

# The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 17 No. 46

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, November 25, 2021

Bruins on a winning streak • Charlottes and charities • Life cycle of a Christmas tree



**HOLY SANTA CLAUS PARADE, BATMAN!** - Although Santa and Mrs. Claus were the most anticipated guests of last Saturday's Uxbridge Santa Claus Parade, a surprise appearance by none other than Batman and his shiny black Batmobile was the talk of the town. The parade celebrated 60 years of kicking off the holiday season in Uxbridge. For more on this year's parade, as well as photos, see page 7, and visit thecosmos.ca

Photo by John Cavers

## Local school families benefit when Uxbridge Cares

by Justyne Edgell

Holiday shoppers looking for gifts in local small businesses may see a basket for Uxbridge Cares, a holiday program aimed at providing "support to local families that have experienced significant hardships and are now in need of extra help during the holiday season," and this is its fourth year in operation.

"The families supported by Uxbridge Cares are identified directly by the local public schools," says co-founder, Michelle Lee. "We rely on the expertise and judgement of our incredible school administrators and educators to determine which families will need the most support."

During the holiday collection period, baskets are placed in some of Uxbridge's small businesses for community members to generously donate to the program. This year, baskets are placed in Pharmasave, Axis Chiropractic, The

Bridge Social, Fig Kitchen & Market, The Cindy Wood Team, The Lemonade Stand, and Urban Pantry.



Lee says there are also some community part-

ners who have stepped up with meaningful initiatives of their own to support Uxbridge Cares. Blue Heron Books will be having a book drive, H. Bee Architecture has a gift card tree, the Lemonade Stand will have a gift wrapping station for purchases going to Uxbridge Cares, Pharmasave is giving discounts on purchases for the basket made on December 11, re•fine Facial + Brow Studio will be offering a pay-it-forward gift card purchase at the end of every treatment, and Starbucks is raising donations towards Uxbridge Cares.

"The community spirit supporting Uxbridge Cares has been amazing and we're excited and incredibly grateful to be able to continue to run this program year after year," says Lee.

Those interested in learning more about Uxbridge Cares can follow it on social media, on Instagram at @uxbridgecares or on Facebook, and can email the program at uxbridge-cares@hotmail.com

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### Council & Committee Meetings

#### Meeting Schedule for November, 2021

Monday, November 29  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION &  
TRANSITION COMMITTEE, 6:30 p.m.

#### Meeting Schedule for December, 2021

Thursday, December 2  
TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING  
9:00 a.m.

Monday, December 6  
COMMITTEE MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 7  
BUDGET MEETING  
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 9  
BUDGET MEETING  
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Closure

Brock Rd south from Hwy 47 to Taunton Rd will experience periodic lane restrictions to facilitate installation of a fibre optic network to February 25, 2022.

### Winter Parking Reminder

The Township needs your cooperation to ensure the snow clearing operations in our community go as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

Parking vehicles on the street in winter months can interrupt or prevent effective snow clearing operations. Snowplow operators clear snow as close to the curb as possible (or end of travelled portion of roadway where no curb exists), but road obstructions, like parked vehicles, prevent this task from being completed.

With winter weather conditions fast approaching, the Township of Uxbridge would like to remind residents and visitors that:

- Parking on Township streets is not permitted between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., from November 1 to April 1.
- Parking in a manner that interferes with snow clearing operations is not permitted

Abiding by these parking limitations is essential for expedient and thorough snow clearing operations. (Feel free to change the adjectives in this sentence!)

### Time to Enroll in the 2022 PAP Monthly Tax Plan

- Benefits - no worry about missed due dates or late payment charges. Monthly payments allow for easier budgeting.
- Eligibility requires your property to be fully assessed and your tax account up to date.
- Pre-Authorized Payment Forms (pdf) are available at [www.uxbridge.ca/taxes](http://www.uxbridge.ca/taxes) or at the Tax Department. Return completed Form and void cheque or bank form to the Township of Uxbridge Tax Department or email to [tax@uxbridge.ca](mailto:tax@uxbridge.ca).

**The deadline to submit your application is NOVEMBER 30, 2021.**

### Permit Parking Now In Effect

#### for Skate Park and Pump Track

The Township of Uxbridge has implemented permit parking in the new parking lot adjacent to the Skate and Pump parks at the Fields of Uxbridge.

**All** vehicles parked in this lot require a valid parking pass each time they park to avoid parking fines. The cost for non-residents is \$6.00 per day.

Residents of the Township of Uxbridge can register for a free permit. This permit allows them to register their vehicle on-site and park for no charge.

#### Attention Uxbridge Residents!

Get a head start and register at home for your **FREE** parking permit before your next visit. You can register in 3 easy steps. To learn more visit [uxbridge.ca/permitparking](http://uxbridge.ca/permitparking)

### Uxbridge Township Board and Committee Appointments 2018-2022

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge invites applications from members of the public who are qualified electors of the Township of Uxbridge who wish to have their names considered for appointment for the remaining Term of Council (expiring Nov.30, 2022) to the Heritage Uxbridge Committee. Heritage Uxbridge advocates for the preservation and conservation of heritage properties within the Township, and are committed to celebrating the Township's heritage and culture.

The Township is seeking five (5) members to join this dynamic Committee.

Any person interested in offering their services, and would accept an appointment, are invited to submit a Volunteer-Committee Member Application Form available on the Township's website [www.uxbridge.ca/volunteering](http://www.uxbridge.ca/volunteering) along with a letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience to the undersigned by 4:30 p.m. on **Friday, November 26, 2021.**

Any questions regarding these appointments may be directed to the Clerk.

Debbie Leroux  
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
905-852-9181 Fax: 905-852-9674  
P.O. Box 190, 51 Toronto Street South  
Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1

[dleroux@uxbridge.ca](mailto:dleroux@uxbridge.ca)

## Take the Plunge at Uxpool and Swim with the Best

### Registration for Winter Swimming Lessons begin November 25



Registration information can be found at  
[www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool](http://www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool)  
or by calling 905-852-7831



Do you notice anything different about this cat? His name is Remi, he has no eyes and is completely blind.

This cat was brought to the Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter in very rough shape. He required surgery to both eyes to relieve his pain. He is now thriving! Your donations and designer Uxbridge Township dog license purchases make such a difference to shelter animals like Remi.

#### For more information on donations :

Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter • 1360 Reach Street, Port Perry • (905) - 985- 9547 •  
[pound@uxbridge-scugog-animal-shelter.ca](mailto:pound@uxbridge-scugog-animal-shelter.ca)

## Honour someone this Holiday with a Commemorative Plaque

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# Real Christmas trees really scarce this year

by Justyne Edgell

Looking for a beautiful, 10 foot tall Christmas tree this holiday season? You may be out of luck.

"There just aren't any, and we are likely facing a major shortage for the ongoing future," says Mike Cormack, owner of Cormack's Tree Farm in Goodwood.

Last year, with the COVID boom of buying real Christmas trees, tree farms got depleted quite quickly. Cormack says their farm sold four times what they normally had in previous years. Along with this mass depletion, Cormack says tree farmers also faced hard growing conditions this year.

Sarah Youmans, of Spademan's Tree Farm, says that last year was the first in over 30 that they had to close ahead of Christmas Eve due to a tree shortage, and that the "ever-changing climate directly impacts the growth and livelihood of our trees each season."

"We had a very hot April-May, which caused trees to bud early, followed by a frost on May 29, which killed our entire planted inventory of 5,000 seedlings," says Cormack. "Furthermore, it killed the buds on many of our mature trees, stunting the entire year's growth."

Cormack also says that a hot and very dry August killed any of the seedlings that may have survived the frost.

Cormack wants to remind those hoping for a real Christmas tree that, while people may be used to seeing full fields each year, it takes on average 12 years to grow a perfect 7-foot tree (see accompanying diagram from Cormack Trees).

"Every year we plant and prune (shape) the trees until they are ready. And only about 10 per cent of what we plant actually makes it to your home."

Advice for those in the market for a tree this season - expect higher prices, expect smaller and disfigured trees and go tree hunting early!



# Eligible children now able to get COVID vaccine, parents able to get answers

by Justyne Edgell

Children ages five through to 11 are now able to roll up their sleeves for their COVID-19 vaccination.

Early Tuesday morning, the Ontario government opened booking for children five to 11 years old. Just as with vaccinations for the rest of our population, shots are available at community vaccination centres, and select pharmacies and medical clinics.

In Uxbridge, there is a community clinic open at the Sandford Hall. To find the clinic hours, availability and to book an appointment, visit the COVID-19 vaccines page of the Durham Region website. This web page also features a list of participating pharmacies, and can also relay which vaccine is available at that specific location. A calendar view is also available, showing all open clinics in the region, making it easier for those looking for a convenient clinic time and location.

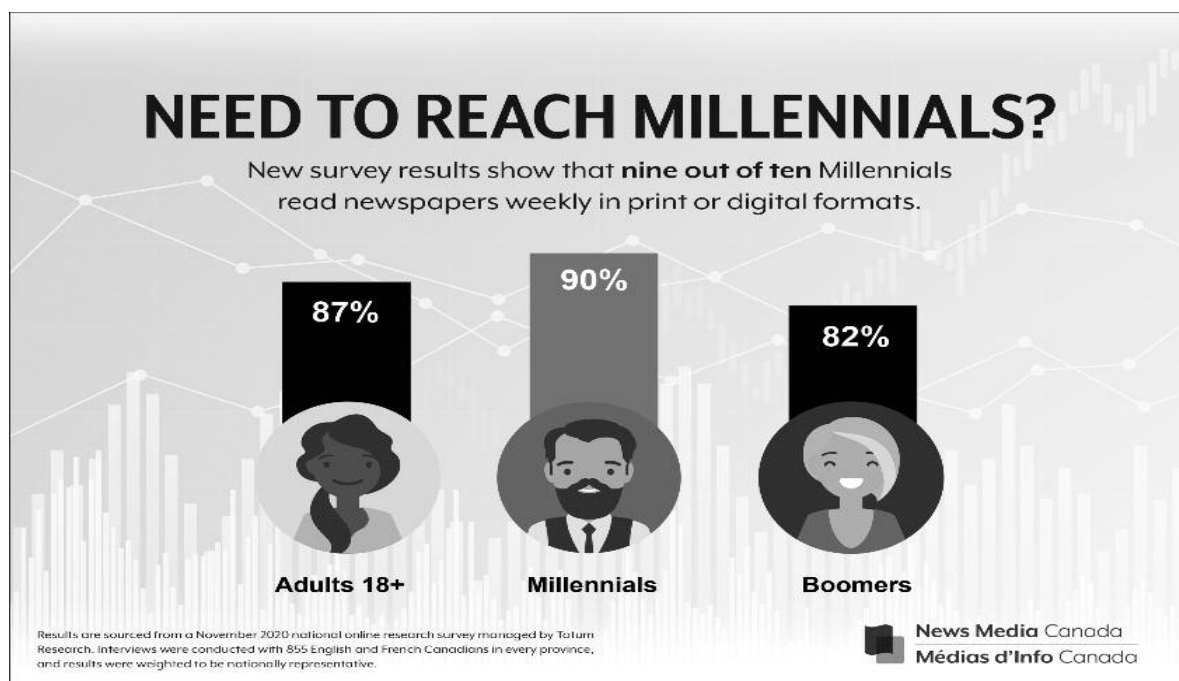
Last week, some local family physicians and a paediatrician hosted a town hall meeting to answer community questions about children and the COVID-19 vaccine. For those who missed this interactive information session, a recording will be posted on

Mayor Dave Barton's Youtube channel in the coming days.

Those who are hesitant or have questions about the COVID-19 vaccination and their children are encouraged to book a consultation with their child's family physician or paediatrician, or book an appointment with the SickKids confidential COVID-19 Vaccine Consult Service, available at [sickkids.ca/en/care-services/support-services/covid-19-vaccine-consult/](https://sickkids.ca/en/care-services/support-services/covid-19-vaccine-consult/)

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# Our two cents

## Everyone loves a parade

The *Cosmos* has used this space in the past to grouse and grump about a lot of various things, including something as innocent and innocuous as the Santa Claus parade. So we're to balance the scales a little and praise this year's parade to the hilt, because that's what it deserves.

Now, full disclosure - the *Uxbridge Cosmos* was a sponsor of this year's parade, and the *Cosmos's* publisher, Lisha Van Nieuwenhove, sits on the township's Santa Claus parade committee, which is a committee of council. It would stand to reason that the paper would do nothing but wax poetic about how fantastic this year's parade was, of course, but that said, if we really hadn't liked the parade, we just wouldn't do an editorial on it, one way or the other!

The results are in, though, and by all accounts, this year's parade was a resounding success. Certainly a success for a group of people who had never before staged a parade. The committee did have substantial input from Angela Horne who, along with her family, organized the parade for almost five decades. That information, along with all the other expertise that various committee members hold, saw the 60th anniversary parade go off without a hitch.

The highlight of the parade was undoubtedly the surprise appearance of Batman (sorry, Santa and Mrs. Claus - you know you're always adored!). His ever-so-serious demeanor and spiffy black Batmobile made jaws drop all along the parade route. Fans young and old were apparently gobs-macked by his presence, and he could have likely spent the day here in Uxbridge (which we heard him say he loved), meeting and conversing with residents. But alas, he other Bat-things to attend to.

The floats were amazing to see - lots of imagination goes into putting them together, and kudos to every organization and business that gathered people together to put an entry in the parade.

Of course, it was a pity that there weren't more bands, but let it be known that it wasn't for lack of trying. Due to COVID (isn't everything these days due to COVID somehow?) many of the bands just haven't been getting together to practice. Next year, we hope.

The most important thing about a parade, however, is the crowd watching it. It was so lovely to see so many people out watching the parade - some, in fact, say it was the largest crowd in quite a few years. It's hard to quantify, but Brock St. was thickly lined from start to finish. Thank you!

Uxbridge needed this parade. It kicked off the holiday season in style.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Looking for volunteers

It is almost Salvation Army Kettle time, which starts Dec. 2 at Zehrs and the LCBO. We need a few more volunteers to assist us in making sure every date is covered by one of Uxbridge's fantastic volunteers. Remember, the funds raised by Salvation Army at the Kettle helps those in need within our community with clothing, food, budget, jobs, housing, camp, and Christmas morning miracles under the tree.

Your local Salvation Army office is run by volunteers that want to make a difference and make sure every child has a Christmas morning to remember. Please contact Bev Northeast at 905-852-0090 or 905-640-3966, or email [beverlynortheast@gmail.com](mailto:beverlynortheast@gmail.com)

**Bev Northeast**  
**Salvation Army Uxbridge**

*The following letter was originally sent to Lori Riviere-Doersam, principal planner for the Region of Durham*

The Board of Directors for North Durham Nature is submitting this letter in opposition to Bridgebrook Corporation's application to amend both the Uxbridge Official Plan and land use zoning pertaining to lands at 7370 Centre Road.

As an organization promoting the importance of the natural environment in our community, we feel that this development, situated in a designated Greenbelt Protected Countryside area, will have a variety of negative impacts on the natural heritage features therein.

Firstly, this proposed development will surround and impact several riparian tributary areas of the Uxbridge Brook and lead to degradation further downstream. The Environmental Impact Study by Beacon Environmental (2021)

shows lot lines of the development plan come into close proximity to and even extending into the wetland boundaries at HDF2, which have been classified as valued and important. Adjacent human activities will interfere with breeding fauna, exacerbate the spread of invasive species, as well as chemically and physically alter the waterway itself through lawn sprays, road salt, and erosion. Furthermore, Tributary HDF1, which includes wetland and its buffer, in fact, will be completely buried. Proposed removal of significant woodland around HDF2 and construction of road infrastructures will impact temperature sensitive fish and other aquatic organisms by decreasing shade and changing water flow. It is important to protect these headwaters to maintain downstream wetland integrity.

Secondly, the report also cites the potential impact on provincially protected endangered species - specifically, 51 Category 2 and 3 Butternut trees along the southern boundary and potential bat roosting habitat. Compensation planting of this large number of Butternuts is not equivalent to retaining established trees as there is no guarantee that new plantings will succeed, nor can we rely on follow-up to replace unsuccessful plantings. Curtailing urban sprawl is key in protecting pockets of any remaining natural areas, so as to prevent the range of fragile species such as bats from further decrease. This entire area should not be disturbed.

Thirdly, and a bigger issue, is how the previous landowner had already destroyed a large piece of natural habitat on the property before transferring it to the developer. This way they could conduct an Environmental Impact Study of the little bit of natural vegetation with fewer environmental constraints than

were previously present. The October 28, 2021, issue of the *Uxbridge Cosmos* states that Mayor Dave Barton questioned activities on this land prior to presenting the application. The mayor is quoted saying, "It seems a little odd that someone would clear land for agricultural purposes and then 24 months later put in an application for development." The intention of the landowner is clear: get rid of the environmental constraints to make it easy for the developer to put in more houses than they otherwise could have.

Google Earth photos from 2017 and 2021 show how much natural vegetation was removed. By our calculations, approximately 5.7 ha of forest, 6.3 ha of shrubland (cultural thicket) and 1.6 ha of deciduous hedgerows were removed, for a total of 13.6 ha. That is a lot of wildlife habitat. How many healthy Butternuts or bat maternity trees were cut down and burned before the environment was assessed by Beacon Environmental? Landowners who engage in this kind of shameful activity should not be rewarded. Despite all the vegetation that has previously been removed, the plan put forward still requires the removal of some of the remaining natural area, including a piece of wetland.

In addition, there is increasing global demand to begin action on our climate crisis. By carrying on promoting urban sprawl into rural communities, this will contribute to transportation issues which are a significant component of the carbon footprint. Supporting 588 new homes will require additional community services which will further push the urban boundary. Our organization promotes the protection and regeneration of natural areas

*...continued on page 7*





# Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

## Thanks for all the smiles

Anyone who reads my columns regularly knows I've been in a bit of a mood lately, as we used to say. That's why this past weekend's Santa Claus parade gave a much-needed lift to my spirits.

For the first time in a long while, I found myself smiling (behind my mask) all during the hour-long parade. Whether it was a Grinch pretending to scare the little ones, or Batman watching to see the Grinch didn't get out of line, or the ramshackle hillbilly Shriners' float, there was much to delight. But mostly, for me, it was watching the youngsters watching the parade. That and the fact that for the first time in a long, long time, people gathered together to have fun, to enjoy the day. It was almost like receiving a booster shot.

I know it sounds creepy for an old man to say he loves watching children, but they never fail to put a smile on my face. Kids are honest. If they're happy, they show it; if they're unhappy, they show it; if they don't like you, they make no pretences. As Batman passed by, I asked a young boy standing next to me who is his favourite super-hero. He didn't miss a beat: "Spiderman."

It's because of the joy children bring me that I occasionally send kids into Blue Heron Books to pick up any book they want. They usually come out smiling, but I bet my smile is bigger.

However, my weekend smiles didn't end at the parade. I took a drive around town on Sunday and the smiles erupted once more as I travelled along Campbell Drive and saw all the inflatable Santas on the front lawns. I lost count at 50. The inflatable Santas have now also overflowed onto Cemetery Road. It's worth a drive, especially in the evening when all the Santas are standing upright. It will put a smile on your face.

From there, I went to one of my favourite destinations: the off-leash dog

park. I find it impossible to not smile as I watch the dogs run around and play with each other in carefree abandon. Each newcomer is greeted at the gate by those already there, eager to play with yet another friend. Their energy and enthusiasm are contagious.

Down in the retail section, businesses are putting a smile on my face with their Christmas decorations. Rutledge Jewelers, as usual, have turned their corner into a little Christmas oasis. Wixan's Bridge and Fig Kitchen & Market have dressed up their patios with large displays and others have somewhat whimsical decorations in their windows, such as the hockey-themed window in Preston Gallery.

And, to top the weekend off and bring another smile to my face, the Uxbridge Bruins ran their winning streak to five.

I'm not a big fan of Christmas, but I must admit that I need it this year simply because of the smiles it brings. But unfortunately, the smiles don't last long because there's not a lot to smile about these days. People in flood-ravaged British Columbia are suffering, while people on the east coast are bracing for some severe storms. COVID-19 continues to bedevil us, migrants are being used as political pawns in Eastern Europe, a murderous young thug gets off scot-free in the U.S., in large part because of the clownish antics of the presiding judge, the Russians are blowing up satellites in space. No wonder I've been in a mood.

So, I welcome every moment that brings a smile to my face, whether it be a Halloween parade in Elgin Park, the Santa Claus parade, a friend waving hello across the street, kids trying to hopscotch on Brock Street or inflatable Santas. I send a big "thank you" to all who, one way or another, put a smile on my face. I just wish the mask didn't hide the smiles so much.

Tell me, am I wrong?



# The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

## 'Movember' message just in time

It was an odd place for something meaningful to happen. Last Sunday, a bunch of us trudged into the hockey arena from a chilly morning outside. In our dressing room, bags of equipment were tossed on the floor, but nobody was in any hurry to put on hockey gear. Then, for some reason, we got talking about prostate exams. And initially it sparked a predictable response around the room.

"Well, if I was in that position, I wouldn't want a doctor with long, fat fingers doing the examination," somebody said. There was some laughter.

"Unless, maybe it was a female physician," another said in jest.

Oldtimers' hockey dressing rooms – since the concept of recreational hockey for men and women over the age of 40 began back in the mid-1970s – are a phenomenon unto themselves. At least in my experience (inside oldtimers' men's locker rooms) little or nothing of consequence ever gets discussed. It's kind of like an episode of *Seinfeld*, the TV show about nothing. The chatter – led by amateur comedians in the group or those with the loudest voices – doesn't amount to much more than bad jokes, shooting down the latest Leaf coaching strategies and/or poking fun at each other's ineptitudes on the ice so far this season.

But last Sunday morning was different. Following the prostate exam jokes, the conversation took a serious turn when my teammate Neil Orr, who's 59, chose to speak up. "I'll tell you everything I know about prostate cancer," he told us. And, as we all made ourselves look busy putting on our hockey gear, the dressing room went quiet, and everybody listened to Neil describe his experience. He openly recounted how the past 12 months have changed him from someone half-heartedly interested in prostate cancer, to a survivor of prostate cancer, to an advocate among his peers to take it seriously and join the fight to save lives.

After Neil's pep talk in a room full of men mostly in their 40s and 50s, and after we'd finished our Sunday morning SOFA Hockey League game, we all went our separate ways. But I thought I owed Neil a note of thanks. I emailed him that I appreciated his willingness to talk about his condition so openly. I suggested that, unlike women (I suspect), men rarely talk about these things that way, almost suggesting with their indifference, if not their spoken word, "Hey, I'm stronger than that

stuff. It won't beat me!" Neil referred me to his blog. In it he'd written:

"It was just hours after (my doctor) told me my diagnosis, that I found myself searching for purpose. I didn't cower and ask, 'Why me?' Instead, I said, 'Why not me?' Why not give cancer to someone who has the capacity to fight it physically and mentally?"

Remarkably, Neil Orr, who served 28 years with York Regional Police before retiring in 2012, has participated in the moustache-growing fundraisers since the early 2000s, when the whole idea started with a pair of Australians campaigning to fight breast cancer. But when Neil's urologist, Dr. DiConstanzo in Stouffville, told Neil he had prostate cancer, the idea of raising awareness suddenly became personal. His prostate cancer screening count was 58 (about 50 points higher than it should be) and like his doctor, Neil committed himself to "throwing everything they had" at his disease.

Here's why. According the Canadian Cancer Society, this year (2021) 24,000 Canadian men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and 4,500 of them will die from it. That's 12 Canadian men every day. But the good news is that thanks to increased awareness of the disease and the greater number of men taking the prostate specific antigen (PSA) test, death rates have declined steadily since 1994.

"It's certainly a story that NEEDS to be told in a room full of men," Neil Orr wrote me back in his email on Sunday. "Speaking about it has kind of become the purpose of this journey for me."

By coincidence, today (Thursday), as my column is published, I am in consultation with my family doctor about a number of medical things – some that have been put off because of the pandemic, but others sparked by what happened last Sunday morning. And thanks to my teammate Neil Orr, I'll be raising some of the points he made clearly and calmly in that oldtimers' hockey dressing room where rarely anything of consequence is discussed.

And you know what? I couldn't care less whether the examining physician has long, fat fingers or not, or whether the examiner is male or female. As Neil Orr helped a bunch of us understand – just as this month's Movember campaign comes to an end – prostate cancer is no laughing matter.

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



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

Promo Code NSP-HATL-UXBC

## JACC looking for help filling Holiday Boxes

by Justyne Edgell


The Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity (JACC) is starting the collection of in-kind donations for its annual Holiday Box program.

"The Holiday Box Program selects 50 JACC families living across Ontario who are in the greatest need as their household incomes are well under \$30,000 per year," says events and development officer Mackenzie Todd. Boxes are carefully packed with toys, hygiene products, gift cards, family games, a small monetary gift, and other thoughtful gifts "to make their holiday season a little brighter," says Todd.

JACC provides financial support for Ontario families of sick children, who have limited incomes and extraordinary costs surrounding their child's serious illness. JACC has helped more than 15,000 sick children and their families. Todd says "we 'fill in the gaps' and act as a safety net for Ontario children when all other resources have been exhausted."

To fill the boxes, JACC is looking for help from the community.

*...continued on page 8*



### SEASON'S GREETING!

FROM

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# PAPpy Holidays!

It's that time of year! Been a while since your last pap test? This holiday season, Uxbridge Health Centre is reminding you to treat yourself to some self care, over 21 years old should get a pap every 3 years.



## Uxbridge Health Centre

Call the clinic to book an appointment 905-852-1009



## Santa Claus parade returns for 60th year - and a few surprises

by Roger Varley

Santa Claus returned to Uxbridge on Saturday, accompanied by the usual assortment of elves, snowmen, grinchies, youth groups . . . and Batman?!

For many, Batman's appearance was one of the highlights of the 60th annual Uxbridge Santa Claus parade. Driving his custom-made replica of the Batmobile, Batman - portrayed impressively by Stephen Lawrence of Brampton - wowed young and old alike.

The parade began with the customary fleet of Uxbridge fire department trucks, accompanied by members of council. The hour-long parade featured a number of old favourites, including the Uxbridge Legion Pipes and Drums Band, the Shriners' train and a troupe of unicycle riders from St. Joseph's Catholic School.

Local sports groups were well represented by the North Durham Warriors, North Durham Blades, Uxbridge Skating Club, Uxbridge Swim Club and the Uxbridge Bruins. Although there were a couple of horse-drawn carriages, courtesy of the Uxbridge Fall Fair, there were fewer horses than usual, apparently because of insurance concerns. And, of course, riding high atop the final float were Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.

Along the retail section of Brock Street, parade watchers were treated

to free popcorn, hot chocolate, balloons, candy canes and Christmas craft bags.

The crowd that gathered for the parade appeared to be as large as in past years, although many chose not to wear masks.



Photos by John Covers

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Home Auto Life Investments Group Business Farm Travel

### Letters, from page 4

that help offset these carbon inputs. This green space is what many people in this community value when they choose to live in a small rural town. We urge the Uxbridge coun-

cil not to approve the proposed development on lands at 7370 Centre Road.

We appreciate having the opportunity to be able to comment on this most important local matter.

**Cara Gregory, President**  
North Durham Nature



## Chances Are Jewellery Event

**1 day only!**

**Saturday, November 27**  
10am - 4pm

20 Bascom Street, Upstairs

All proceeds to Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary

**What a turnout for our 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Claus Parade!**  
**Thank you to everyone who attended the event.**  
**Thank you to our sponsors.**

**Thank you to parade entrants and participants, and to those who supported the event:**

Durham Region Police  
Rogers TV  
The Uxbridge BIA  
The Uxbridge Cosmos  
Township of Uxbridge Staff  
Uxbridge Pathfinders  
Uxbridge Secondary School  
student volunteers

Ron Cordingley  
Jack Ballinger  
Joe Harnam  
David Sud  
Paige Cassibo  
Robert Farris

**Thank-you also to the 2021 Santa Claus Parade Committee:**

CAO Kristi Honey  
Mayor Dave Barton  
Councillor Willie Popp  
Debbie Leroux  
Lisha Van Nieuwenhove  
Christina Curry

James Drake  
Adam Ruppel  
Todd Miller  
Colleen Baskin  
Rob Ashton





**JACC Holiday Box, from page 6**

"Hygiene products make a great contribution to our caregiver

bags. Things like soap, shampoo, socks, hair ties, manicure kits, first aid items," says Todd. "As well as gift cards, \$10 Tim Hor-

tons or McDonald's cards, \$25 for Amazon, Walmart, or President's Choice."

Donations for the Holiday Box

Program are being accepted until November 26, with donation pick up available in Uxbridge and Stouffville. Those interested in participating or getting involved, email Mackenzie at [m.todd@je-nash.org](mailto:m.todd@je-nash.org)



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[www.DiscoverUxbridge.ca/HolidayTrail](http://www.DiscoverUxbridge.ca/HolidayTrail)



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**63%** Read for advertising (flyers, inserts, ROP)

**55%** Reading for Classified ads, Employment & Real Estate

Source: News Media Canada

## Home Tour mascot resurrected to oversee seasonal pop-up shoppe

by Justyne Edgell

Charlotte's Den, a "sustainable, up-cycled used furniture boutique" will be popping up in Uxbridge in the near future!

Sponsored by Angela Wood and Maureen Gilleece of Chestnut Park Real Estate, Charlotte's Den is run by Wood and a group of volunteers, with 100 per cent of the proceeds going to Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity (JACC). The store will open on a demand basis as items are restocked.

"Charlotte's Den will offer unique signature pieces of furniture, artwork and accessories displaying the latest trends and concepts by volunteer decorators."

The name "Charlotte's Den" comes from the mascot of the Christmas Home Tour, who was named Charlotte back in 2003. A playful, sophisticated lady with considerable fashion flare! Angela Wood, who

started the home tour, says she thought it was time to bring Charlotte back out on the town for this project.

"Charlotte is a fun, lighthearted cartoon figure that welcomed 1,000 people each year to the self-directed tour. Her image donned posters, newspaper ads, flyers and signs throughout the community. She became a recognizable figure within the area," says the team behind Charlotte's Den.

The first sale will happen from December 3 to 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 9 Main St. S., behind the Chestnut Park office.

"Charlotte's Den is passionate not only about sustainability and upcycling but also helping children and their families."

Charlotte can be found online, on Instagram at [@charlottes.den.uxbridge](https://www.instagram.com/charlottes.den.uxbridge), on Facebook, or by email at [charlotte@woodteam.ca](mailto:charlotte@woodteam.ca)

**CHARLOTTE'S DEN POP UP**  
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# Bruins on a hot streak with five straight wins

by Roger Varley

After a disappointing start to the season, the Uxbridge Bruins have finally found their goal-scoring skills, with five straight wins in the last two weeks.

Win No. 4 came last Friday at the arena when the Bruins overcame a late start and defeated the Lakefield Chiefs 5-2. The Bruins had trouble getting on track in the first period and found themselves with a 2-0 deficit heading into the dressing room.

However, in the second period, the home team scored three goals in less than three minutes to take the lead. Quinn Meek scored the first Bruins goal, assisted by Tomas Palandra and

Ryan DaPonte. Less than a minute later, DaPonte assisted Daniel Giorgio on his goal. Then, Quinn Yule scored what proved to be the winning goal, assisted by Zach Power and Trent Underwood.

Returning from the second break, Steven Bozios wasted no time notching an unassisted marker just 38 seconds into the third period. DaPonte wrapped up the scoring as the period wound down, assisted by Meek and Andrew Swan

On Sunday, the Bruins visited the Ice in Georgina and marked up an impressive 4-1 win. Caleb MacLeish opened the scoring late in the first period, assisted by Giorgio and Dalton Strongman, followed quickly by Bozios' goal, assisted by Power.

Yule scored the only goal of the second period, with assists going to Anthony Messina and Strongman. DaPonte picked up his fourth point of the weekend with an unassisted goal early in the third. Georgina spoiled the shut-out bid with their lone goal at the 5:14 mark.

With this streak, the Bruins are now at .500, with seven wins and seven losses. They remain in fifth place in the seven-team Orr Division of the PJHL's Junior C league.

The Bruins were scheduled to meet the Chiefs again in Lakefield on Tuesday night. They return to the arena tomorrow (Friday) at 7:45 p.m. to face the Little Britain Merchants and then it's back off to Lakefield again on Saturday.

# Food bank working to improve accessibility

by Roger Varley

In a deputation to council Monday, Donald Mertens, chair of the Loaves and Fishes food bank, said the food bank is working to face the challenge of accessibility.

He said the food bank, located at St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church, faces some challenges because clients have to go down stairs to the basement which houses the group.

He noted that over 1,000 visits were made to the food bank in 2020 and more than 500 people in the township rely on the food bank for support. He pointed out that about one third of those using the bank have children. He also pointed out that the rising cost of food is having an impact on food security. On the plus side, Mertens said, donations to the food bank reached a record level in 2020 and the number of volunteers at Loaves and Fishes is about 50.

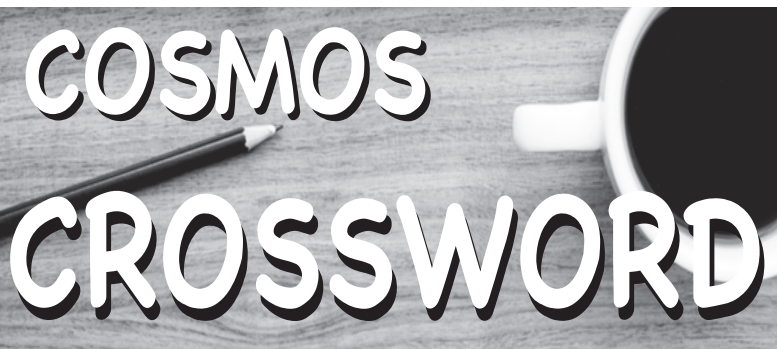
"We are so amazed at the generosity

of our whole community," he said.

Recipients receive five-to-seven days' worth of food - or a combination of food and gift cards - once a month, but Mertens added: "We won't turn anyone away in an emergency." He said gift cards enable recipients to purchase food items that are either not supplied by the food bank or that better suit their needs.

In response to a question from Regional Councillor Gord Highet, Mertens said the food bank does not want to rely too heavily on gift cards, saying there is a potential for difficulties.

The food bank is open every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The bank has been in operation for 32 years.



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- Across**
  - 1 Atmospheric pollutant
  - 5 Little food measuring tool
  - 8 Show
  - 11 Twenty-four carat
  - 12 Languish
  - 13 Elbow-wrist connection
  - 14 Word of agreement
  - 15 Comprehending
  - 17 Bugs
  - 19 Concur
  - 22 Hottie
  - 26 Noted Warhol subject
  - 27 Minute particle
  - 30 Coloring
  - 31 Virgo month, for short
  - 32 Currently
  - 34 W.W. II fliers
  - 35 Give the cold shoulder
  - 37 Test
  - 38 Vacuum tube (abbreviation)
  - 39 Boombox
  - 41 Curds other half
  - 43 In an annoyed fashion
  - 46 Gambling mecca (2 words)
  - 49 Protection: var.
  - 53 Sound rebound
  - 54 The whole shebang
  - 55 Classic art subject
  - 56 Devoured
  - 57 Christened
  - 58 Auth. unknown
- Down**
  - 1 Vacation spot
  - 2 Short form of a famous flower
  - 3 Neighbor of Ida. (state for short)
  - 4 Spirit in a bottle
  - 5 Nicknames
  - 6 Royal intro
  - 7 Table setting item (2 words)
  - 8 "When We Were Kings" subject
  - 9 Bed and breakfast
  - 10 Make fun of
  - 13 Unexpected sports outcome
  - 16 Hog's home
  - 18 "Groovy!"
  - 19 Collect
  - 20 Scrawny
  - 21 Scamp
  - 23 Pressure
  - 24 Consisting of one element
  - 25 Boxing blows
  - 28 Downhill sport
  - 29 "To Autumn," e.g.
  - 33 Two-masted sailing vessel
  - 36 Hooray!
  - 40 Helm heading
  - 42 Laughing dog
  - 44 Lung problem
  - 45 Oasis
  - 46 Sward
  - 47 Shakespeare division
  - 48 Any ship
  - 50 Firearm
  - 51 Wedding promise
  - 52 Rep.'s counterpart



**Friday, Nov. 26**  
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**Saturday, Nov. 27**  
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**ZEPHYR COMMUNITY CENTER** Bag of Books for a Buck, Sat., Nov. 27, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the same time a Craft Sale is being held on the Hall property. All welcome to both events, all COVID rules are in effect, must have double shots and masks.





# Film with Foote

*column by John Foote*

## Oscar candidates

*In the Nov. 11 edition of the Cosmos, John Foote began listing his favourite Academy Award contenders. Here are a few more that are on his list of potential winners.*

**TICK TOCK BOOM!** - Jonathan Larson died at 35 after gifting Broadway and the world with *Rent*, a superb play about the AIDS crisis, living in New York and the emerging millennium. The young genius' life is explored here with Andrew Garfield playing (and singing) Larson. In a year of musicals, this one could sneak into the race, Best Actor the logical spot. *Hamilton* wunderkind Lin-Manuel Miranda directs the film and has shown himself to be a miracle worker.

THE POWER OF THE DOG - Jane Campion makes a triumphant return to cinemas with a modern western about masculinity. Set at the turn of the century, Benedict Cumberbatch gives the performance of his career as Phil, an angry rancher who seems to hate the world. He takes under his wing an effeminate young man who is determined to be true to himself. Phil tries to mold the boy into something like himself. Where it goes will shake you to your very soul. Stunning cinematography is a highlight to this brilliant film.

WEST SIDE STORY - Like everyone else into movies, I am interested in seeing what Steven Spielberg has done with *West Side Story*. Can one improve on one of the greatest film musicals ever made? Ten Academy Awards? Groundbreaking choreography? If anyone can, Spielberg can do it and the film looks terrific. If he can bring the kind of intense grit the

film needs, look out. Will the Academy be willing to award Oscars to a remake of a film they clearly loved? That is the greater question.

THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH

- In stark black and white, Denzel Washington thunders across the screen as Macbeth, the man who would be king, with three-time Oscar winner Frances McDormand as his power-hungry queen. Joel Coen directs for the first time without his brother, and the trailer for this black-and-white film looks incredible. A daring film, often surrealistic, and brilliantly dominated by Washington's ferocious, terrifying Macbeth. Absolutely in the race. HOUSE OF GUCCI - The Academy loves Ridley Scott, and this

could be his year. They are saying that he is "due." *House of Gucci* explores the scandal that took place after a murder within the family where the wife of the grandson kills her husband. Lady Gaga looks Oscar worthy again as the killer, Adam Driver portrays the grandson, and the cast is populated by the likes of Jared Leto (said to be Oscar worthy) and Al Pacino. If the least bit good, expect it to a nominee, but if it is fun, it could go gold.

THE TENDER BAR - George Clooney directs this character study set within a bar where the regulars meet with their friends and strangers and talk about their lives.

Ben Affleck is getting serious Oscar talk for his performance and once again Clooney makes it clear he is so much more than just an actor. This gifted director stands tall again with a film that could break into the race for gold. Early reviews have stated this is the finest work of Affleck's career.

*There are more - keep watching for more Film with Foote Oscar picks!*



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#### Event Details

##### When:

December 1, 2023 12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM

##### Where:

Webinar

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