

# The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 18 No. 12

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, March 24, 2022

SPECIAL EDITION - Summer Camps Pull-Out Section Inside!



**COMMAND POST UXBRIDGE** - Members of 32 Territorial Battalion Group (32 TBG) exercised their communications and logistical capabilities last Saturday at Wooden Sticks Golf Club. For more on the exercise, see page 10.

Photo by John Cavers

## Hybrid meetings likely coming to a council near you

by Roger Varley

Uxbridge council could be moving to hybrid council meetings in the near future.

Clerk Debbie Leroux told council in a report that such meetings won't come into place before the end of April, but the possibility exists that the township could move to such a format in the future. Hybrid meetings mean those who want to attend meetings in person at the council chambers could do so, while others could take part virtually on their computers (or phones) through Microsoft Teams, a platform that is similar to Zoom.

Mayor Dave Barton said the current virtual set-up allows people to access the meetings from anywhere. He noted that three of the deputations council received Monday came from people who were outside the township bound-

aries. He offered that hybrid meetings could eventually become permanent fixture to allow easier accessibility to the public.

Leroux' report said township staff have been in contact with an A/V equipment supplier and "it appears that the install will commence the week of March 21." She said that would allow a hybrid solution to be in place effective May 2. But she cautioned that there might be a delay.

"Right now it's either one or the other (virtual or in person)," she said. "We shouldn't go to hybrid until we're ready."

Also discussed during Monday's meeting was the possibility of PFLAG banners flying during June, which is Pride Month. In a report to Council, Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey recommended that banners in support of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians

and Gays) be installed on a number of light standards in June in the Brock Street/Toronto Street area.

Honey noted that the month of June recognizes several important dates of significance, including Seniors Month, Indigenous History Month, Bike Month, Age Friendly, and Accessibility Week. She said the township's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group is working with other community and committee groups to determine if they would like to erect banners this year as well.

Councillor Todd Snooks, the only councillor to vote against Honey's recommendation, said he was concerned about opening up the township's banner program to other groups and what it would cost taxpayers. Honey said she stood by her recommendation, noting that

...continued on page 3

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

## Council & Committee Meetings

### Meeting Schedule for March, 2022

Monday, March 28  
COUNCIL MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND  
TRANSITION, 6:30 p.m.

### Meeting Schedule for April, 2022

Monday, April 4  
COMMITTEE MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, April 6  
BIA BOARD, 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE-  
CEMETERY RD. NEIGHBOURHOOD  
STUDY AND OPA, 7:00p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 7  
TRAILS COMMITTEE, 9:00 a.m.

## Spring Lessons at Uxpool



Registration begins March 23  
Lessons begin April 25  
To Register go to:  
[www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool](http://www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool)

# 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](mailto:info@uxbridge.ca)

## Notice of Public Meeting and Open House Concerning the Cemetery Road Neighbourhood Study and Related Official Plan Amendment

This Notice is to inform you that the Planning Committee of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge will hold a statutory public meeting to make available adequate information to the public regarding, and to consider, a proposed Township Official Plan Amendment pursuant to Section 17 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, to implement the Cemetery Road Neighbourhood Study. The statutory public meeting will be preceded by a public open house to allow for an opportunity for additional review of the Official Plan Amendment and the Neighbourhood Study on which it is based.

### PURPOSE OF PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT:

- The purpose of the Official Plan Amendment is to introduce a vision and related development policies for the lands in the Cemetery Road Neighbourhood in the Uxbridge Urban Area.
- The Amendment is based on the results of the Cemetery Road Neighbourhood Study which examines issues related to the ongoing intensification/redevelopment of the Cemetery Road Neighbourhood including impacts on natural features and significant trees, servicing, and community character.
- The Cemetery Road Neighbourhood is subject to the policies of the Uxbridge Urban Area Secondary Plan of the Township of Uxbridge Official Plan. Schedule "A", Land

Use and Transportation Plan Uxbridge Urban Area designates the majority of the area as "Residential Area". The exceptions are the cemeteries which are designated "Cemetery Area" and two areas at the south end designated "Environmental Constraint Area". In addition, the apartment site adjacent to Toronto Street is designated "Residential – Higher Density".

### LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:

The Cemetery Road Neighbourhood is located in the Uxbridge Urban Area. It takes the form of an elongated crescent connecting, at both its north and south ends, to Toronto Street South generally between the northern entrance to Campbell Drive and the boundary of the Uxbridge Urban Area to the south. The location of the property is graphically illustrated on the key map below.

**FILE. NO.:** Official Plan Amendment 67 (OPA 67)

**APPLICANT:** Township of Uxbridge

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information is available on the Township of Uxbridge website at [www.uxbridge.ca](http://www.uxbridge.ca)

As per current Township policy related to COVID 19, physical attendance is not permitted at this public meeting or open house.

The public meeting and open house are being held electronically and will be livestreamed for public viewing at [calendar.uxbridge.ca](http://calendar.uxbridge.ca). The meeting and open house dates and times are as follows:

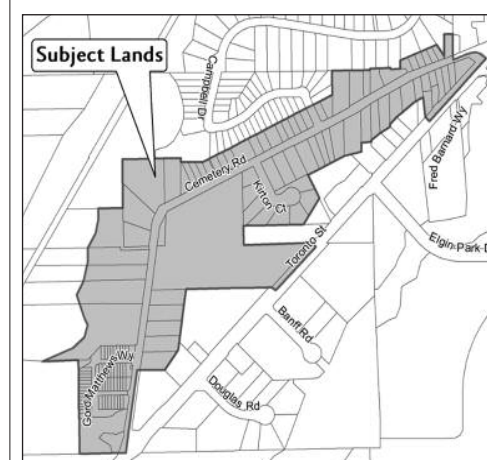
**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE:**  
**Wednesday April 6, 2022**

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE TIME:**  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC MEETING DATE:**  
**Monday, April 11, 2022**

**PUBLIC MEETING TIME:** 7:00 p.m.

**KEY MAP (not to scale)**



## Closures

York/Durham Line (Reg. Rd. 30) from north of Durham Reg. Rd. 39/Queensville Sideroad to south of Holborn Rd., East Gwillimbury. Bridge repairs require road closures from Jan. 21, 2022 until 2024.

## Weight Restrictions on Lake Ridge Road (Reg. Rd. 23)

Weight restriction of 5,000 kilograms or five tonnes per axle comes into effect immediately and until further notice, on Lake Ridge Road (Reg. Rd. 23) from Myrtle Road (Reg. Rd. 5) to approximately 2 kms south of Goodwood Road (Reg. Rd. 21) in the City of Pickering, Town of Whitby, and townships of Scugog and Uxbridge.

## BUILDING PERMIT AND INSPECTION REQUESTS ARE NOW ONLINE!

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Effective Mar. 1, 2022

## Notice of Weight Restrictions



Seasonal weight restrictions  
on Township roads are now in  
effect.

Restrictions are in place until  
May 1st. Weather conditions  
will determine the actual end  
to the enforcement season.



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



# Uxbridge at a Glance continued

## Employment Opportunities

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

<b>Treasury Department – Payroll and Accounting Coordinator, Permanent F-T</b> Closes Friday, March 25, 2022	<b>Parks Department – Adult Skilled, Horticulture, Contract, F-T</b> Closes Friday, April 1, 2022
<b>Uxbridge Historical Centre – Programming and Events Coordinator, Contract, F-T</b> Closes Friday, March 25, 2022	<b>Uxpool – Lifeguards and/or Instructors, Summer Session</b> Closes Friday, April 1, 2022
<b>Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter - Animal Control Assistant, Kennel Attendant, Summer Contract</b> Closes Friday, March 25, 2022	<b>Public Works Department – Student Labourer</b> Closes Friday, April 1, 2022
<b>Uxpool – Lifeguards and/or Instructors, Spring Session</b> Closes Friday, March 25, 2022	<b>Parks Department - Summer Camp Supervisors (18+), F-T and P-T</b> Closes Wednesday, April 6, 2022
<b>Development Services Department – Chief Building Official, F-T</b> Closes Friday, March 25, 2022	<b>Development Services Department - Building Inspector / Plans Examiner, F-T</b> Closes Friday, April 8, 2022
<b>Clerk’s Department - Communications Assistant, Summer Student</b> Closes Monday, March 28, 2022	<b>Uxbridge Historical Centre – Collections Associate, Summer</b> Closes Friday, April 15, 2022
<b>Parks Department – Summer Camp Counsellor, 16+</b> Closes Thursday, March 31, 2022	<b>Uxbridge Historical Centre – Programming and Community Engagement Associate, Summer</b> Closes Friday, April 15, 2022
<b>Parks Department – Assistant Summer Camp Counsellor, 15+</b> Closes Thursday, March 31, 2022	<b>Uxbridge Public Library - Children’s Summer Program Coordinator</b> Closes Friday, April 15, 2022
<b>Parks Department – Summer Student, General Labourers, F-T</b> Closes Friday, April 1, 2022	<b>Uxbridge Historical Centre – Museum Educators (2), Summer</b> Closes Friday, April 22, 2022
<b>Parks Department – Summer Student, Horticulture, F-T</b> Closes Friday, April 1, 2022	<b>Uxbridge Historical Centre – Museum Preparator, Summer</b> Closes Friday, April 22, 2022

## Board & Committee Appointments 2022 Santa Claus Parade Committee

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 an appointment to the Santa Claus Parade Committee for the 2022 Uxbridge Santa Claus Parade.

The purpose of The Santa Claus Parade Committee is to organize and promote the Uxbridge Santa Claus Parade.

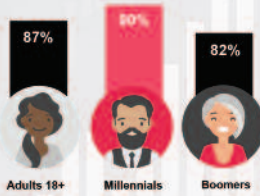
Any person interested in offering their services, and would accept an appointment, is invited to submit a Committee Member Application Form available on the Township’s Website [www.uxbridge.ca](https://www.uxbridge.ca) along with a letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience to the undersigned by **Friday, April 1, 2022**.

Any questions regarding this Committee may be directed to the undersigned.

Debbie Leroux, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
P.O. Box 190, 51 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1  
Telephone: 905 852-9181  
[dleroux@uxbridge.ca](mailto:dleroux@uxbridge.ca)

## NEED TO REACH MILLENNIALS?

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



News Media Canada  
Médias d'Info Canada

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

### Banner month, from page 1

PFLAG would provide the banners and pay for their installation. She said there would be between four and six banners in the area.

In another report on Monday, the township's Canada Day committee said it wants to offer residents a "scaled back" version of Canada Day this year, but the report to council was light on specifics.

Noting that there were no in-person celebrations the past two years, the committee said a modified version would be best in 2022. The committee said it proposes to focus its efforts on a fireworks display and "community engagement activities leading up to and including Canada Day."

The committee's report said details will be made public closer to the date.

## Season comes to an end for Bruins

by Roger Varley

And, just like that, it's over.

The Uxbridge Bruins' 2021-22 season came to a close on Saturday as the Lakefield Chiefs registered a 2-1 victory in Lakefield to win their Orr Division best-of-seven quarter-final series four games to two.

The difference in Saturday's game came down to a bench penalty incurred in the second period by the Bruins for having too many men on the ice, which allowed the Chiefs to score their first goal. Anthony Messina, assisted by Quinn Yule and Travis Winder, tied the score with what turned out to be the Bruins' final goal of the season, but the Chiefs scored early in the third to win the game.

Two nights earlier at the arena, with the teams tied at two games apiece, the Bruins once again had difficulty with their passing, leading to Lakefield taking a 2-1 lead in the first period. Dalton Strongman scored for Uxbridge. A similar scenario in

the second period gave the Chiefs a 4-2 lead, with Ryan DaPonte scoring for the Bruins. The home squad rallied in the third with Strongman notching a power-play marker but, with goalie Noah Acciaccaferri pulled for the extra attacker, the Chiefs scored an empty netter with just 25 seconds remaining.

The *Cosmos* selected Yule as player of the game for the Bruins and Will Keith for the Chiefs.

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# Our two cents

## The guilt of happy

With COVID-19 restrictions pretty well lifted throughout the province, spring in the air and the sun shining radiantly (as of this writing, anyway), it would be very easy to step into that sunshine, lift a maskless face to the sky, breathe deeply and release a long sigh, letting go all the frustrations and anxieties of the past couple of years. This would, in turn, make way for a contented, peaceful feeling that some may even call happiness. A well-deserved happiness.

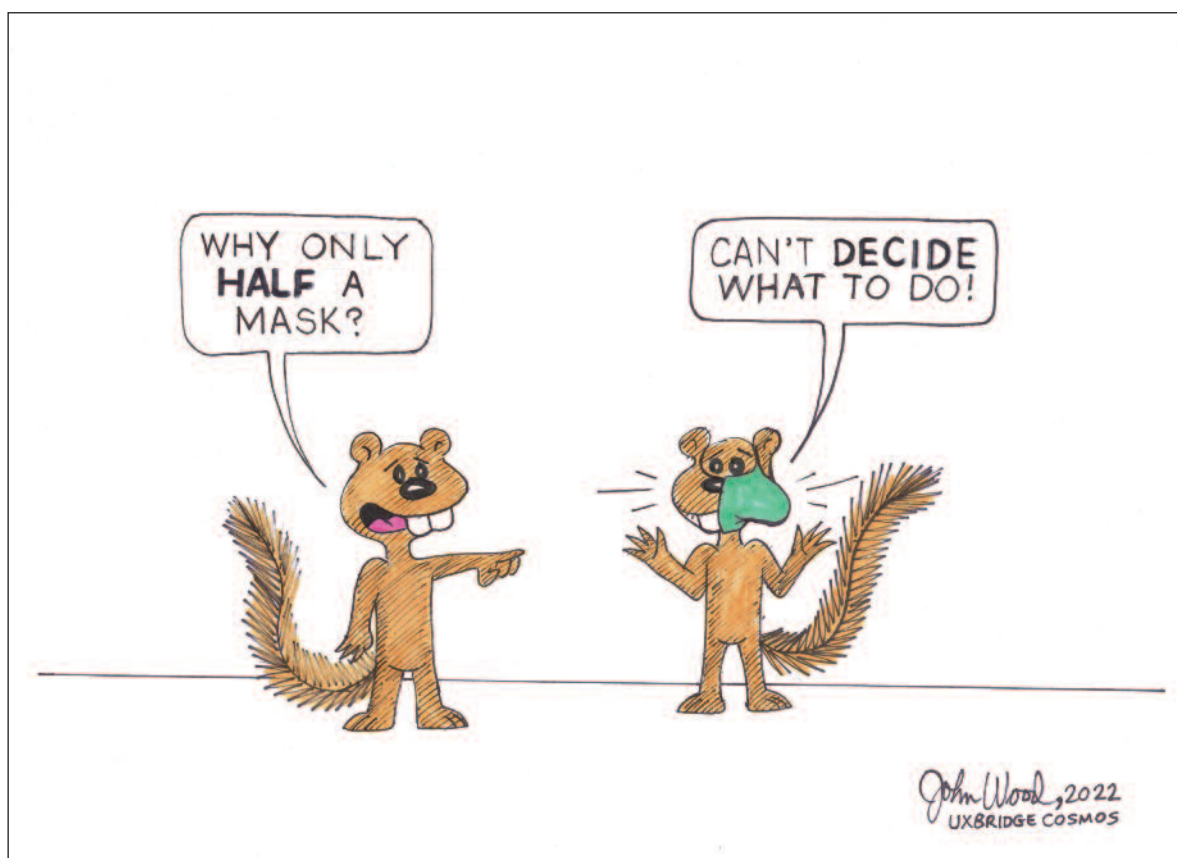
We're finding it difficult, however, to allow ourselves to feel true release or bliss over finally being allowed to be naked (read: maskless) out in public when we know full well there's a war waging overseas. Yes yes, we know, wars in some varying degree of severity have been going on incessantly since we can't remember when, but this one feels particularly ominous. We won't put down in black and white why it feels that way - it makes it too real.

This shouldn't be happening. Not in 2022, when we're supposed to be "woke", aware, sympathetic, harmonized, finally *getting it*. Sadly, it would appear that many of us don't get a damn thing. And that puts the other almost eight billion of us roaming this planet in great danger. As if climate change and Crocs with heels weren't enough.

As difficult as it is, we want to try and hang on to a little bit of bliss, because that feeling spreads outwards, into the universe, and can spread to others very easily. Who knows what frozen heart can be melted with a kindness, a smile, a light mood?

We have quite a bit to look forward to over the next few months. There's a new version of the Book Drunkard Festival, and Springtide has announced it's going ahead with its festival (in the summer). There are playgrounds to be built, friends to catch up with, family members to reunite with, and elections coming up (you have your fun, we'll have ours!).

We commit to trying to spread happy, even when we feel guilty for feeling so. After all, we won't help anyone by being glum or concerned all the time. A little levity will help us all carry one another's burdens.



## Letters to the Editor

Thank you, Madam Editor, for setting Louise Muller straight on two separate points in her letter to the *Cosmos* of March 17 (your editorial note in the same issue). Editors generally refrain from pointing out erroneous information and misinformation that occur from time to time in letters to the editor. However, when a letter is so riddled with misinformation as that of Ms. Muller, your intervention is entirely appropriate. You have limited yourself to addressing the most blatant and egregious errors, misconceptions and delusions. For me to deal with all of them would take several columns of space far better devoted to other matters. Many of her assertions are unworthy of comment.

I've been a reader of the *Cosmos* since its inception and cannot recall a letter to the editor that has been so infused with misinformation and fallacy as Ms. Muller's was. She has the audacity, or perhaps is so utterly misguided, to label journalists Roger Varley and Ted Barris as "worthless" for not "keeping government institutions in check." That statement by itself is an indication of how unhinged her thinking is. She is of course entitled to her opinions, however ill-founded they may be.

But that does not mean such opinions are harmless. A healthy democracy depends on an informed citizenry. Many astute journalists have, in recent years, sounded an alarm about conspiracy theorists and a growing segment of the population that is adopting perceptions which are grossly divorced from reality. Think USA, where one quar-

ter of Americans believe against all evidence that Trump was the true winner of the 2020 presidential election. To say that is a scary situation is not an overstatement. Extremely warped thinking does not bode well for a healthy democracy and for our common future.

**Earle Lockerby  
Sandford**

I read in a letter to your paper that "rarely have we seen so much hate and so many lies out of your normally fine little paper." This was from L. Muller (March 17 edition). There was my name, along with Pat Asling, E. Lockerby, Roger Varley and Ted Barris, all identified as the perpetrators of these nefarious deeds. I don't pretend to speak for the others, but I felt a touch of pride by the time I'd finished reading, mostly because she did not cite one single example of lying or hate by any of us. She just called us names and dropped a passive/aggressive plug for the fun-loving, selfless occupiers with cold bums and weaponized vehicles. When she was done, the editor applied to her letter the longest fact check I have yet to see in the *Cosmos*. The go-to tactic employed by conspiracy theorists, non-vaxxers and convoy backers is to dismiss everyone as liars and hateful when facts are presented that disagree with their opinion, usually followed by an attack on the messenger. Just like this was.

Not in defense of being called a liar but to demonstrate a more telling point, I want to mention this penchant for calling others liars. Any definition of lying will include

that lying is an attempt at deception. "Karen" is not lying when she says we are living under tyranny and that I am one of the minions propping up the tyrant. She is not trying to deceive us; she actually believes this. She states "fortunately millions have witnessed the tyranny of the last couple of years." She counts us as fortunate to have experienced tyranny within that statement and, to strengthen her point, she later calls it "abusive tyranny" as though there is some other sort.

As for calling me hateful, let me confide to you, from one sheep to another, that someone has pulled the wool over her eyes. I don't go for hate mongering and I don't support causes associated with hate groups or white supremacists carrying our flag adorned with swastikas, under any circumstance. Do I think the trucker convoy was mostly misguided, entitled malcontents with an unclear message, duped by a bunch of bad people, collecting money to support bad goals that have nothing to do with helping truckers? Definitely. I pity them because I don't like to see my fellow Canadians being used like that and I am very glad it's over. Now all that's left behind is the shattered world's image of Canadians as intelligent, reasonable, peace-loving people, and the estimated \$50,000,000+ bill to pay for the three-week protest/party/siege/occupation. But I don't hate them. I think maybe that my sarcasm is mistaken for hate because I like to poke fun at things I find absurd,

*...continued on page 10*

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



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Your Universe  
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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.





# Ux-Camps

Registration begins April 5 at 9:00 am

**Early Bird Registration Bonus**  
Register by May 31, 2022, to receive a 5% discount per camp registration and a free Ux-Camps t-shirt!

**How to Register**  
Online [uxbridge.ca/recreation](http://uxbridge.ca/recreation)  
Phone 905-852-7831  
In Person Uxpool, 1 Parkside Drive, Uxbridge

**Contact**  
Email [camps@uxbridge.ca](mailto:camps@uxbridge.ca)  
Phone 905-852-7831

Note that summer camp programming is subject to change without advanced notice, due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. All programming is subject to provincial, regional, and/or local COVID-19 regulations at the time of the camp and could differ from what is advertised.

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5 km or 10 km Run/Walk  
and Kids Dash

Register online: [runuxbridge.com](http://runuxbridge.com)

Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary  
UHA





# Ux-Camps

## Jr. Adventure

Looking for a summer adventure? This is a fan favourite! Enjoy treasure hunts, outdoor exploring, water activities, outdoor sports, games and crafts! At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. Swimming Thursday and Friday.

## Jr. Whiz Kids

Discover your inner scientist! Do hands-on science experiments, build your own airplane, create an erupting volcano, or make ooey-goey slime! Campers will also participate in indoor and outdoor activities, including a creek walk. At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. All experiments subject to change. Swimming Thursday and Friday.

## Jr. Art

In a creative and imaginative environment, Jr. Art campers will enjoy drawing, sketching and painting, and experimenting with different techniques such as watercolours, paper maché, clay and more! Jr. Art campers will bring home new masterpieces each week. Artists will also participate in outdoor games and activities. Each Thursday, parents/guardians are invited to the Uxbridge Historical Centre to walk through the Jr. Art Camp Art Show. All art projects subject to change. Swimming Friday.

## Jr. Cheer

At this high-energy, non-technical cheer camp, campers will enjoy indoor and outdoor activities, with a variety of dance

games, cheers, and group routines in a fun, action-packed environment. No previous dance or cheer experience required! At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch a cheer performance on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. T-shirt included for Friday performance. Swimming daily.

## Jr. Sports

One camp with all the best indoor/outdoor sports and games! Campers will develop their skills and enjoy play of a variety of sports, including basketball, floor hockey, soccer, archery, swimming, bowling and more! This camp is suitable for all levels and abilities and encourages fitness and participation with a focus on conditioning, team building, and physical literacy. At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. Swimming daily.

## Trailblazers

Campers will enjoy a variety of camp favourites, all wrapped up in one action-packed week! Explore our parks, creeks, trails, and participate in outdoor staples like hiking, fort building, campfires and more! Campers will also partake in favourites such as outdoor sports, water activities, arts and crafts, and camp games. At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. Swimming daily.

## Dance & Cheer Camp

Have a blast dancing and cheering your heart out at this non-technical, high-energy cheerleading and dance camp! Learn choreography and cheers with the basic moves of Cheerleading. Campers will enjoy indoor and outdoor

activities, including the famous costume parade, talent show, end of the week, friends and family performance in the camp show at Elgin Park for Friday performance. No previous experience required. Swimming daily.

## Drama Camp

Campers will explore the world of drama in a supportive and hands-on environment. Campers will learn in areas such as directing, acting, and more! Campers will create a short play to perform at the end-of-the-week Camp Show. Family and friends are invited. Never taken home! Not to worry, all campers will have a role to play! Take place at the historic Uxbridge Historical Centre. Swimming daily.

## Sr. Creators

A camp that gets your gears turning, flowing, and inspires you to create. Imagine science, art, and DIY (Do It Yourself) in a packed camp! Campers will experiment with science experiments, work on mechanical projects, improve their handy work making things. This camp is to have fun creating things like you! This camp will provide a fun environment, so all can enjoy. At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. Subject to change. Swimming daily.

## Outdoor Quest Camp

Outdoor Quest is the ultimate outdoor adventure! Campers will get their hands dirty in creeks, and trails. Campers will enjoy a variety of canoeing, Geo-caching, and more! Campers will also partake in favourites such as outdoor sports, water activities, arts and crafts, and camp games. At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. Subject to change. Swimming daily.

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Register on or before May 31 to receive a 5% discount				
Week 1: July 4 - 8	Week 4: July 25 - 29	Week 7: August 15 - 19	Registration Open	
Week 2: July 11 - 15	Week 5: August 2 - 5 (Short week: pro-rated)	Week 8: August 22 - 26	All programming is subject to change and could differ from what is advertised.	
Week 3: July 18 - 22	Week 6: August 8 - 12	Week 9: August 29 - September 2		
Camp Name	Ages	Drop off Location	Pick-up Location	Camp Location
Jr. Adventure	5-8 yrs	Elgin Park Playground	Elgin Park Playground	Elgin Park: Red Barn
Jr. Whiz Kids	5-8 yrs	Elgin Park Playground	Elgin Park Playground	Elgin Park: Grey Barn
Jr. Art	5-8 yrs	Uxbridge Historical Centre	Uxbridge Historical Centre	Uxbridge Historical Centre, Sch
Jr. Cheer	6-8 yrs	Uxpool Upstairs Hall	Uxpool Park	Uxpool
Jr. Sports	7-9 yrs	Elgin Park Baseball Diamond	Uxpool Field	Elgin Park
Trailblazers	7-9 yrs	Elgin Park Bandshell	Uxpool Field	Elgin Park Bandshell
Dance & Cheer	9-13 yrs	Uxbridge Music Hall/ Elgin Park Bandshell	Uxpool Field	Uxbridge Music Hall/Elgin Park
Drama Camp	9-13 yrs	Uxbridge Music Hall	Uxpool Field	Uxbridge Music Hall
Sr. Creators	9-13 yrs	Elgin Park/Uxbridge Historical Centre-UHC	Uxpool Field/UHC	Elgin Park/Uxbridge Historical
Outdoor Quest	9-13 yrs	Elgin Park Picnic Shelter	Uxpool Field	Elgin Park
Sr. Sports	10-13 yrs	Bonner Fields	Uxpool Field	Bonner Fields
Leadership In Training Camp (LIT)	13-14 yrs	Uxpool Upstairs Hall	Uxpool Field	Uxpool
Counsellor In Training (CIT)	14-15 yrs	Uxpool Upstairs Hall/ Elgin Park	Uxpool Field	Uxpool
Jr. Finale	5-8 yrs	Elgin Park Playground	Uxpool Field	Elgin Park
Sr. Finale	9-13 yrs	Elgin Park Picnic Shelter	Uxpool Field	Elgin Park



ous “Spa Day,” a fashion and  
and other theme days! At the  
l family are invited to a final  
y at Elgin Park. T-shirt included  
previous dance or cheerleading  
ng daily.



ld of theatre production in a  
onment. Campers will engage  
ting, producing, improv, and  
small production to showcase at  
w at Elgin Park. Friends and  
n part in a production before?  
have a role! Drama Camp will  
ridge Music Hall to create an  
ning daily.

s going, your creative juices  
o put your skills to the test.  
Do It Yourself) all in one action-  
perience the wonder of science  
ingful art projects, and will  
aking DIY projects. The goal of  
ing – whatever that may look  
vide a creative and welcoming  
participating! At the end of the  
e invited to watch campers  
p show at Elgin Park. Projects  
daily.



camp  
e for outdoor fun! A true fan  
e chance to explore our parks,  
ll also learn the fundamentals  
Wayfinding, while developing  
in a safe and structured  
forget other staple activities  
ng, archery, fort building, and

outdoor/indoor camp games! At the end of the week, family  
and friends are invited to watch campers participate on  
stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. Swimming daily.

Sr. Sports

One camp with all the best indoor/outdoor sports  
and games! Campers will develop their skills and  
enjoy play of a variety of sports, including  
basketball, floor hockey, soccer, archery,  
swimming, bowling and more! This camp is  
suitable for all levels and abilities and encourages fitness  
and participation with a focus on conditioning, team  
building, and physical literacy. At the end of the week, family  
and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage  
in our camp show at Elgin Park. All sports and activities  
subject to change. Swimming daily.

LIT - Leadership in Training

This one-week program is designed to teach and expand  
participants’ leadership skills, with an emphasis on those  
required to be a future Camp Counsellor. Topics covered  
include Basic First Aid and CPR, volunteer responsibilities,  
professional communication, program planning, an  
exceptionalities workshop, resumé building, and most  
importantly, the power to influence as a positive and  
effective leader. Successful completion of this course allows  
participants a volunteer field placement for TWO weeks of  
the summer! A great learning opportunity and addition to a  
resumé. Ages 13-14yrs. Limited space in leadership  
programs. We highly recommend registering early to avoid  
disappointment!

CIT - Counsellor in Training

This TWO-WEEK certification program is designed for youth  
who are looking to gain knowledge and experience working  
with children in a fun, recreational environment. Learn and  
expand leadership skills, lesson planning for specific ages and  
abilities, physical literacy, and municipal policies and  
procedures. Participants who successfully complete this  
program will be certified in Standard First Aid and CPR ‘C’ and



are invited to partake in a volunteer field placement for a  
minimum of two weeks. A great learning opportunity and  
addition to a resume! Ages 14-15yrs. Limited space in  
leadership programs. We highly recommend registering early  
to avoid disappointment! Participants must be present for the  
full two-week course in order for successful completion.

Jr. and Sr. Finale



The best of the best! All your summer favourites rolled into  
one fun-filled week! Campers will participate in drama,  
sports, crafts, games, fort building, theme days, canoeing,  
campfires, archery, swimming and more. Finale camp will be  
divided into Junior and Senior age groups. End your summer  
with an action-packed, high-energy week you’re sure to  
never forget! Note: canoeing and archery are reserved for Sr.  
Finale participants only. Please register early to avoid  
disappointment! Swimming daily.

Every camp has an optional Friday Pizza Party.



Cost per camp registration and a free Ux-Camps t-shirt!

Registration opens April 5 at 9:00am [Uxbridge.ca/recreation](https://uxbridge.ca/recreation)

Subject to provincial, regional, and/or local COVID-19 regulations at the time of the camp  
as advertised.

	Time	Sessions	Cost per Week	Optional Costs	EXTENDED CARE:		
					Swimming	AM Care	PM Care
Uxpool House	8:30am-4:30pm	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	\$198	\$5 Pizza Lunch	3:00 - 4:00pm	7:30 - 8:30am	4:30 - 5:30pm
	8:30am-4:30pm	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	\$198	\$5 Pizza Lunch	Thursday & Friday	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park
	8:30am-4:30pm	3,4,6,8	\$205	\$5 Pizza Lunch	Thursday & Friday	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park
	8:30am-4:30pm	2,5,7	\$205	\$5 Pizza Lunch	Friday	N/A	N/A
	8:30am-4:30pm	2,5,7	\$205	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	N/A	Uxpool Park
Bandshell	8:30am-4:30pm	1,3,6,8	\$205	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	N/A	Uxpool Park
	8:30am-4:30pm	2,4,7	\$198	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	N/A	Uxpool Park
	8:30am-4:30pm	1,3,6	\$205	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Elgin Park (wk 6)	Uxpool Park
Centre-UHC	8:30am-4:30pm	4,8	\$198	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	N/A	Uxpool Park
	8:30am-4:30pm	5,7	\$205	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY (wk 5)	Elgin Park (wk 5)	Uxpool Park (wk 5)
	8:30am-4:30pm	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	\$198	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park
	8:30am-4:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7,8	\$205	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	N/A	Uxpool Park
	8:30am-4:30pm	1	\$256	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Volunteer	Volunteer
	8:30am-4:30pm	1 and 2	\$405 (inclusive)	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Volunteer	Volunteer
	8:30am-4:30pm	9	\$198	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park
	8:30am-4:30pm	9	\$198	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park

**A FREE CAMP EXPERIENCE**

# SKY

EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE WITH GOD  
MARK 10:27

**AGES 4 - 11**

**JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup>**

**8:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

TO REGISTER GO TO  
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Ux-Camps

FAQs Policies & Reminders

Age of Participants

Our camp programs are designed and programmed for specific age groups. Participants must meet the minimum age requirement within the current calendar year in order to participate in the camp program.

Conduct

Ux-Camps is proud to provide safe, secure, and welcoming environments for all participants and staff members. Coarse language, bullying, vandalism, or physical or aggressive behaviour is strictly prohibited. Such activity will be recorded, reported, and may result in the removal from the camp and/or facility at the discretion of Management.

Health and Safety

All campers with a medical concern(s) are required to complete a Medical Form prior to their first day of camp. Medical Forms can be found in the information package, which is emailed to the address on file prior to the first day of camp. If a participant has a communicable disease or a current public health concern, we kindly ask that they not attend Ux-Camps.

Camp Inclusion

If your child requires special assistance for one of our programs, please notify the Camp Director by June 3, before registration, so we can properly accommodate you. All 1:1 requests require an interview with the Camp Director to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of your camper. In order to meet the needs of as many participants as possible, families requiring 1:1 assistance can request support for up to two (2) weeks of camp. If you have any questions regarding our 1:1 system, please contact the Camp Director at camps@uxbridge.ca or 905-852-7831.

Refunds, Transfers, or Credits

Please visit [www.uxbridge.ca/recreation](http://www.uxbridge.ca/recreation) to review current refund, transfer and/or credit policies.

Camp Information Packages

All camp specific program information (i.e. medical forms, permission to pick up forms, etc.) will be emailed to the email address associated with the camper's account by the Thursday evening before the camp start date. Please ensure that your email address, emergency contacts, and camper medical and special request information is up-to-date in our system. Should you have any further questions after reading the camp package, please contact the Camp Director at camps@uxbridge.ca or 905-852-7831.

Allergy Awareness

Ux-Camps strives to create the safest environment as possible for all participants. Peanut/nut products are not permitted at camp due to severe camper and staff allergies. All other food allergies (if any) will be listed in your camp information package for that specific week, for parent/guardian awareness. We ask you to please be conscious while packing camper lunches. Allergies should be listed as a medical concern on your camper's Medical Form. Our facilities are used by the public and although we promote a peanut/nut free environment, we cannot guarantee the absence of allergens in our facilities.

Swim Tests

Each camp will have the chance to participate in an hour of free swim at least once per week. Should your child choose to participate, a swim test may be required. A deep end swim test consists of swimming the width of the Uxpool (there and back), in a front crawl, without stopping. A shallow end swim test consists of only one width of the shallow end. A swim test is required if: the camper wishes to swim in the middle or deep end, or is over the age of six (6)\* and wishes to swim in the shallow end without a lifejacket. The passing of the swim test is at the discretion of the lifeguards only. Campers may either be granted full access of the pool (including deep end), partial access of the pool (shallow and middle end only), or may be asked to remain in the shallow end. \*Campers aged 6 and under are required to wear a lifejacket, as per Uxpool policy, and are not required to participate in a swim test.

Sign In/Out Procedures

All campers are to be signed in and out with their camp Supervisor by an authorized parent/guardian. Prior to your camper's first day of camp, please fill out a 'Permission to Pick Up' form, located in your camp information package, listing and authorizing specific persons to pick up your child. Those who arrive to pick up a camper will be asked to provide a piece of photo ID matching the authorized person(s) before the camper is released from our care. If you need to update your Permission to Pick Up list throughout the week, please speak with your camper's Supervisor.

Late Fee Policy

A \$5 late fee will apply for every five minutes after 4:30 p.m. that a camper has not been picked up and who is not registered for Extended Care. To avoid a late fee, please consider registering your camper for Extended Care, should you anticipate not being able to arrive on time for pick up.

Extended Care

AM Care is available for certain camps and is offered at Elgin Park, between 7:30-8:30 a.m. We are not responsible for your camper before 7:30 a.m. Please see camp flyer for availability. PM Care is available for certain camps and is offered at the Uxpool, between 4:30-5:30 p.m. The late fee policy will apply to those who pick up after 5:30 p.m. Please see camp flyer for availability.

Post Dated Payments

Option to post-date 50% payment to June 20, 2022 (at the discretion of the Camp Director). Please email camps@uxbridge.ca for more information or call 905-852-7831. Post-dated payments are not possible for online registrations.

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## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Easy does it

In a sign that some semblance of normality is returning to life in Uxbridge, a number of organizations were granted approval by council on Monday to go ahead with events in the next couple of months that will give the general public an opportunity to mingle with friends and neighbours.

Lee Goldberg received the nod to once again bring the Springtide music festival to town late in July. It won't exactly be Spring, but at least it will be back. Sally Kotsopoulos and Bob Armitage of the Uxbridge Lions Club were given the okay to hold a "walk or roll" event in Elgin Park on May 7 to raise funds for their proposed new accessible playground. The Uxbridge Farmers' Market will again be allowed to block off Victoria Street every Sunday from May 1 to Oct. 30 to hold their weekly event, and the Canada Day committee told council of its plans for a "scaled back" version of Canada Day festivities. Erin Bennett had his plans for an Ontario Cup mountain bike race at Wood Newton at the end of April approved and Barb Blower of the Maamawi Collective was told it's okay to use Elgin Park on June 5 for an event to mark National Indigenous Peoples Day.

After months of semi-isolation because of COVID-19 and a long, brutal winter, it will be good to get out and see old friends again and enjoy the activities these folks have planned for us. Many will be cheering, unmuffled by that damned strip of cloth.

But - (there's always a "but") - it remains to be seen what the next couple of weeks brings our way. As Robbie Burns said: "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men. Gang aft a-gley."

Since the provincial government this week eliminated almost all masking mandates (there are still some exceptions), we can now go to restaurants, bars, sports facilities and stores without wearing a mask. The same government has also ordered all school boards to end their masking requirements. (As an aside, a couple of boards apparently are digging in their heels on that order.) It will be interesting, to say the least, to see

what results from these moves.

In France, where most restrictions were lifted about a week ago, there has been a 36-per-cent increase in new infections since then. Germany is also seeing a spike in new cases. In South Korea, the death rate has reached such proportions that the government has ordered crematoria to work overtime to clear up the backlog of bodies. Even in China, where the authoritarian government has no trouble at all with shutting down cities of millions of people to control the spread of the coronavirus, cases are surging again.

In Canada, things do not seem quite so desperate, but, even so, almost every province continues to record deaths attributable to the disease. In the grand scheme of things, the number of daily Canadian deaths might seem rather small, but if that number related to traffic fatalities you can be sure there would be calls for stronger traffic enforcement by police.

So what will happen here in Ontario if we see a surge in new cases over the next couple of weeks because the mask mandate has been rescinded? What are we likely to see in our schools as a result of the government's no-mask order? If cases soar again, will masking mandates be reintroduced? My guess is "not likely," given that we will have a provincial general election in just over two months.

However, we can hope for the best. I will likely attend a couple of the aforementioned events - (should they not be postponed or cancelled) - and I'm sure many others are of like mind. It will be good to see old friends and acquaintances again. But, I will be wearing my mask for a while longer. I don't see it as a hardship and after all this time it's not even an inconvenience any more. I just hope a lot of other people decide not to throw caution to the wind and act as though COVID-19 never existed.

But woe betide anyone who tries to give me a hard time over my choice to wear a mask. It seems to me that my choice to wear a mask is just as valid as anyone else's choice not to.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Identity lost and found

Last Sunday, about 1 o'clock in the afternoon, I disappeared. I wasn't hiding. I wasn't trying to escape. In fact, I'd just returned home from a getaway-weekend hockey tournament in Bancroft – an annual event my oldtimers teammates and I enjoy. As I arrived home, however, I felt my pocket, noticed my wallet was missing. I began retracing my steps. One of my hockey buddies and I had stopped for coffee. I'd paid the cashier, picked up the coffee cups and pastry and promptly forgot my wallet at the cash.

"Did anybody turn in a wallet left on the counter?" I asked an employee over the phone.

"Not that I know of," she said.

I asked her to check with a supervisor or manager. But the answer was the same. Nothing in the lost-and-found. Nothing on the counter, the floor, anywhere. The wallet I'd absentmindedly left behind was gone. Consequently, my debit card and my credit cards were gone. Worse, my health card and my driver's licence and other ID cards, all gone. At least on paper and plastic, I had disappeared. I have never been physically or sexually assaulted, and having my wallet stolen would never come close to that kind of trauma. But I still felt, with the theft of those citizen identifiers, that my privacy had been invaded and my privileges stolen. I'm sure I'm not alone in this, but I felt stripped of my identity.

Nevertheless, after kicking myself most of Sunday afternoon for being so careless, I began the painstaking process of cancelling or replacing all those pieces of paper and plastic in my wallet that kept me solvent or identified me at hospitals, police stations, restaurants, grocery stores, polling booths or vaccination clinics. My first stop, of course, involved virtually cutting my credit cards to pieces. Not easy. Not fun. Particularly with financial organizations, who – to my way of thinking – seem more worried about their security than mine. "What were the circumstances of the theft?" they ask. "Who normally has access to the account?" Etc., etc. The credit card company ultimately promised me a new credit card, but I kept wondering if they considered me the criminal or the victim.

That all changed, however, on Monday, when I got to our Pace Credit Union branch

in Uxbridge. I always do my banking there in-person, so when Laura, one of their long-standing tellers, heard my sad story she offered heartfelt sympathy and concern. She quickly checked to see if any unusual debits might have been tapped against my account. Then, she issued me a replacement card in less than five minutes. And as I made my way to the door, she said genuinely, "Hope you have a better day."

Armed with my brand-new debit card, I made my way to the Service Ontario office. I expected a long lineup, a lot of questions, replacement fees and probably having to stand in front of that automated camera and white background for new antiseptic portraits for my driver's licence and health card. Well, I guess, while Sunday had not been my day, Monday was. I met service rep Kelly, who patiently listened to my entire wallet-theft story. "No problem," she said with a smile. "We'll get you fixed up with replacements right away."

"What about new photos? Do I have to do those all over again?"

"Nope," she said. "We've got your picture on file."

As it turned out, there was a small replacement fee. But unlike other visits to government offices in the past, I felt as if this civil servant really cared. We even struck up a conversation about a common interest – veterans' stories. She told me about her grandfathers' service in the Second World War, and about another relative who worked at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., on 9/11. "His office was right where the hijacked plane hit," she said, "but fortunately he was not in the office that day."

I left the Service Ontario office with all the temporary ID I needed. But more important, unlike the feeling of having been violated by the thief who stole my wallet, I felt respected by the system and nearly human again. All I needed – to reappear – was the replacement of one last accessory to get me back on track. I tripped into a store, found the men's wear department, and bought a replacement wallet. Somehow, just having that inanimate accessory back in my pants pocket – albeit a few plastic cards and dollars lighter – helped give me back my identity. Very restorative.

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

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## Holtzheimer, Aloysius (Al)

Peacefully at Uxbridge Cottage Hospital on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at the age of 88 years. Al of Zephyr, beloved husband of Marga (née Knapp). Dear father of Jan Holtzheimer (the late Tracey) of Zephyr. Loving Opa of Mikaela (Darren Panepinto) and Sarah. Cremation. Arrangements in care of the Forrest & Taylor Funeral Home, Sutton. Memorial donations to Mt. Pleasant Zephyr Missionary Church. Memorial condolences may be made at [www.forrestandtaylor.com](http://www.forrestandtaylor.com)



## MALONEY, Patrick,

of Zephyr, Ontario, was born in Newmarket on February 21, 1967. He died on March 17, 2022, by the side of his daughters Cara and Leah Maloney, and his sister, Tanya Comrie, in Markham-Stouffville Hospital. Son of Shawn (deceased) and Sheila Maloney. Brother of Shane Maloney (Elizabeth Gates, deceased); David (deceased) and Larry Bleasdale; and Leon Maloney (deceased) (Barbara Lockie). Patrick also leaves behind many nephews, nieces, cousins, aunts, uncles, and other loved ones.

He single-handedly raised his daughters and honourably raised others, including Shanna Ryan. He dedicated his working life to the IUOE Local 793, the highways, and firearm safety. His free time was spent at his woodlot in Kinmount, splitting wood by axe and creating artwork and structures with wood, soapstone, iron, and earth. Patrick could also charm a crowd with his wailing harmonica. He walked the world in his duster and with his trusty beagle (Mister Guinness) by his side. His everlasting comfort and ability to make us cry with laughter will be missed. We will remember him through the knowledge he has passed on to us from ancient times, his morals of empathy and acceptance of all folk, and his intensity to work at a level most humans could not fathom. Feared by some and loved by many, we will forever carry his legacy in our hearts.

Our dear Patrick will now be laid to rest with his ancestors peacefully in Brechin. Join and share your stories of remembrance for the viewing at Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge, L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073) on Saturday, March 26, 2022, from 9:00 a.m., and service to follow at 10:00 a.m. Online condolences can be made at [www.lowandlow.ca](http://www.lowandlow.ca)



## Focus on Finance with Tammy Scuralli, Edward Jones

*Filing your taxes: DIY or hire a professional?*

Considering whether to complete your taxes yourself or hire a tax professional? Here are some pros and cons of each to help you decide.

For “Do it yourself,” the pros are: Save money. You can likely save money if you do your taxes yourself. Anyone can file electronically through NETFILE, or you can use online software (for a fee).

You can also increase your financial fitness. As you review your taxes, you may find small changes you could make, such as maxing out your registered plan contributions or donating items for a tax deduction.

The cons are: Time. If you file your own taxes, be ready to commit more time than if you hire a tax professional, especially if you work

for yourself or own your own business.

Also, there is always a risk of error. Even if you use tax preparation software, you may miss a deduction or take one that turns out to be incorrect.

If you choose to hire a professional, here are the the pros: Peace of mind. Your tax professional should know the tax laws and stay updated on anything new – something you might not have time, or interest, to do.

Also, you get audit assistance: In the unlikely event you are audited, your tax professional may work with you to prepare or work with the CRA directly on your behalf. Be sure to understand whether they offer these services and the amount they charge if you need them.

The cons are: Cost. Cost can be a drawback if you are considering

hiring a professional to complete your tax returns for you, especially if your tax situation is complicated.

As well, you must plan ahead. When is a tax professional’s busiest time? Tax season. So, you’ll likely have to schedule an appointment in advance and definitely not at the last minute.

The choice ultimately comes down to the complexity of your tax situation, comfort level, effort you are willing to put forward and cost.

*This column, written and published by Edward Jones, Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund, presents general information only. Insurance and annuities are offered by Edward Jones Insurance Agency (except in Quebec).*

*For more information, please contact Tammy E. Scuralli, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones, at 905-852-1244.*

## Army arrives for low-key exercise

by Roger Varley

For a casual observer, there was not much activity to see on the weekend when members of 32 Territorial Battalion Group (32 TBG) camped on the Wooden Sticks golf course parking lot for a communications and logistical capabilities exercise.

The contingent in Uxbridge was part of an exercise that saw the battalion also set up at Markham fairgrounds and in Tottenham. As part of the exercise, signallers also established long-distance communications with the 31 Signal Regiment in London, Ont. and 32 Signal Regiment (UK) in Glasgow, Scotland.

Since it was strictly aimed at providing and maintaining communica-

tions in the event of a disaster or emergency, no weapons or ammunition were carried at any point during the exercise.

Only about 20 service members, all reserves, were at the Uxbridge location. So low-key was the event in Uxbridge that there were no signs of an encampment other than one tent and a few vehicles on the lot. Meals were provided to the Uxbridge crew from Markham and the men and women either slept in the vehicles or the command tent.

32 TBG is comprised of local Canadian Armed Forces Reserve units from 32 Canadian Brigade Group, the Army Reserve of Toronto in the GTA and Niagara.

...Letters, from page 4

like “Karen’s” metaphor of the convoy as a symbol of “the never-ending boxing match between freedom and tyranny.”

I suggest that she puts on the blue and yellow trunks and heads off to Lviv to step into the ring for a couple of rounds with (Vladimir) Putin. She can even drape herself in the Canadian flag if she likes - that would make me and most other Canadians proud. I think she’ll be especially thrilled that no vaccine or face masks are required, but I wouldn’t stray too far from the gas mask if I were her. There’s a tyrant on the loose over there.

Colin Murphy  
Uxbridge

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## EVENTS

**FRIDAY NIGHT EUCHRE.** Uxbridge Legion. 7:30 pm. Vaccination certificate required. No food, beverages or snacks to be brought in. Cost \$7 per person.

**UXBRIDGE MINDFULNESS/INSIGHT MEDITATION** is resuming in-person meetings Every other Sunday, 10 a.m. (next one April 6). Whether experienced or new to meditation, all are welcome. Location is Blue Heron Studio. Email Gail: ghorner550@gmail.com 4/14

**SCUGOG ARTS small town BIG** April 30 - May 8, 2022. small town BIG will be a multi-disciplinary arts festival with events organized by various presenters including Scugog Arts. Festival will feature 23 events at 22 venues, with over 75 artists supported, and in collaboration with 14 different arts and culture presenters. The events include live music, visual art, theatre, film, Indigenous culture and more! Check out the full festival lineup at [scugogarts.ca/small-town-big/](http://scugogarts.ca/small-town-big/) For more information, contact [info@scugogarts.ca](mailto:info@scugogarts.ca) or call 905-982-2121.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**GOING TO CUBA?** Over-the-counter medications are urgently needed. Please call for more information 416-705-9993.



# Lavender dreams bloom all around Uxbridge

by Justyne Edgell

While many of us are dreaming of Spring, lavender farmers around Uxbridge are planning far past that. June and July, and sometimes August, are known as the lavender blooming months, a time when the rolling hills are awash with purple, filling the air with a relaxing perfume as the wind blows.

In recent years, the township has seen several lavender farms pop up around it. Not only are these farms producing the beautiful product that goes into soaps and oils and even sometimes used in cooking, but these farms also open their gates to allow the community a relaxing visit in their little oasis.

"Lavender production is best on sandy, well-drained soil because it does not like standing water," says Dr. Sean Westerveld, the Ginseng and Herbs Specialist of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAFRA). "Based on the soil map, it appears that much of Uxbridge has these types of soils ranging from sand to sandy loam." To allow for better drainage, growing lavender on hilly areas is also preferred. "The rolling topography in your area is

also good for lavender production," says Westerveld.

One lavender farm placed atop the rolling hills of Uxbridge is Gray Silo Lavender Farm, just east of town.

"We began growing lavender in 2016 and started with 200 plants, of which we lost 90 per cent the first year, and have now grown to well over 10,000 lavender plants," say Michelle and Dave Graham, owners of Gray Silo. The Grahams were looking to grow something on their farm that would benefit their health. "Once we discovered all the benefits of lavender we knew it was the crop for us."

The Grahams say their favorite part about their farm is how much others love it. "From the beautiful photos to the culinary dishes at our dinners on the farm, it is amazing to see people take our lavender to a whole new level."

Gray Silo invites visitors of all types on the farm, ranging from photographers to chefs. "We are really looking forward to our lavender-themed dinners with local chef Alex Page (@chefalexpage), and some new features we are adding this year include an opportunity to visit with our beautiful Percheron draft

horses." Along with selling their lavender both dried and fresh, they also distill it to get lavender essential oil for all-natural lavender body products.



Gray Silo Lavender Farm, on Scugog Line Line 8, just off Reach Rd., west of Lake Ridge Rd.

Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Another location offering on the farm experiences is Vive Lavender Farm, just north of town towards Sunderland. Owner Sally Morgan says she has been growing lavender at different homes for the last 20 years.

"For me, lavender holds such incredible memories. I loved seeing the lavender fields in France and the scent is such a peaceful aroma," says

Morgan.

Vive Lavender Farm isn't just about growing the fragrant flowers; Morgan is passionate about sharing her space with others.

"This year we are thrilled to open up the opportunity for micro weddings and elopements to be held on the property."

Morgan has gathered a team of local wedding vendors, including wedding planners, photographers, caterers, and florists.

"The whole property is unique, as we have areas of woodland trails, natural spring-fed ponds, native plants and gardens that all blend together to make it an experience to remember."

Along with weddings, Morgan says she will also be offering afternoon teas through the summer months. For those interested in holding an event at Vive Lavender, contact Sally Morgan at [info@vivelavenderfarm.com](mailto:info@vivelavenderfarm.com)

Another local farm in a natural wonderland is Christel Lake Lavender, just north of Greenbank.

"We started growing lavender on our farm in 2013. We began with 35 plants in the first year and have now expanded to 2,000 plants in 16 varieties of lavender," says Christel von

Engelbrechten, farm owner.

By making an online appointment, visitors are welcome to the farm from Friday to Sunday, and on holiday Mondays, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

"Our farm is a peaceful place to visit. As well as strolling through our lavender fields, visitors are invited to take a walk around our beautiful spring-fed lake," says von Engelbrechten.

Westerveld says that, because Uxbridge is a little further north, it lends itself to good lavender growing.

"Lavender is only semi-hardy in our climate but benefits from consistent snow cover in the winter," says Westerveld. "This gives it a bit of an edge over locations farther south in Ontario. Additionally, being more north puts Uxbridge in a good spot for agri-tourism. Uxbridge also offers some benefits for attracting customers due to proximity to the city, as well as being on a direct route to cottage country."

These local farms are all listed on the Purple Road, a map of farms registered with the Ontario Lavender Association. To find the Purple Road map and to start your lavender adventure, visit [lavenderontario.org](http://lavenderontario.org)

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