

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 18 No. 18

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, May 5, 2022

North House closer to new home • The 'Messiah' comes in Spring • Take a trip to Italy



HUCK FINN RETURNS - Elgin Pond wasn't swamped with fishing folk on Saturday, as it has been on former Huck Finn Days, but that's precisely the aim of the COVID-safe two-week long fishing festival, which ends May 14. There's lots planned between now and then - visit uxbridge.ca/huckfinn for more information. *Photo by John Cavers*

Uxpool still swimmingly useable after all

by Roger Varley

Uxpool is not about the collapse.

That was the word council received on Monday in a report from Carolyn Clementson, the pool's aquatic manager.

The report, which listed a number of repairs that are needed at the facility, opened with the remark that "overall, the Uxbridge Pool is structurally sound."

However, Clementson added that "the building does require some repairs and updates to continue to be structurally sound." She listed a number of projects that need to be completed in 2022, with a total cost of almost \$232,000. A further \$85,000 in repairs will be needed in 2023.

Also during Monday's meeting, the Uxbridge Historical Centre, in a report to council, said it is open once again, with a series of special exhibits lined up.

The centre will be open Wednesday-Sunday from now until Sept. 2, with tours and exhibitions available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. An exhibit called The Land We Know, put together by a student team from the University of Toronto's Master of Museum Studies program, explores the history Uxbridge's natural resources and the importance of protecting them. Other exhibitions, starting later this month, will include displays on Indigenous roots, military history, and a day in the life of early Uxbridge.

Finally, Public Works director Ben Kester told

council the stage has been set, pending public consultation, for the construction of a communications tower at the Public Works yard just west of town on Regional Road 8.

He said a lease agreement has been prepared and approved by the Township lawyer and the company involved would like to have it signed prior to starting the standard public meeting process. Kester added, however, that construction will not start until the public approval process is complete.

The tower would have a maximum height of 67 metres. The five-year lease would see the township receive rent of \$1,000 per month for the first carrier on the tower, with each additional carrier paying an additional \$250 per month rent.

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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MORE INFO www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for May, 2022

Monday, May 9
COUNCIL MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC MEETING RE: ZBA 2022-04
(7649 CONC. RD. 4), 11:30 a.m.

Monday, May 16
COMMITTEE MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC MEETING RE: ZBA 2022-02 -
1093560 Ontario Ltd. (CORAL CREEK
HOMES), 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday May 18
AGE FRIENDLY COMMITTEE, 1:30 p.m.
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 23
NO MEETING – VICTORIA DAY

Proclamations for the Month

May is Community Living month
May 17 - International Day Against
Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
May 28 - World Menstrual Health Day

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping will begin shortly - weather permitting - and will take 6 – 8 weeks to complete. Please refrain from street parking during this time. Sand may be raked into the road/gutter and left for the cleaning crew - buckets of sand will not be picked up. Any areas that are missed will be redone after all areas are complete.

1. N/E corner of town **completed**
2. Rural subdivisions and hamlets
3. N/W corner of town
4. S/W corner of town
5. S/E corner of town
6. Town parking lots

(The town portion is divided into 4 areas with Brock & Main Streets as the centre point.)

Child Car Seat Clinic



Saturday, May 7th ~ 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Uxbridge Arena, 291 Brock St. West

Learn how to properly use and install
your child's car seat - it's free!

Please bring your car seat manual
and your vehicle manual with you.
Questions? Melissa.Brabant@ontario.ca




APRIL 30TH - MAY 14TH

UXBRIDGE HUCK FINN YOUTH FISHING DAYS!



ELGIN POND, UXBRIDGE

Enter to win daily prizes!

FOR INFO VISIT: WWW.UXBRIDGE.CA/HUCKFINN

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 along with a letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience to the undersigned.

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
dlroux@uxbridge.ca
Telephone: 905 852-9181

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to
uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders

- U22-13 Supply and Delivery of 1 Fire Apparatus (Tanker Truck) – Closes May 5, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.
- U22-18 Design-Build Herrema Park Playground Replacement – Closes May 19, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

All bids must be received by the Township by the deadline stated, either electronically via the Township's website or in-person at the Township Office located at 51 Toronto St. South. Public tender openings are posted at uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders

Employment Opportunities

Complete details and qualifications required for this position is available at
<https://www.uxbridge.ca/careers/>

Parks Department – Custodian, Contract
Closes Thursday, May 5, 2022

The Township of Uxbridge is an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The Township of Uxbridge will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process to applicants with disabilities and/or needs related to the OHRC. Personal information provided is collected under the authority of The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

2022 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

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

Huck Finn Youth Fishing starts two-week event

by Roger Varley

Changes to the Huck Finn fishing event were obvious from the beginning. Opening on Saturday and running until May 14, the change from the previous one-day format resulted in a far smaller crowd around Elgin Pond than in the past. There were fewer booths and vendors than before. And Canadian Tire's Pat Higgins was not wearing his Huck Finn hat!

The anglers were spread around the shores of the pond, with lots of space available to cast a line. For those youngsters without fishing gear, the Pickering Rod and Gun Club was on hand to lend rods and bait without charge. There were no food or coffee trucks, but the BIA was there to hand out gummy bears to the young set and the Uxbridge Fire Department, ably assisted by Sparky, gave out shopping bags

containing colouring books, stickers and fire escape plans. One father said he thought the idea of going to a two-week format was a good move, giving youngsters a reason to fish in the pond more than for just one day. On Sunday, only the anglers remained and the number was down. Prizes will be awarded daily. More information about Huck Finn Days can be found at www.uxbridge.ca/huckfinn.

Zephyr man charged with attempted murder in Aurora

Investigators with the York Regional Police have arrested and charged a Zephyr man in connection with a stabbing that occurred in Aurora. On Sunday, May 1, officers responded to an call in the area of Yonge St. and Spruce St. Officers arrived on scene and located one man suffering from a serious stab wound injury and another male victim suffering from a minor stab wound injury. The two victims were transported to hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. Howard Scott, 33, has been charged with multiple counts, including attempted murder and assault with a weapon. Investigators are asking any witnesses who may have been in the area at the time to please come forward. They are also seeking any video surveillance from the area. Anyone with information is asked to contact the York Regional Police #1 District Criminal Investigations Bureau at 1-866-876-5423, ext.7341, Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or leave an anonymous tip online at 1800222tips.com



COMMUNITY NOTICE

ANNUAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Every year, CN is required to clear its right-of-way of any vegetation that may pose a safety hazard. Vegetation on railway right-of-way, if left uncontrolled, can contribute to trackside fires and impair proper inspection of track infrastructure. The spray program is not being done for aesthetic reasons.

For safe railway operations, CN will conduct its annual spray program on its rail lines in the province of Ontario. A certified professional will be applying herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 16 - 24 feet graveled area/ballast). All product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be met.

CN may use the following herbicides and active ingredients: VP480 (Dow), Esplanade (Bayer), Detail (BASF), Arsenal Powerline (BASF), Navius Flex (Bayer), Gateway (Corteva), Hasten NT (Norac), VisionMax (Bayer) using Glyphosate (480g/L or 540g/L), Indaziflam (200 g/L), Saflufenacil (29.74%), Imazapyr isopropylamine (26.7%), Metsulfuron-methyl (12.6%), Aminocyclopyrachlor (39.5%), Paraffinic Oil (586 g/L), Alkoxylated alcohol non-ionic surfactants (242 g/L), Methyl and Ethyl oleate (esterified vegetable oil) 75.20%

CN only uses herbicides that have been approved for use in Canada and in the Province within which they are applied.

The program is expected to take place from May to October 2022. Visit www.cn.ca/vegetation to see the list of cities as well as the updated schedule.

For more information, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.

CN.CA



Plant Sale

Saturday, May 7
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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Our two cents

It felt almost normal

Finally, Uxbridge was blessed with a semi-decent day, weather-wise, on Saturday. The sun was out, it was reasonably warm and the wind had decided to take a rest.

Little wonder, then, that the downtown area was just a-bustling. Blue Heron Books was jammed with customers most of the day as the store celebrated Canadian Independent Bookstore Day, with a number of authors on hand to chat with fans. The spill-over spread to other stores as well. Dozens of cyclists descended on the downtown, thanks in part to a cycling event at Woodnewton.

Down at Elgin Pond, Huck Finn devotees turned out to try their luck at landing a fish as that event returned from a two-year hiatus. And the night before, live theatre returned to Uxbridge with the opening of *Anne of Avonlea* at the Music Hall.

On Sunday, the Uxbridge Farmers' Market made a welcome return after the winter shutdown and, although the weather was slightly cooler and greyer, a fair number of people showed up. And, of course, under its new format, the Huck Finn event continued at the pond, although the numbers were down considerably.

It was almost like being back to normal, if anyone can actually remember what "normal" was. Most of those we observed were still wearing masks and it occurred to us that COVID-19 was, perhaps, not the sole cause of our winter of discontent. The winter itself shares a lot of the blame.

It was, in our opinion, a brutal winter and although temperatures are beginning to climb, slowly, many of us still need to wear something warm when venturing outside. But, for the weekend at least, we had the opportunity to rediscover what it's like to be out and about, engaging with our fellow residents, sipping a coffee on a patio, chatting with friends. In other words, being "normal."

That being said, we at the *Cosmos* continue to exercise caution. We require all visitors to the office to wear a mask. Regional councillor Gord Highet reminds everyone at every regular meeting of council that it's still a good idea to be vaccinated, wear a mask and wash one's hands regularly.

Yes, a lot of us would like to see the masks become a thing of the past, but a good many people would also like to see mandatory seat belt use and helmets for cyclists and motorcyclists assigned to the dustbin. However, most of us recognize that, as much as we might not like seat belts or helmets, they do help keep us safe, or at least mitigate any injuries we might receive in an accident. Almost every day we hear of some celebrity or notable who has contracted COVID-19, including our own MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy. To be sure, most of those we hear about only suffer mild effects, but it does point to the fact that this disease remains contagious.

It is unlikely any government will scrap the seat belt or helmet laws, but the day will come eventually that no one will be required to wear masks. However, until that day, enjoy the opportunities that come along that help you feel a little bit more "normal." It's amazing what it can do for your mental health.



Letters to the Editor

On Wednesday, April 27, the Whitby Seniors Photographic Club made a visit to the Foster Memorial. What an amazing treasure you have in the Uxbridge area.

Our volunteer guide Robert began his job in March 2020, just as COVID hit. After two years, we were his first guests at the Memorial. He and Bev Northeast were very accommodating by opening

the Memorial for us.

We would like to acknowledge their help in visiting this wonderful site. It was disappointing to see that sections were falling into disrepair.

Hopefully something can be done to preserve this amazing piece of history.

*Pat Schleiffer
Whitby*

Springtide announces first 'wave' of artists

Springtide Music Festival has announced its first wave of programming for what it calls a "celebration of music and community."

On Tuesday, organizers announced over 30 acts, including Juno Award winners Bedouin Soundclash and Canadian Folk Music Award winner Julian Taylor. Other artists include: three-time Juno nominee Alysha Brilla, Winnipeg's Boy Golden, Canadian Folk Music Award winner Danny Michel, the Jerome Tucker Band, Skye Wallace, singer-songwriter Jeremy Fisher, and rock duo Goodnight Sunrise.

The festival will open on July 21 with the Springtide Launch Party, a stand-alone ticketed event at Uxbridge Music Hall. The festival runs through to July 23.

"It's been a trying few years for live music having to sideline plans due to the pandemic, but after a two-year hiatus we are thrilled to be back for our biggest festival yet," says co-founder and festival director Tania Joy. "Expanding to three days seems fitting for our return, with a diverse lineup of emerging and established Canadian acts planned to celebrate the festival's resurgence across our downtown core. There will be stages in restaurants, shops and at our outdoor beer garden. We are especially delighted to add the Uxbridge Music Hall among this year's venues, as well as an exciting partnership with Durham Tourism as our title sponsor."

For a complete list of artists lined-up to date, and to obtain tickets, visit springtidemusicfestival.com

Your Universe

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Publisher/Editor: Lisha Van Nieuwenhove 905-852-1900
Advertising/Sales: 905-852-1900

38 Toronto Street North, Unit One, Uxbridge Ontario L9P 1E6
E-mail: Lvann@thecosmos.ca Web site: Thecosmos.ca

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

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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.

Your Universe

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Candidates Forum

Wednesday, May 11, 7:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Arena

Also available to watch on Facebook Live and posted to the Uxbridge Cosmos YouTube channel.

If you have a question you'd like to submit prior to the meeting, please email it to

Lvann@thecosmos.ca

or drop it off/send it to The Cosmos at 38 Toronto St. N., Uxbridge



...I'm just sayin'

column by Justyne Edgell

Ciao Italy!

As I prepared to graduate from Ryerson University, now Toronto Metropolitan University (wow that's a mouthful), my family was also preparing for a bit of a celebratory trip across the Atlantic, to Italy. Our plans were quickly crushed in March of 2020 as the COVID pandemic took hold. We decided to put off our travels until April 2021, but as the new year rolled around, we again had to put a pin in it.

Finally, last summer, we decided to take the risk and book the trip, and on April 1, we finally jetted off for our first European family vacay!

We took an overnight flight to Munich, where we spent a few hours before connecting to Palermo, Sicily. After our short flight, we landed at an airport where one side of the runway dropped off into the sea. Sicily has gorgeous hilly terrain, with cliffs that overlook the ocean, pebbly beaches and rock stacks around the coast.

Fun fact about Sicily: driving rules seemingly don't apply there! We were picked up from the airport by a local driver who, to our North American driving standards, was quite terrifying. But with all the other cars on the road following similar lax cautions, we soon labeled it as "normal." An example: there are lanes marked on the road, but no one uses them. They just drive wherever they'd like, weaving around other cars, potholes, garbage and even pedestrians. As for the pedestrians, they just put a hand out and start to walk. I guess the assumption is, if you go, someone else will stop. Gulp!

We spent the first week on the northern side of Sicily, near Palermo. Sicily is actually almost twice as close to Africa as it is to Rome, and you could definitely see those influences in the art and building design. Speaking of buildings, Sicily (and Italy in general), has a large number of archeological and historical sites, including Selinunte, a ruinous city from 409 BC, and Erice, a 12th-century medieval, mountain top village with castles among the clouds and functioning homes and businesses. It's hard to even imagine what you're looking at. I found myself saying "I can't believe it's actually real." Quantifying how old these places are, and trying to imagine people actu-

ally living and working there seems almost impossible.

We then had a week on the other side of Sicily, near Catania, where we stayed in a quaint little fishing village, Santa Maria La Scala, which looked as though it was stuck in a time warp. If you picture an old Italian fishing village, you're picturing this little town.

Aside from the beach that was covered in garbage, the town was beautiful. April in Sicily is wildflower season and everywhere you look there is something in bloom.

About an hour from Catania is Mount Etna, one of the most active volcanoes in the world, and the highest in Europe. We took a day trip to Etna and climbed to about 1,200 meters from the top. As it is a currently active volcano, we weren't able to get right to the lip of the crater, but our summit was certainly spectacular. Etna didn't give us her great performance (our guide said she erupts about once a day now), but she was smoking and steaming, proving that she was still pondering her next eruption.

We then spent our final week in Rome, hitting as many of the tourist must-sees as we could. The Colosseum, the Forum, The Vatican and the Sistine Chapel, the Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain, which we hit at sunrise to avoid the crowds.

Now I'm sure you're wondering "how was the food?" The food was fabulous, every dish a little work of art. Sicilian food was light and local, despite the regular four-course meals, and Rome was all-you-can-eat pizza, pasta, gelato! Is there any better combination?

A few quick tips: Get your passport early! Renewals are taking longer now... If you can, pay the extra for the Business Economy seats. We had a great experience on Air Canada with our extra roomy seats and leg room. Another tip: take the hop-on-hop-off bus in the city on your first day to get a little history lesson and to get ideas for places you'd like to see. And most importantly, try to just enjoy your time away and not put pressure on making the trip "the best trip ever." We all know that no matter where or when, the time with family and friends, experiencing the moments, is what is most important.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Warriors' invisible battles

It was a morning dedicated to dealing with invisible wounds among veterans. It brought together former soldiers and first responders who are coping with trauma, support groups trying to help them through it, and politicians finding workable solutions to post-traumatic stress disorder in Canada. Among the first to speak, Anita Anand, the minister of national defence, addressed the gathering. She paused, scanned the faces of those present and offered a personal note.

"This is a difficult time for the military community," she said. "I wish to recognize and remember officer cadets Jack Hogarth, Andrei Honciu, Broden Murphy and Andres Salek."

In that moment, the ninth annual Sam Sharpe Breakfast, honouring the memory of one of Uxbridge's early 20th century war heroes, began with a moment of silence recognizing the four young cadets who died in a vehicle crash at Kingston's Royal Military College this past week. While not killed on a distant battlefield or during Canadian Forces operations here at home, the freshly graduated RMC cadets, Anand noted, were still part of Canada's military family. And everybody in the room felt the hurt of their lost lives. The minister then moved to the essence of the annual breakfast – exploring veterans' mental health and wellness; she pointed out that today 20 per cent of Canadian Armed Forces personnel have "undisclosed mental health disorders" and that such wounds need to be addressed. "Nobody should suffer in silence," she said.

I have attended most of these breakfasts and each year try to spend a few moments remembering Sam Sharpe's story – first elected to the House of Commons as our MP in 1908; organizer of the 116th Ontario Battalion which he led in battle at Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele; one of two serving Great War volunteers who remained a sitting MP while fighting on the Western Front in Europe; and ultimately a victim of suicide, described as shell shock in 1918 when he died, but today recognized as operational stress injury or PTSD. MP Erin O'Toole, who (with LGen Roméo Dallaire) initiated these breakfasts, offered one of Sam Sharpe's final messages home to friends and family in Uxbridge.

"Whether in Ottawa or in France," Sharpe wrote from the front in 1917, "I have given my best effort to honour my country."

It wasn't enough. Because after he took his own life, on May 25, 1918, Sharpe was omitted from the Book of Remembrance in Ottawa and largely ignored by military history, until

O'Toole and MP Jennifer O'Connell co-sponsored a declaration unanimously passed in the House of Commons in 2018 restoring LCol Sharpe's armed service record and his unique standing in public service while fighting at the front.

At Tuesday's breakfast, we learned that perhaps no modern veteran has suffered more from undeclared mental health issues than LCol (Retired) Christian Lillington, from Wasaga Beach, Ont. Through 26 years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces, Lillington attended RMC, rose to senior roles with the armoured corps, training and personnel administration. But PTSD stalked the successful officer when he was deployed with the United Nations in Eritrea in 2001 and through two tours to Afghanistan in 2006 and 2010. During the latter deployment, his superiors awarded him a Mentioned-in-Dispatches for actions when the Chinook helicopter transporting him and his reconnaissance squadron was shot down. But his overseas deployment saw the loss of no fewer than 23 or his comrades – drivers, interpreters, medics and others in his command – killed in action. In October 2016, Lillington was diagnosed with PTSD. But his absence from duty was explained to his troops as "a training assignment." He retired in 2019.

"It did not sit well with me that my illness was explained away," he has written in his military memoir *Parade State Zero: Leaving Military Leadership to Survive*.

Indeed, not content trying to put his PTSD behind him, LCol Lillington has dedicated the years since his diagnosis seeking treatment and writing a journal about his journey to wellness. During his talk on Tuesday morning he characterized dealing with PTSD this way:

"If I fell to the ground with a heart attack," he said, "people would rush to administer CPR. But if I cried out, 'Help me. I'm having a panic attack,' nobody would know what to do."

LCol Lillington speaks regularly at conferences, to fellow veterans (individually and in groups) and to the media, promoting awareness of mental health inside the warrior community. He campaigns on the premise that the most potent antidote to warrior mental illness is interaction with the military family – recovery support team, fellow veterans and blood relations.

"No matter how strong or prepared a soldier is for battle," he wrote, "even warriors can break."

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



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MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the April monthly draw for the 2022 Trip of the Month Club

The 'Rainforest Retreat' trip was won by Robert Kirvan, ticket #232, sold by Marion Martin

2nd place, \$150, won by Barb Pratt, ticket #91, sold by Dale Hickey

3rd place, \$100, won by Sue Saunderson, ticket #126, sold by Elaine deBlicquy

Congratulations to our April winners, and best of luck for the May draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge's Trip of the Month Club! The 'Caribbean Castaway' package includes round trip direct non-stop flights from Toronto to St. Maartens; and 7 nights accommodation at the Villas at Simpsons Bay Beach Resort and Marina in a Jr. Suite Sea View Room. It's a short stroll to Simpsons Bay for your complimentary deep sea fishing expedition for 2, and includes a continental breakfast daily.

A gift certificate from Getaway Travel worth \$2,500 or cash of \$2,250 is available instead of the trip.



(Frank) Michael Fusco

"Life is not always a matter of holding good cards, but sometimes playing a poor hand well." -Jack London



On a day of his choosing, I lost my best friend and husband, Michael Fusco from glioblastoma at age 67. Although he'd been having symptoms a few months prior, he was formally diagnosed in March 2020, just days before the provincial shutdown due to the pandemic.

Born in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Michael attended biz school at York University (1979). He had two great passions: personal finance and poker, both of which attracted people from all backgrounds and transformed them into lifelong friends.

After graduating, Michael began his career with IBM Finance and retired from Siemens Enterprise Communications in 2012.

When we married, Michael promised he'd make my dreams come true. I wanted someone to grow with me, to hold my hand when I felt alone, and lead the way when I was lost. We had a great run, he and I, and I'll miss him every single day. I'm grateful for all the wonderful years he was in my life.

The ache is endless, but my memories are full of smiles.

Michael leaves behind his wife, Susan; best friends and in-laws Trish and Rob Kerr; his sister Rosemary Cliffe and partner Bruce MacNaughton; and sister-in-law Pamela Webb and her partner Bruno Rukavina. In honour of Michael's memory, respect your budget, plan for large expenditures and invest early for your future.

There will be no service as per his wishes. In lieu of donations, hug your loved ones tightly. For online condolences, please visit www.lowandlow.ca



St. Paul's Anglican Church recently presented \$10,000 to North House to support its expansion. A new location will provide laundry and shower facilities, as well as food and a place for those who are homeless or precariously housed to meet.

Photo by John Cavers

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Greenbank United Church will host a Visitation for Mary Jean Till (née Dobson)

on the evening of Thursday, May 5, 2022,
from 7 to 9 p.m. with a Celebration of Life Service
being held on Friday, May 6, 2022, at 2 p.m.

The Church is a mask friendly environment. Masks are encouraged but not mandatory, come as you feel comfortable to do so. For those unable to attend, you may view the service using the Greenbank United Church live-stream link <https://youtu.be/hzXHUln-id0>

Private Family Only Interment at Bethel Cemetery, Greenbank.

Rested at Low & Low Funeral Home, 1763 Reach St., Port Perry, ON L9L 1A6. If desired, a memorial donation may be made to the Greenbank United Church, the Oak Ridges Hospice Port Perry, or one of our community hospitals, through Low & Low.

Leave your swords and hoops at home and listen to Handel's Messiah

by Lisba Van Nieuwenhove

Many believe that Georg Friederich Handel's *Messiah* (think *Hallelujah Chorus*) is a piece only to be played and heard at Christmas time, and so are surprised to learn that it was originally composed as a piece to celebrate not Christmas, but Easter.

Handel's original *Messiah* was composed as an ensemble piece, and premiered in the spring of 1742. A few years later, Handel enlarged the score and started performances at Christmas, which is how the listener usually encounters the music these days.

Uxbridge can hear the original ensemble piece on Sunday, May 15, when *Cantorei sine Nomine* performs *Messiah* at Trinity United Church (2:30 p.m.). Under the direction of Stu Beaudoin, the 19-voice choir will be joined by soloists Sasha Liebich-Tait, Shannon Coates, Simon Williams and Jonathan Liebich. They will be accompanied by a string quintet, led by Joyce Lai, a small portative organ and two trumpets.

When it was first performed, the *Dublin News-Letter* described the oratorio as "... far surpassing anything of that Nature which has been performed in this or any other Kingdom." Seven hundred people attended the premiere, and in order for the largest possible audience to be admitted to the concert, gentlemen were requested to remove their swords, and ladies were asked not to wear hoops in their dresses!

According to Beaudoin, "When we began planning for the concert, full COVID restrictions were in place and only a choir of *Cantorei* size could manage *Messiah* in the available space."

Beaudoin states that the production is maintaining COVID restrictions, and that all participants are vaccinated, and will be masked and physically distanced. He said the audience also *must* be vaccinated and masked. Although the hall holds 700 people, the concert capacity will be limited to 200 people.

The concert is free, although a donation of \$25 per person would be appreciated to help with the performance costs. People who wish to attend must preregister by email with tinaderry@msn.com or trinityuxbridge@gmail.com in order to ensure a seat. Any questions can be directed to Tiina at 416-806-6126 or Beaudoin at 705-357-3299.

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MOVING SALE: Sat. & Sun., May 7 & 8 at 9 a.m. 7140 Conc. 4 at Durham 8. Furniture, antiques, wicker items, 3 bar stools, dog crate/bed + accessories, copper & brass, Brother printer/scanner/fax, padded swivel office chair, household items, equestrian books, furnishings, CDs and lots more.

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