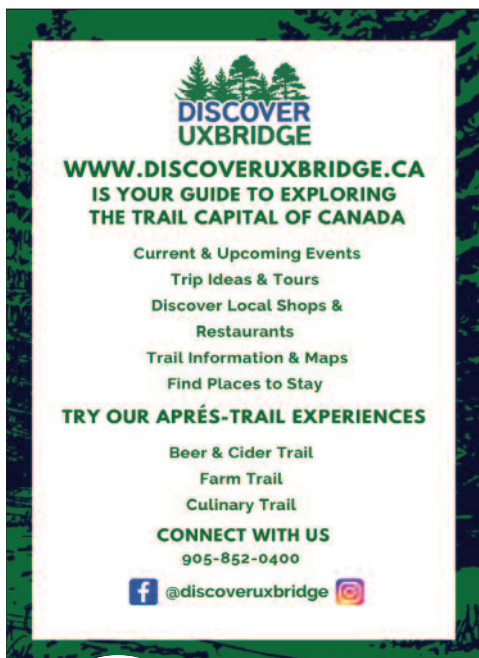
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Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at uxbridge.ca/accessibility

email: accessibility@uxbridge.ca
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209

Dining out finally means dining in

by Roger Varley

With the easing of provincial COVID-19 pandemic restrictions last Friday, a number of Uxbridge restaurants reported improved business on the weekend.

The move by the province allows restaurants to offer indoor dining, although social distancing and mask-wearing protocols remain in place. Indoors, masks still must be worn except when patrons are actually at their table.

Wixan's Bridge said business was "quite good" on the weekend, although most patrons preferred to use the patio tables in the good weather. There was no cap on the number of people allowed indoors as long as the required spacing was maintained. Wixan's Bridge said they had no trouble with staff shortages, as has been reported by a number of restaurants in the GTA. Wait staff that were laid off in March and April have gone on to find other employment, which means many restaurants are having to scramble to find servers.

"Everyone is having problems with staffing," said a manager at One-Eyed Jacks.

Colonel McGrady's also had a problem with staffing, but said business last Friday was almost back to normal.

A recording at Boston Pizza says the restaurant is not yet open for indoor dining.

A stop by both the Urban Pantry and Navarra's Eatery over the weekend saw both patios busy with outdoor patrons.

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designed Rainbow Reading Blankets with a Great Story. Given as a gift to a favourite child, you will foster the love of literature and support St. Paul's. Each blanket is handmade by Sharon Houston and each book is curated for specific age groups by Sally Kotsopoulos. When you order we will

send you several photos of blankets for you to choose and several titles based on the child you are purchasing for. We are focusing on children from 0-8. Books for older children can be arranged. If you would like to purchase just the blanket that is fine and you can give a book of your own choice.



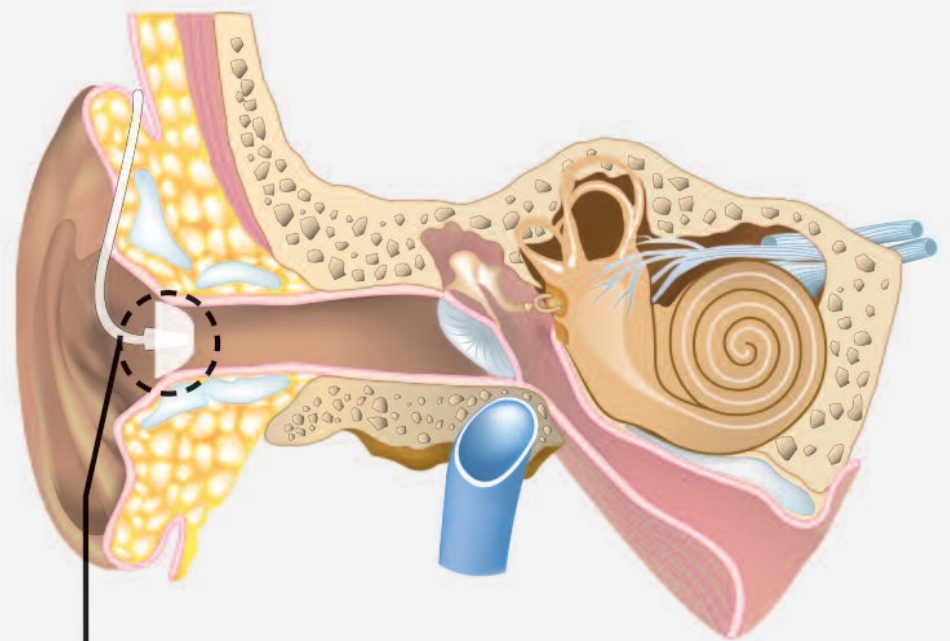
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[1] <https://www.oticon.ca/hearing-aid-users/hearing-aids/products/opn-s>

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Our two cents

The sky's the limit - have we already reached it?

There's an odd sort of haze on the meadow, there's an odd sort of haze on the meadow. Yes, the corn is as high as an elephant's eye...An' it's growing straight up to a treacherous sky...

While we offer apologies to Rogers and Hammerstein for this bastardized version of their lovely "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning" from *Oklahoma!*, we couldn't help but have that particular tune go through our head as we gazed at the skies over Uxbridge this past weekend. The haze we've been seeing is courtesy of over 100 forest fires that are currently burning in northwestern Ontario. The smoky haze makes the sun watery and thin looking, yet it's giving off perfect summertime heat. That heat, mixed with the copious quantities of rain that have come down lately, makes the corn grow nice and tall in the fields.

It's difficult to deny, however, that the sky is treacherous. It's yielding some pretty impressive displays, lately. Lightening storms, tornados, billowy white clouds - the show is varied and hugely entertaining. And more than a little bit scary. We're getting weather watches or warnings almost daily, weather-caused wildfires burn across the country, and record-setting temperatures have been recorded on the west coast.

Climate change denial is no longer an option.

The federal government recently released a report entitled "Canada in a Changing Climate." In its introduction, the report comments that "the experience of the past year [re: COVID-19] has also demonstrated the advantages that can be realized through cooperation, the progress that can be achieved through aligned efforts, and the critical role that the private sector and civil society play in responding to global challenges." In other words, the pandemic showed us that we *can* make the changes necessary to set the planet right.

But it also says that "the research demonstrates that the window for taking action to reduce increasingly severe impacts is rapidly closing. Urgent action is needed to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to increase resilience to climate change through adaptation."

We know what needs to be done, but we need to get off our duffs and do it. We quite literally can't afford more tornados or fires wiping out entire towns. COVID-19 has proved that we are more than capable of adapting.

Our weather is going to get more and more weird if we don't change our sorry ways now. Because if we don't smarten up, it's going to more than just that nice tall corn that gets roasted.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



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Because without them, we can't continue to deliver the news you want and need.

The Uxbridge COSMOS

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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.



Letters to the Editor

Re: 215 kilometres

Over the past five weeks, members and friends of the St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church have been walking, running, biking, etc., to get to the former Kamloops residential school, which is the site of 215 unmarked graves of children who attended that school.

Each of us is trying to do 215 kilometres or whatever we can to help the group cover in total the almost 4,000 kilometers between St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church and Kamloops, B.C. This is not a challenge or a fundraiser, but

strictly a time to think about residential schools and also to help with our fitness.

We have 36 participants; 24 from the congregation and 12 from the community and surrounding area.

As of this past Sunday, July 18, our total was 3225.68 kilometres - that is 81 per cent of our way to the Kamloops residential school! We are now heading to Calgary and stopped for a rest in Brooks, Alberta.

We have three of our friends on the journey who have completed the 215 kilometres, but everyone is very important in this journey.

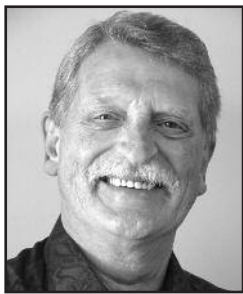
Over the next few days, we will pass or pass close to three former residential schools. They are in Gleichen, High River, and Sarcee, Alberta. These three schools were not operated by the Presbyterian Church but were a part of the overall system across Canada.

Hopefully by this Saturday, we will be very close to Kamloops and will have completed our initial task. However, there is much more to do as we move forward in reconciliation.

David Phillips
St. Andrew's-Chalmers
Presbyterian Church
Uxbridge

Let's Build an Inclusive Playground Uxbridge!





Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Time to fight back, ladies

A number of years ago, the great Australian swimming champion Dawn Fraser was reported to have said she could swim a lot faster if she was allowed to swim naked. That might be taking it a bit too far, but in the last couple of years there have been a number of occasions where female athletes have been criticized and/or penalized by officials in their chosen sports over their apparel.

For example, a couple of years ago, a U.S. high school student was disqualified in one of her swim races because an official decided her swimsuit showed too much of her butt cheeks. This despite the fact that the swimsuit in question was supplied by the school. The incident led to claims of "body discrimination."

Now, you might agree with the official that modesty is to be maintained at all times. If you do, then how do you explain a recent decision by the International Handball Federation to fine a Norwegian women's team because they chose to wear snug fitting shorts instead of the prescribed, more revealing bikini bottoms?

Have you ever watched beach volleyball? You will notice that while the men are allowed to wear singlets (a tank top) with shorts that come to just above the knee-cap, the women are required to wear skimpy little sports bras and bikini bottoms. If that ain't sexist, I don't know what it.

Welsh Paralympian Olivia Breen, a track and field competitor, was criticized just this past weekend by a *female* official for wearing "inappropriate" shorts during an event, despite the fact the shorts she wore were the same style she has worn for years, designed by ADIDAS, and made for competition.

And, of course, FIFA, that odious body that rules soccer, flipped back and forth for years before finally bending to pressure and allowing women players to wear the *hijab*.

However, it isn't just on matters of apparel that women athletes are held to different standards. For example, the U.S. women's national soccer team, one of the best in the world, is still fighting for pay

equity with the men's team. And I'm sure players on the Canadian women's hockey team - (again, one of the best in the world) - don't earn anywhere near the money earned by players on the men's team.

There has been much in the news recently about discrimination against Canada's Indigenous peoples, people of colour, Muslims, Asians, and the list goes on. But sexism and its associated discrimination against women continues unabated. Considering the fact that every man has a mother, it's difficult to figure out where this sexism comes from. And considering the fact that women account for 50 per cent of the population, it's difficult to figure out why they haven't pushed back harder against the discrimination they face on a daily basis. (I hope that isn't a sexist statement!)

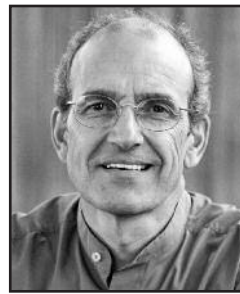
Women pay more for their clothing than do men and pay more to have their clothes dry cleaned. They pay more for a simple visit to a hair salon. It is far more difficult for women to enter some trades and professions than it is for men and, when they do enter those trades and professions, they often face harassment from male co-workers or supervisors.

In the Canadian Forces, there have been hundreds of sexual assault complaints in recent years and I think one could reasonably assume that the number of men complaining about being assaulted was minimal.

I think it is well past time for women to start demanding, forcefully if necessary, equality with men. If you have a daughter, just think of the obstacles that are placed in the way of her achieving her goals, her dreams. She will often face situations where she not only has to prove she is as good as her male counterparts, she has to prove she is better.

I'm not talking about rebooting the feminist movement. I'm talking about an equality movement. It seems to me we owe it to our mothers, sisters and daughters to see they get the quality they deserve.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Give a cable. Take a mile

Darrin called me this week. And he talked to me as if we were best pals, as if we'd known each other for years. I asked for an explanation.

"I'm Darrin," he said, cheerfully. "from Rogers Communications."

And I knew instantly this call was a pitch. I decided to listen to what he had to say, because my wife and I have been concerned about what's happening to our cable TV service. As I'm sure most of you know, television programming has been delivered by independent Compton Cable since 1972. Their facilities, the head-end if you like, were located on Regional Road 21 near Utica, Ont.

Anyway, my alleged buddy Darrin called to tell me about all the new features Rogers Communications (which bought out Compton in 2011) has to offer. His well-rehearsed spiel went on about this rapid service, that movie feature, this sports package and that premium channel pool. And when he finally took a breath, I interrupted.

"Does that mean we lose our cable TV service?"

"In a few weeks," he said, and away he went, "but with Rogers Ignite, you'll have options for all your favourite programs and online services..."

"Wait a minute. TV gone," I clarified, "unless I agree to the package?"

"The transition is easy," he insisted. "We can bundle your television, your internet service, even your phones into one easy-to-navigate service ... All for \$97.99 a month."

Again, I interrupted politely and asked what would happen if I already had internet and phone service delivered by say Bell Canada. And he blew by that, saying Rogers would just replace all that, and bundle everything I needed into one neat package. I hasten to add that my wife and I are equally suspicious of Bell, but have paid for their landline and internet services pretty much by default for many years. Then, Darrin repeated "the savings with Rogers' \$97.99 monthly rate" that would kick in when our cable service expired.

"Excuse me, Darrin," I said. "Are you old enough to remember the Negative Option scandal?"

For the first time in about five minutes, there was silence on the other end of the line. In case you missed it, back in 1995, Canadian cable companies - including Rogers - offered 7.5 million subscribers seven new specialty channels for free for several weeks, indicating (in the fine print) that the cable companies

would bill subscribers automatically, unless they opted to cancel. It was called Negative Option billing. And complaints went all the way to the House of Commons. As journalist D'Arcy Jenish reported in *Maclean's* at the time, the reverse billing scam prompted about 4,000 Rogers subscribers to disconnect immediately.

"We made a mistake," Colin Watson, then Rogers Cablesystems president, told Jenish. The cable companies got a slap on the wrist from the CRTC, ate crow, and delivered the said packages to consumers at a loss of \$30 million.

Back on the phone with Darrin, I asked if Rogers had installed fibre-optic technology locally, the way Bell has over the past month. "If I abandon my Bell connection, where does that leave me?" I asked.

"Oh, we've got nodes everywhere in town," Darrin said.

"Do you live here?" I asked. "How do you know I'm near one of your nodes?"

"Oh, they're there, and Ignite 500 Internet has 500 Mbps download speed. It's faster than Bell."

I knew I was in over my head. I asked him to send me all the options by email. I'm not sure how typical my wife and I are as television viewers. We have selective tastes. She likes "Escape to the Country" on CTV Lifestyle. I like (so help me) Leafs hockey whenever it's on CBC or TSN. We tune in to PBS and CNN for American news. But the one service that's a must for us, is CBC. We support public broadcasting and journalism in Canada. But, it appears, unless we buy the Rogers Ignite for \$97.99 a month, we'll get none of those channels, including no CBC. Yes, I know we can get CBC on GEM via the internet service we receive from Bell; but interestingly, Bell, which owns CTV, does not include the main CBC TV channel in its service, just CBC GEM.

By the way, when Darrin emailed me the lowdown on all Rogers services, his message did not itemize any of the broadcast or cable services - i.e. CBC, CNN, PBS, etc. - we prefer. We had to go online and the combinations and computations defy logic. Which means our household will soon be without access to the public airwaves ... unless I get out the 1950s rabbit ears or put a TV antenna on my roof. I don't imagine my buddy Darrin could help me there.

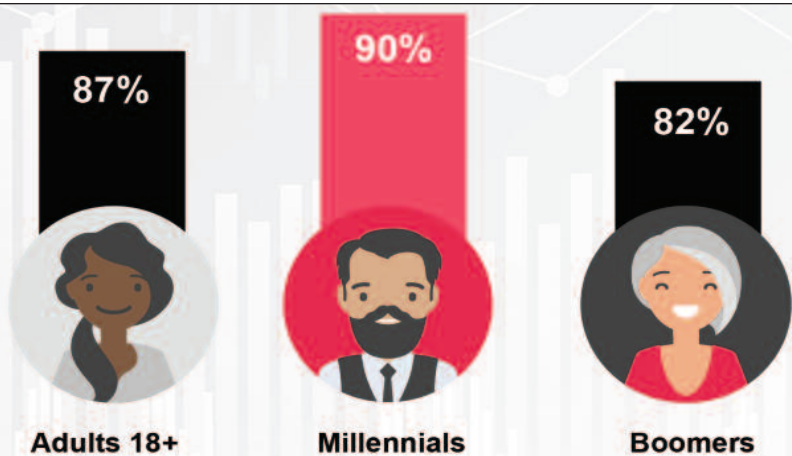
For more Barris Beat columns, go to www.tedbarris.com

NEED TO REACH MILLENNIALS?

New survey results show that **nine out of ten** Millennials read newspapers weekly in print or digital formats.

Results are sourced from a November 2020 national online research survey managed by Totum Research. Interviews were conducted with 855 English and French Canadians in every province, and results were weighted to be nationally representative.

News Media Canada
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Film with Foote

column by John Foote

Movies are BACK!

BLACK WIDOW
(***)

REJOICE....THE MOVIES ARE BACK!

A new superhero movie has opened and it is a dandy. *Black Widow* has great action sequences, two great performances, along with several



A new display on Brock St. W. pays tribute to an old culvert that ran directly beneath it, channelling the Uxbridge Brook for over 100 years. The plaque, donated by Tom Fowle (centre), describes the engineering feat of Henry Love, the stone mason who built the culvert. Also pictured are local historian Allan McGillivray (left) and Wynn Walters, who designed the sign. Photo submitted by Wynn Walters

very good ones, and enough high voltage action to be three films! This is a sure sign the film industry is back, and though streaming has forever changed the face of film, big releases like this will always be best seen on the big screen.

Cast as the Black Widow in the Avengers films, we know going into this film that Scarlett Johansson's character was killed off in *Avengers - Endgame* (2019), sacrificing herself for what she believes is the greater good. So going into this film, we know right away it is the origin story of how she became the Black Widow before her demise.

This film is exciting, with nearly non-stop action. Johansson and co-star Florence Pugh are both terrific in their roles, and there is the added surprise of *Stranger Things'* David Harbour as Black Widow's father, himself a one-time Russian superhero.

We open in Ohio in 1998, where two sisters are playing outside in a beautiful landscape, sun shining,

pure Americana. The mother, Melina (Rachel Weisz), is tending to the younger sister who has fallen off her bike when the father, Alexei (Harbour), returns home to tell them they have seconds to grab what they want inside the house and leave. Seconds. They manage to escape, flying to Cuba where en route we learn that they are Russian intelligence agents hiding in America.

Fast forward 21 years. The elder daughter, Natasha (Johansson), is on the run. She eludes capture, heading to a remote outpost in Norway, where she can hide easily.

Meanwhile her little sister, Yelena, (Pugh) is a trained killer in Morocco. The two sisters meet up in Budapest, and are just getting to know one another when they are back on the run again. Once safe, the girls slowly become sisters again, teasing, joking and fighting together with their formidable skills.

Hurled into one life-threatening event after another, they never seem to be free of danger, and it further ramps up when their parents re-join the party after a long separation. Some of the best scenes in the film

happen when the four are together, very touching family moments as so much time has been lost and they all know it.

The action finds them, of course and it is not long before all four are hurtling through the air, performing jaw-dropping acts of courage and working as a team/family.

Johansson does great work as the confused, struggling Natasha, but the film belongs to young Pugh, who is fast becoming one of the finest young actors in modern film. She thunders across the screen superbly and yet has the good sense to bring real intimacy to her scenes with her sister and parents. The two girls have a terrific chemistry together that works every time they are onscreen, and must have delighted director Cate Shortland, who beautifully blends the epic action and fury of the pair into the smaller family scenes.

Is *Black Widow* perfect? Heck, no. The plot is flimsy and paper thin, but the actors and Shortland do their best to give it flesh and muscle.

A welcome addition to the Marvel family.

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CLASSIFIED

Classifieds are \$15/week up to 25 words; \$0.20 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.

SERVICES

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DO YOUR OLD PHOTOS NEED RESTORATION? Boxes of slides taking up room? Preston Gallery/BiA Photography at 77 Brock St. W. (Uxbridge) specializing in restorations & scanning. Call Sabrina, 905-550-8825.

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PERSON TO PICK UP SCRAP METAL at a business in town. Needs to be collected 3 times a week on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Call Darryl for further information. 416-346-6349. 7/22

WANTED: PICKERS FOR BERRY HARVEST in Leaskdale. Starts 1st week of August, flexible hours. Call Darryl, 416-346-6349. 7/22

NEED: ESTHETIC PROFESSIONAL with min. 3 years experience in all aspects of spa industry. Massages, facials, body treatments, manicures, pedicures, waxing, etc. Part-time and full-time. Wages depend on experience. Send resumé and interest inquiries to Lisa.borquez88@gmail.com or info@uxbridgemanorandspa.com 7/22

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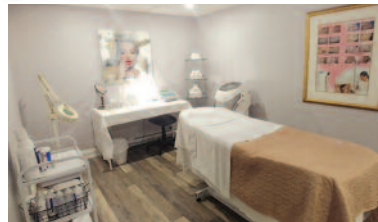
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4 Summer Teas

August 4th: "100 Years of Rilla of Ingleside"

The LMMSO will share interesting details about the life of Montgomery, before and during World War I, that inspired her to write this novel.

August 11th "Slabtown Cider"

This local food producer is a destination for refreshingly crisp craft ciders from 100% Ontario Produce (speaker TBA).

August 18th "Sarafino"

Join Angelo Tramonti, certified olive oil taster from Calabria, Italy, for a discussion on the truth about olive oil. You will learn about the different grades of olive oil, how fraudulence in the industry affects the quality and benefits of commercial olive oils and more!

August 25th "The Passionate Cook's Essentials"

With Lisa Hutchinson, owner of The Passionate Cook, in Uxbridge. Lisa will speak of her passion for all things food, including top-of-the-line kitchenware, fine foods, and artisan cheese. She will also talk about the evolution of her business.

At the Historic Leaskdale Church
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