

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 18 No. 32

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, August 18, 2022

The Bruins are back! • Uxbridge actor has access to Hogwarts • Local wrestler represents at Canada Games



FOAMY YOU SHOULD ASK - Thousands of people bubbled and stumbled their way through mounds of foam and litres of mud at Foam Fest, held at Dagmar Ski Resort on Saturday. The foamy fundraiser helps Make-a-Wish Canada, an organization that grants critically ill children their biggest wish. *Photo by John Covers*

Settling tornado victims highlights affordable housing crisis

by Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Almost three months after the devastating tornado that ripped through Uxbridge, dozens of people who lost their homes are still in temporary accommodations across Durham Region and beyond. And with winter not too far down the road, many are finding the search for affordable housing frustrating.

“About 60 housing units were rendered unin-

habitable by the tornado,” says Kristi Honey, Chief Administrative Officer of the Township of Uxbridge. “Most of them apartments, but several houses as well. That first night, May 21, we established a shelter up at the Zephyr Community Hall, and there were more than a hundred people there. Very soon, many of them found space with friends and relatives. Ultimately, 30 people asked for the assistance of the Red Cross and North House in finding a place for them and their families.”

Of those 30, eleven people in five households found free shelter in student housing at Durham College / University of Ontario Institute of Technology in Oshawa, through a program set up by Durham Region’s Social Services Department.

“We had actually established the relationship with the College a few weeks earlier to accommodate displaced Ukrainian families,” explains

...continued on page 3

COMFLEX
REALTY INC., BROKERAGE
THE NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN!

Patrick Bryant
Broker of Record
905-439-2033
www.comFLEX.ca
Not intended to solicit buyers/sellers under contract

PHARMASAVE
Oak Tree Medical Pharmacy
Your independently owned family pharmacy
BRANCH LOCATION NOW OPEN NEXT TO THE HOSPITAL!

COVID-19 TRAVEL TESTING & COVID-19 VACCINES AVAILABLE
-Pfizer (Age 12+)
-Moderna (Age 30+)
REGISTER ONLINE AT:
www.pharmasaveuxbridge.com

AT HOME IN UXBRIDGE
TRUST • INTEGRITY • KNOWLEDGE • DISCRETION

Sorrelle
CHESTNUT PARK
CHRISTIE'S
SORRELLE A. GOLOMB | SALES REPRESENTATIVE
EXCELLENCE IN REAL ESTATE

C: 416.200.1922
O: 905.852.0002
sorrelle@sorrelle.ca
www.sorrelle.ca

This is not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract with a broker.

Catch the Ace
PROGRESSIVE WEEKLY LOTTERY

WEEKLY WINNER - \$159
Deb Lambert

PROJECTED JACKPOT FOR NEXT WEEK'S DRAW: \$3,600
MAX. 2,000 TICKETS SOLD PER WEEK

Tickets available at PharmaSave Uxbridge (both locations), Vince's Market Uxbridge, Canadian Tire Uxbridge, Uxbridge Legion Branch 170 and Stouffville IDA Pharmacy.

In support of
Rotary Club of Uxbridge
Jumpstart
Ontario Lottery & Gaming

Lottery rules at uxbridgerotary.com/catchtheace
Ontario Problem Gambling Hotline 1-888-230-3505
No one under 18 may purchase a ticket or win the lottery.

Mortgage maturing? Mortgage refinancing?

Call Tim Gardner 905-649-0250
Licensed Mortgage Agent M10001449

I work with multiple lenders to get **YOU** the best interest rate.
Highlights of what I can do for you:

- Self Employed
- Reverse Mortgages
- Alternative Lending Specialists
- Refinances
- Office/Industrial buildings

Ontario Lending Solutions Inc. Lic#13063

COLDWELL BANKER
R.M.R. REAL ESTATE, BROKERAGE

Marie Persaud
Sales Representative
Coldwell Banker R.M.R.
Real Estate Brokerage

Direct: 416-970-8979
Office: 905-852-4338
www.mariepersaud.ca

Privacy, small acreage, sloping lot, adjacent to Glen Major forest, excellent location in South Uxbridge. Time to build that dream home!
Offered for sale at \$1,100,000. Call me to discuss.



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

The Township of Uxbridge

Trail Capital of Canada

FOLLOW US



MORE INFO

www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for September, 2022

Monday, September 12, 10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 21, 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
MEETING

Proclamations for the Month

September - National Hunger Action Month
2022 – Year of the Garden

Horseshoes for Adults at the Museum

Horseshoes at the Museum runs each Tuesday at 6pm. Call Bob Kirvan at 905-852-9176.

Road Closures

- Reach St. from Lake Ridge/Reg. Rd. 23 to 39m east of Medd Rd. in the Township of Scugog will have lane restrictions between May 16 - August 19, 2022.
- Planks Lane from Marietta St. to Franklin St. will be closed to traffic for road reconstruction between July 13 - October 14, 2022.
- York/Durham Line (Reg. Rd. 30) from north of Durham Reg. Rd. 39/Queensville Sideroad to south of Holborn Rd., East Gwillimbury will be closed for bridge repairs, to 2024.

Employment Opportunities

Complete details and qualifications required for these positions are available at

<https://www.uxbridge.ca/careers/>

Current Opportunities

Student Positions - Uxbridge Library

Closes Friday, August 19, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

Public Works and Operations/Office of the CAO – Contract and Project Administrator

Closes Friday, August 26 at 3:00 p.m.

Crossing Guards

Closing Date Extended

Uxpool - Lifeguards

Closing Date Extended

Board and Committee Appointment Opportunities

2022 Santa Claus Parade Committee

Closing Date Extended

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.

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to [Uxbridge.ca/bids and tenders](http://Uxbridge.ca/bids%20and%20tenders)

- U22-30 - Supply & Deliver Winter Sand
Closes August 23, 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 bid results are posted at [uxbridge.ca/bids and tenders](http://uxbridge.ca/bids%20and%20tenders).

The Thomas Foster Memorial

Check out

www.thomasfostermemorial.com
for Summer Event Schedule.



Attention All Pet Owners!

Please help keep our community clean by picking up after your dogs, and keeping them leashed at all times other than when visiting the off-leash dog park. Not only is it the responsible thing to do, it's also the polite thing to do. Let's continue to keep Uxbridge a clean and safe environment we can all enjoy!



2022 BIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Uxbridge Seniors Centre

Wed. Aug. 31 2022

7 - 9 p.m.

(doors open at 6:30)

open to all BIA Business Members

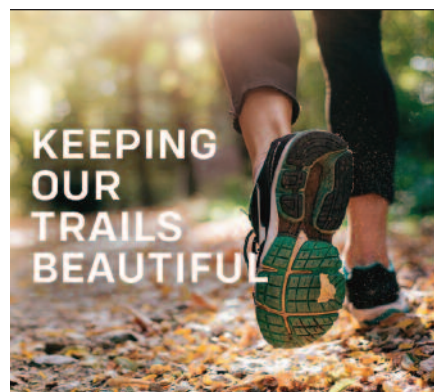
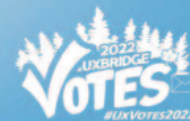
Visit www.uxbridge.ca/bia for details and registration

Nominations Closing Soon!

The last day to register as a Candidate for the upcoming Municipal Election is this Friday, August 19th, before 2:00pm.

Papers can be filed with the Township of Uxbridge Clerk's Dept.

Learn more at www.uxbridge.ca/elections



TRAIL SUSTAINABILITY PERMIT PARKING

Coming into effect this summer on the Regional Uxbridge trails.

Residents of Uxbridge can park for free with a registered parking permit. Learn more at: uxbridge.ca/trailparking

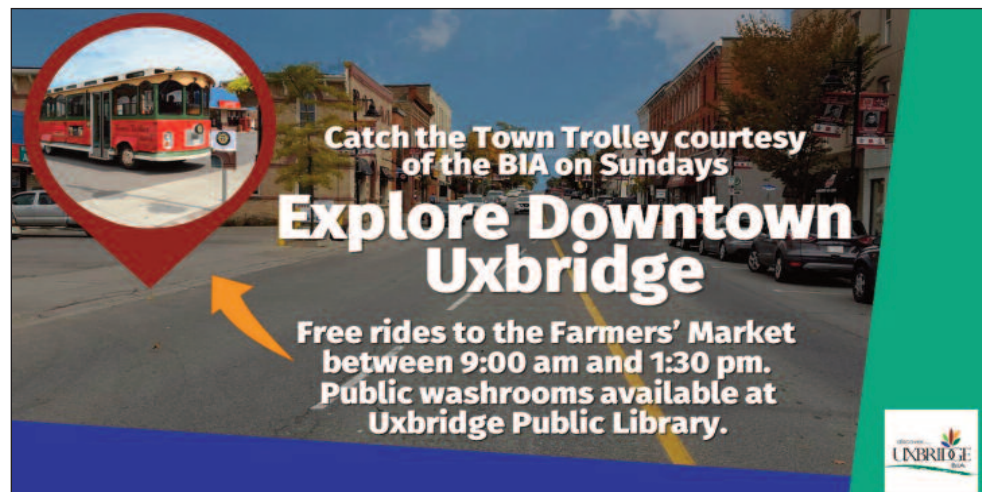


Uxbridge Historical Centre - Heritage Day 2022

We invite you to join us on August 28, 2022, to celebrate Uxbridge's local history, heritage and culture on the grounds of the Uxbridge Historical Centre at 7239 Concession Road 6. This day of celebration will be filled with artistic and historical demonstrations, as well as various activities and performances.

Details for this event: Uxbridgehistoricalcentre.com/heritage-day-1.

For other activities, visit at the Uxbridge Heritage Centre: Uxbridgehistoricalcentre.com



Township of Uxbridge documents are available in alternate formats upon request.
Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at uxbridge.ca/accessibility

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

Bruins return to action

by Roger Varley

In just under one month, the Uxbridge Bruins Junior C team will return to action at the arena as the PJHL's Orr Division starts a new season.

After two years of being messed up by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bruins will be back to start a full 42-game season on Sept. 16, facing off against their arch-rivals, the Port Perry Lumberjacks (formerly known as the MoJacks). And, unlike last year, fans attending the games will not have to deal with any COVID-19 protocols: no masks required, no vaccination proof required, no limited seating.

When the Bruins hit the ice, they will be led by newly-named captain Andrew Swan, a 21-year-old

Uxbridge native who will be starting his fourth year with the team. The team will also have a new head coach behind the bench in the form of Phil Kestin. Kestin formerly coached the Markham Waxers 'AAA' and also has junior hockey experience with the Stouffville Spirit.

Fans might pay attention to a couple of oddities in the 2022-23 schedule: although all home games start at 7:45 p.m., the game scheduled for Sept. 30 is set to start at 7:25 p.m. The Bruins will also have a rare Sunday home game on Oct. 30. In addition, while Friday nights have traditionally been the night for Bruins home games, three Friday nights in the upcoming season will see the team playing away against the Georgina Ice: one on Oct. 28, one in February and one in March.



The Uxbridge Bruins (in black and gold) head into the 2022-23 season with a new captain, new head coach and a new schedule. *Cosmos file photo*

Housing, from page 1

Sarah Alton, the Region's emergency management coordinator, "so it was fairly simple to shift to accommodating those displaced by the tornado. Student housing is much preferable to hotels, since it's designed as permanent housing with full kitchens, separate bedrooms and so on."

By mid-July, two of the five families in student housing had found alternative accommodations. But three families remain, and now the students are coming back.

"All the student rooms are spoken for; in fact there's a waiting list," says Alton. "Originally, the College had a deadline of Aug. 15 to relocate the tornado victims, but they extended it till this Sunday, Aug. 21. By then, two more families will have moved to places they've found. The last group, two people, will be moved by us to a hotel as close to Uxbridge as possible, until a more suitable alternative is found."

Two of the houses destroyed by the tornado have already been demolished, with others to follow. The process to replace them will be long. But questions about the apartments and how soon they will be inhabitable again remain.

"Unfortunately, we have no timeline," says Honey. "We are in

regular communication with the landlords, but the damage was extensive, and insurance negotiations can be complicated."

Honey and Alton agree that the situation for the Uxbridge tornado victims highlights a severe shortage of affordable housing in North Durham, that has only worsened during the pandemic. Honey herself saw its impact.

"My husband and I have been hosting a Ukrainian family of five for the last four months," she says. "Finding them permanent housing has been extremely challenging. They eventually settled for housing much more expensive than we would have contemplated at the outset."

Anyone displaced by the tornado who would like to share their story of searching for housing is invited to contact the writer at

conradboyce50@gmail.com





Art in the Park

August 20 - 21, 2022

Elgin Park, Uxbridge
10 am - 5 pm

Presented by:
Uxbridge & District Lions Club
www.uxbridgelionsartinthepark.com

Free Admission and Parking
Donations appreciated



Enjoy Our Kids Art Area!

- Auction (proceeds to Dog Guides Canada)
- 100 Artists
- Musicians
- Food Vendors
- Kids Play Area

Free

Children's Program
Sat. & Sun. 10 am- 4 pm
Kids of all ages can enjoy painting their very own masterpiece to take home!
Supervised by Vanessa Campbell.






Foxbridge

golf course
&
Scrambles
restaurant

foxbridge.ca

Play More.
Join Now.

Become a new member for 2023 &
play free 9 hole rounds on weekdays
in October 2022

Come See Our Course!
Call & Book a Trial 9 Hole Round.
If you decide to join us after you play,
that round is free.

(905) 852-7962

Our two cents

Mark these dates on your calendar

Things must be getting back to normal (whatever “normal” is - we heard it recently referred to as “just a setting on the dryer...”). A couple of well-known Uxbridge events are making a comeback over the next two week-ends after having been shut down because of, well, you know.

This weekend sees the Uxbridge Lions Club’s Art in the Park return to Elgin Park, and we’re excited about seeing the various artists and artisans set up at their booths under the trees. It’s such a relaxing event - you can saunter through the park and casually look at the amazing work that both local artists and those from further afield have created. For those of us who can barely draw recognizable stick figures, everything is impressive!

The best part is, entrance is free, but the Lions are, of course, very gratefully accepting donations, which all stay in Uxbridge. The biggest project, we think, on the Lions’ plate right now is getting the last bit of funding together for the universal accessible playground, which will eventually replace the one currently on site in Elgin Park. We’ve seen (an published) the concept drawings for this park, and it’s going to be incredible, so we hope that Art in the Park is a success in myriad ways - the artists sell their work, the crowds are plentiful, and the donation buckets are full. Oh - and the weather is good!

The following weekend, on Sunday, Aug. 28, the Uxbridge Historical Centre will once again host Heritage Day, which is a fabulous opportunity to visit our hilltop museum and discover more about the history of Uxbridge.

The day promises to be filled with intriguing exhibits, artistic and historical demonstrations, a variety of activities and performances - think the always popular historic reenactors, and classic cars, for a start!

We really are fortunate here - we don’t have to travel at all. We get top quality art practically brought to our front door, and we have a rich heritage that we can learn about right on the outskirts of town. And that’s just the start. Fridays at the Foster (Memorial) are still happening, and restaurants are open... Things are normal, and we couldn’t be happier.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



Support our local businesses so they can support The Cosmos.

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

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.

EDITORIAL POLICY: Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of The Cosmos. Letters must be signed and the telephone number provided (number will not be published). Requests that a name be withheld will be honoured only if there is a compelling reason. Errors brought to our attention will be corrected. The Cosmos reserves the right to edit and/or refuse to publish unsolicited material. ADVERTISING POLICY: The Cosmos reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The Cosmos is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors in advertisements or any other errors or omissions in advertisements. All material herein, including advertising design, is copyrighted, and may not be reproduced in any form without permission.



CANADIAN
COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER
AWARD 2019



CMCA
AUDITED



nnc
National
NewsMedia
Council



ocna
Ontario Community
Newspapers Association



News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

9,500 copies of The Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge: 8,800 delivered by mail, 700 available in stores and boxes.



Letters to the Editor

Response to Wynn Walters’ Letter to the Editor re: Community Input on Trinity United Church, Aug. 11 edition

It is unfortunate that the Trinity United Church must be torn down. While I agree that it would be beneficial for the United Church to seek to save as much of the “history” of the Trinity United Church as possible prior to its demolition, I disagree that the debate on the new building “should include the wider community and the neighbours.” Why would the community or neighbours think they should have input on what the owner (in this case the United Church) does with their property? Providing all building codes, standards, and regulations are met, the community has no say, nor should it.

We do not buy our view. Our neighbours are not required to meet anyone’s personal aesthetic with their property but their own. There is no building code in Uxbridge that states only buildings of a certain aesthetic can be built. The fact the property is owned by the church rather than an individual does not change this. Should you, neighbours, and the wider community be able to join the debate on the foot-

print of a new addition to my home? Are those building new homes in historic neighbourhoods required to host an impact study so existing residents can decide not only on the physical footprint of their new home, but also on the style, based on how it will impact them?

The neighbours did not pay for the property, they don’t pay the property taxes, nor will they be footing the bill for the new structure.

I’m sorry, Mr. Walters, but it is blatant entitlement to think that the neighbourhood has a right to be involved in the decision making process for the development of other people’s private property.

Logan O’Connor
Uxbridge

Thank you, Wynn Walters, for your excellent insight into the future of the Trinity United Church and how and what must be done before the demolition starts.

I’m with you on this one, as there are so many memories connected to this church by so many people in Uxbridge; I felt sick the day I heard it had been damaged to the extent that it has.

Many people were married and

buried from this church and those memories are part of this structure. It is a vault for these memories.

I know the church committee will have a hard decision to make, but I would like to suggest you meet with Wynn and follow up on his suggestions before any permanent decision or demolition is started.

Again, thank you, Wynn, for your insight; you just might have saved beautiful memories for many people with the Trinity United Church.

Bev Northeast
Goodwood

Re: Planks Lane construction

The vibration starts early in the morning and goes on all day long. Thump thump thump. We are a few houses away. I can only imagine how hard it is for the home owners right on Planks.

I have asked our mayor and councillor: who okays this work? I have asked the same question of the men doing the work. No one can give me a straight answer. Who okays this work and the way it is done? Seems to me it should be done with much less vibration to the houses and families trying to live here.

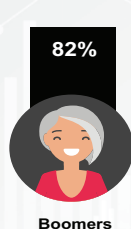
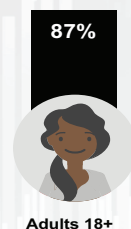
David Moseley
Uxbridge

NEED TO REACH MILLENNIALS?

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

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

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada





Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

When an estimate is a 'guesstimate'

At its last meeting on Aug. 8, Uxbridge council received four reports from staff involving spending on a variety of projects. All four reports, while dealing with different undertakings, had one thing in common: they were way off in their original estimates of the costs involved.

Let's start with the smallest of these projects, the repairing of a bridge on the South Balsam Trail. A report from Community Services director Amanda Ferraro said council approved \$85,000 for the project in the 2022 budget. However, the lowest bidder came up with a price of, as the report put it, "\$97,908.05 (without HST)." That's almost \$13,000 above what someone estimated the cost would be. But, as the report also shows, when HST is taken into account, the lowest bid was for \$110,600. So now we're \$25,000 over the original estimate.

Then there's a bridge to be repaired on Conc. 3 near Wagg Rd., for which council approved \$65,000. A report from Public Works director Ben Kester said the low bid was for \$77,700, not including HST - (which, in this case, would be an additional \$11,000). Why these reports keep telling us what the bid is "excluding HST" is beyond me. Does that make the project seem less expensive? However, on top of the bid are a couple of other things which bring the total price up to \$94,500. Now, this project will be funded with an Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund grant in the amount of \$65,000. The report says treasurer Donna Condon wants the additional \$29,500 to also be funded from the OCIP grant program. I'm sure she does, but do we have any guarantee OCIP will cough up the additional funding?

Next up is another report from Ferraro regarding repairs to the library. In budget discussions, council was told the estimated cost was \$95,000. The low bid was for \$111,000. But the report then states that "now that the tenders for the project have been received and reviewed, staff estimate this project to cost \$140,000." So, the original estimate was out by \$45,000?

I've saved the best (worst?) for last. Once again, Ferraro produced a report on the planned improvements to Elgin Park, which will include an accessible playground, new

lighting and power boxes, a "path of inclusion," etc. The report said the initial project cost was estimated in 2021 to be \$997,000. Not any more: now the estimate is \$1,300,000! Ferraro explained this jump in price with an amazing "however."

"However, . . . the scope of this project has been changed to include . . . security cameras and additional enhancements to the picnic shelter . . . (and) a new walkway from Joseph St. to the paved accessible pathway."

Oh yes, she said we also have to take inflation and rising costs of building materials into consideration.

I spoke with a friend whose whole career consisted of putting in estimates for major mining projects around the world. He said everything must be taken into account when preparing estimates: the state of the economy, labour availability, weather, you name it. Without taking everything into consideration, the estimate is just a "guesstimate."

All told, these four projects alone, according to the reports, will cost around \$400,000 more than was estimated. So, the question is, who is coming up with these estimates for township projects and what expertise do they have in this field?

I asked Mayor Dave Barton why these projects - particularly the Elgin Park project - couldn't be scaled back to fit the budget rather than adjusting the budget to fit the project. He said that because the federal government had committed about \$775,000 to Elgin Park, the township had to honour its commitment to the feds and proceed with the project as originally offered. I'd buy that, except that Ferraro herself says in her report that stuff was added to the project.

Councillor Bruce Garrod, chair of the finance committee, has already been warning that this year's budget might have to be adjusted because of such things as inflation, unexpected expenses occurred as a result of the tornado and so on. He has also warned that discussions for next year's budget are going to be tough. It seems to me that council's budget discussions could be a lot easier if proposed projects came with realistic estimates instead of staff low-balling the costs and then coming back for more money.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Free speech is not free

I was busy at the time. Because it was the weekend, I had a long list of things to do around the house. And I was well into the first few chores when I heard the front doorbell ring. When I opened the door, I was greeted by a woman with a handful of pamphlets, and a pad and pen at the ready.

"I'm Christine McKenzie," she said, "and I'm running for Ward 5 Councillor."

I *could* have said, "Gee, I'm really busy right now," and I'm sure she'd have responded with, "I can come back another time." But instead, Ms. McKenzie and I got into a lively discussion about the needs of some of our neighbours in the aftermath of the May 21 tornado. What's remarkable is that I've had similar front-porch chats with Todd Snooks (also running for Ward 5 Councillor) and Bruce Garrod (running for Regional Councillor) all within the past couple of weeks. I've stopped to speak with and listen to each one of them.

Why? Because I'm a strong believer in participatory democracy - you participate in it as a candidate or a constituent, or you run the risk of losing it. I'm also a strong believer in the value of free speech. That's why, as some will have noticed, the *Uxbridge Cosmos* will again host a candidates' forum for the municipal elections on Monday, Sept. 26 at the arena, and why I am honoured to moderate. In my view, ultimately free speech is not free.

If that belief is not one you accept, I point out that Salman Rushdie nearly died last week attempting to preserve that privilege. In case your holidays took you elsewhere, on Friday the celebrated author was about to speak to an audience at the Chautauqua Institution in upstate New York, coincidentally about why in his view the United States is a safe haven for writers. As he was about to begin his lecture, Rushdie was assaulted by a man with a knife; members of the audience subdued the man, but not before Rushdie sustained critical injuries. In 1988, Rushdie, 75, published *The Satanic Verses*, a controversial work about Islam and the tyrannical state of Iran. The country's religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, a decree to have Rushdie killed, complete with a \$3 million bounty. All this caused Rushdie to go underground.

He reappeared for the first time in Canada. In 1992, Pen Canada, a writers' organization mandated to defend freedom of expression, approached then Ontario premier Bob Rae

who helped Pen get a private jet to fly Rushdie (when commercial airlines would not) to Toronto to speak. "*The Satanic Verses* was not an attack on Islam or Mohammed, but a satire about tyrants," Rae said on CBC Radio this week. "We arranged the surprise appearance . . . to help break down Rushdie's forced isolation."

Clearly the taboo of revealing his whereabouts ended in that moment, but not the risk to his life. What has suffered equally life-changing wounds in recent days is the freedom of speech Rushdie has campaigned to preserve. Defending his writing and speaking, Rushdie said his book wasn't blasphemy against Islam, but about "a religion whose leaders . . . could probably use a little criticism."

If we dismiss the attack on Rushdie as nothing but an internal religious feud or a squaring of accounts, we miss the point. Consider that Republican lawmakers in the U.S. have introduced more than 150 state laws that would restrict or prevent teachers discussing race, sexual orientation and gender identity in classrooms. Some jurisdictions in Canada have banned such books as Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* (for offensive language), Timothy Findley's *The Wars* (for sex and violence) and 27 other published works. One Virginia school board recommends burning books banned from schools. And if we don't think particularly highly of the value of free speech, imagine being a woman in Afghanistan now (again) prevented from attending school, expression herself in music, or walking alone. Or imagine being arrested in Russia for including the word "war" in reporting Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Perhaps even more troubling - in our own backyards - is the apathy around this fall's municipal elections. Despite the fact I've been approached by three candidates in my ward, as *Cosmos* publisher Lisha Van Nieuwenhove pointed out last week, the mayor's race has only one candidate, incumbent Dave Barton, while at least two wards have (as of this writing) only one candidate each running for election. "It's a big job. Huge. Big time commitment," Van Nieuwenhove wrote. "It's not something to be taken on lightly."

Or, in the words of Salman Rushdie: "If we don't defend free speech, we live in tyranny."

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

Get The Mad Accountant on your team!

- Corporate Taxes
- Sole Proprietor Taxes
- Tax Planning

**The sure method of curing procrastination?
Have someone else do the bookkeeping!**

- Bookkeeping
- HST Filing
- Payroll

Complete bookkeeping packages available - call now!

www.themadaccountant.com



29 Toronto St S, Suite 1D, Uxbridge ON
(905) 862-2727

The long road to Hogwarts - how a local actor became the son of Harry Potter

by Conrad Boyce

There's only one platform beside Uxbridge's iconic "witch's-hat" train station, and it doesn't have a number. Nevertheless, it's fun to imagine a young Luke Kimball, soon after his arrival in town in 2004, wandering onto that wooden deck, surrounded by the old cars of the York Durham Heritage Railway, and picturing himself instead on Platform 9 3/4 at King's Cross Station, London, about to be whisked off to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. If he did, his imagination was very powerful.




CAR OF THE WEEK - Last Thursday's Cruise In Feature of the week was a 1951 Fargo truck with a 305 engine and 350 transmission. This gem is owned by Ken Tribbling from Uxbridge. Next week is 90s night - see you there at 5 p.m.!

Submitted photo

Because 18 years later, that's exactly where young Kimball finds himself. Eight times a week, backstage at Toronto's Ed Mirvish Theatre, he slips on his robes (we won't tell you of which house...) and prepares to transport his mostly-young audience into the magical world of J. K. Rowling. The play is *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, a theatrical sensation on four continents, and Kimball has the dream role of Albus, Harry and Ginny Potter's second child, whose misadventures will take you spellbound through more than three hours of spectacle.

Kimball remembers when his casting as Albus became official.

"For weeks," he says, "I couldn't tell anyone unless I swore them to secrecy. Finally, the great day came. Mirvish issued the release on March

11, 2020. Two days later, on Friday the 13th, the world ground to a halt. Who knew if the theatres would ever open again? It was a bit of a blow."

Not that Kimball's road to Hogwarts was paved with gold to begin with.

"I don't remember ever wanting to do anything else," he says. "I looked at TV shows and movies and decided I wanted to act. Of course I had no idea what that meant. It wasn't until I got to high school that I started to understand."

Kimball's drama teacher at Uxbridge Secondary School, Jeff Grujich, gave him his first big break.

"You were supposed to be at least in Grade 11 to get into the annual play, but Mr. G needed a big cast for *Into the Woods*, so I begged him for a little

part, anything. I brought the Steward to life, making a good impression, I thought, and that was the beginning."

During high school, Kimball also appeared in a few community musicals with Ryleepuss Productions and Uxbridge Youth Theatre. But he never really thought singing was his strength, and based on encounters with the ancient and modern classics in drama class, he decided that was the way he wanted to go.

"To carry a spear at Stratford," he says, "that was the dream."

And indeed, his first professional job, after his first year at Toronto Metropolitan University, was in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Festival Players. But not in Stratford... in Wellington, Prince Edward County. And he wasn't a spear carrier. He was Francis Flute the bellows-mender, one of the "rude mechanicals" who often steals the show in the hilarious Pyramus-and-Thisby scene. Appearing opposite him as Bottom the Weaver was one of Stratford's great comedians, Bruce Dow.

"That whole summer was a gift," Kimball recalls, "and the greatest thing about it was a friendship I struck with Dylan Trowbridge, a Toronto actor who became a real mentor. Two years later, early in 2019, he called me about the audi-



Luke Kimball (left) as A-rab, with Graham Kennedy as Action in the Ryleepuss production of "West Side Story" during his high school years in Uxbridge.
Photo courtesy of Luke Kimball

tions for *Cursed Child*. 'You have to be in that room,' he told me."

There were a lot of people in that room. Of all ages (Albus is 11 when the play begins), and from all over Canada. It was a very long process; by the time it was over, Kimball had gone through 14 separate auditions, for movement, dialect and flying as well as just reading the script. A couple of times, he thought he'd lost his chance, like the time he insisted on going with a university class to Greece, or another time he wouldn't give up holiday plans with his girlfriend. But they kept calling him back.

"It wasn't till the last couple of times that I began to think I might be able to book this show. Not as Albus, that would be insane, but maybe as one of the other students? That I wound up getting the part I wanted is still a bit hard to believe."

Because of the play's technical complexity, the rehearsal period was eight weeks, twice the usual length for a professional show. It would have been even longer except that the show has been playing since 2016 in many other locations, including Broadway and London's West End. It was originally conceived as two plays in one, but was recently rewritten as a single show; the Toronto production opened in that format.

It's a very physically demanding role, but Albus gets a bit of a break in Act Two. And considering the rave reviews and huge crowds the play has been receiving, Kimball is keeping himself fit for a nice long run.

A long run. A dream role. Not bad for his first Equity contract. So how could his career possibly get any better from here?

"I'm looking forward to finding out!"

To see Luke Kimball in *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, go to mirvish.com for more information.



Luke Kimball (right) and Trevor White as Harry and Albus Potter in "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child."
Photo courtesy of the Mirvish Corporation



WE'RE HIRING!
PART-TIME SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS IN SUNDERLAND
Safely transporting students for over 60 years, Stock Transportation is dedicated to excellence every day.

• WE OFFER •

FREE TRAINING | \$1000 TRAINING BONUS
Monday to Friday steady part-time schedules | Additional income potential on charters
Appealing routes and positive employee engagement
Evenings, weekends, statutory holidays & summers OFF

• REQUIREMENTS •

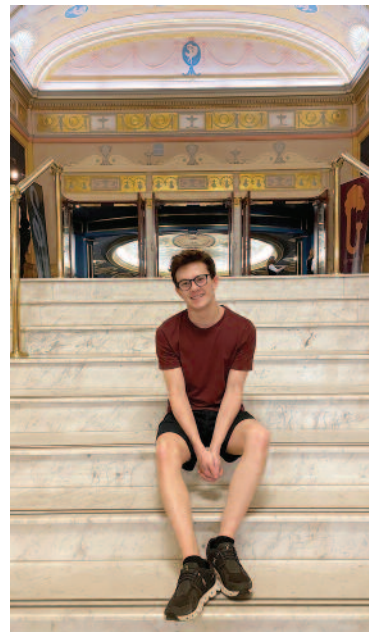
Must be 21 years or older | Valid G drivers' licence
Clean drivers abstract, criminal background check & vulnerable sector screening

GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR STAY-AT-HOME PARENTS AND RETIREES!



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://jobsatstock.ca>
jobinfo@stocktransportation.com
TOLL FREE: 1.877.233.4045



Luke Kimball between shows at the Ed Mirvish Theatre in Toronto.
Photo courtesy of the Mirvish Corporation

COSMOS BUSINESS BULLETIN BOARD



*Early Style Canadian
Handcrafted Pine Furniture*

905-852-2275 Like us
www.gilldercroft.com 



GOODWOOD
HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Home renovations including: additions, kitchens, bathrooms, basements, garages, hardwood flooring, trim etc

905 852 0057 



Alec Leask
Earthmoving & Haulage

Large and Small Jobs Welcome

- Site Preparation
- Basements & Driveways
- Trenching & Drainage
- Septic Systems



Uxbridge & area
Mobile/Text: 416-346-1623
www.alecleask.com



Utica Estate Sale

August 18 - 25

7 p.m. soft close

Antiques, Toys and Shop Tools

Call to consign to Gillanders today
www.g-a-s.ca
gillandersauctionservices.hibid.com
647-212-2275
Like us on Facebook



BRIAN L. EVANS
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Best GIC rate: 5.25%
Terms & conditions apply
Effective August 15, 2022.

38 Toronto Street North, Unit 2
Uxbridge, Ontario
905-852-3184 www.investsmart.ca

Serving our clients & communities since 1965

Life Insurance • GICs • Financial Planning

**PUT YOUR AD
IN THIS SPACE**
and get seen by everyone in
Uxbridge Township!

 Call
905
852-1900
for details

Windcrest
electrical contracting ltd

Paul Fraser
Cell 416.527.0878
windcrestelectrical@gmail.com
esa #7007893

JONES PUMPING
Septic & Holding Tanks


905-852-2486
416-476-7170

Serving Port Perry,
Uxbridge &
surrounding areas

MOE licensed

Light For Your Path

"Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the Glory of God." Romans 15:7

For Bible Resources:
biblesociety.ca/scriptures-daily-manna/


Let's Fund Your Happy Place
NiceAndEasyMortgage.ca

Michael Ross
Mortgage Agent

647.333.4646

 DOMINION LENDING CENTRES

✓Refinances ✓Reverse Mortgage ✓Commercial Lending ✓Purchases ✓Consolidate Debts

Castle Mortgage & Financial Group FSCO # 12974, 201-5402 Main Street, Stouffville, ON L4A 1H3

UTS TREE CARE
SINCE 1981

- ISA Certified Arborists
- Hydro Line Clearing
- Bucket & Crane Trucks
- Stump Grinding
- Consulting
- Tree Pruning and Removals
- Fertilizing
- Planting and Plant Health Care

905-852-5313 **UTSTreeCare.ca**

**WE'VE GOT DEALS, BUT YOU WON'T FIND THEM HERE.
CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR WHAT'S HOT THIS WEEK!**

 **THE MEAT
MERCHANT**
Family Owned and Operated Since 1990

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR
THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS!**
www.themeatmerchant.ca

905-852-9892 **3 Brock Street West**

**To place a death
or in memoriam
notice**

Visit: thecosmos.ca
Call 905-852-1900
Email: lvann@thecosmos.ca



CLASSIFIED

Classifieds are \$15/week up to 25 words; \$0.20 per additional word (plus HST). Payable in advance by cash, cheque, debit or credit card. Contact Lvann@thecosmos.ca or 905-852-1900 Deadline: Tuesday, 12 noon. Ask about online link possibilities, too.

SERVICES

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE Grass cutting and trimming, garden weeding, small tree removal. **SENIOR DISCOUNT.** Call Daniel or Tony, cell 289-988-2474. 9/8

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

PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY Family Portraits Headshots, Product or Wedding Photography. Web Design. Located in Uxbridge. Text Stephen at 905-424-9520.

CARPET

I have 1000's of yds. of NEW carpet available, starting as little as \$1.00 sq. ft. Serving Ontario since 1986. For fast Shop-At-Home service visit carpetdeals.ca or call Steve at 289-803-3088

WE'RE BACK!

The Port Perry High School Holiday Craft Show

is being held on Saturday, Nov. 26. Any vendors looking to sell their crafts at our Music Department's annual fundraiser should contact Rory at snidermcgrathrory@gmail.com and he will send you a registration package.

Email info@wrightwebphoto.com or visit wrightwebphoto.com Your Best Shot! 10/27

REGISTERED NURSE to provide foot care in your home. Diabetic, ingrown toenails, callouses & corns. Veterans welcome. Total Comfort Care 416-274-6765. 9/8

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

DECKS & FENCING: Does your deck or fence need repair, powerwashing or re-sealing? We specialize in decks & fencing. No deck is too small or big. Very competitive prices, 20 years' experience, 2 year written warranty, free estimates. For all your outside upgrades & projects, contact RBC Decks. Ron, 416-705-9993. 8/11

THE GIRLS BRA SHOP - Find the bras you'll love living in with our expert fitters at The Girls Bra Shop in Stouffville. Contact thegirlsbrashop@gmail.com for details. 905-642-3339. An uplifting experience! 8/25

LAWN SLIDE SERVICES - "Reliable Service with Quality Results". Interlocking, lawn cutting, landscaping, spring and fall clean ups, tree/hedge trimming. Follow on Instagram - [lawn_slide_services](https://www.instagram.com/lawn_slide_services) - contact Noah, 647-523-6730 or email lawnslide@gmail.com Serving Uxbridge and surrounding area. 8/25

HOME-WATCH HOUSE/PET SITTING SERVICES: Home Owners have trusted Heather Stewart for 18 years for her reliability and detailed professionalism. Property Services / Dog Walking / Cat Sitting / Doggie Sleep-Overs! Visit home-watch.ca for more

info on Heather's services. Call or text 905-852-8525, email hstewart@home-watch.ca and follow us on Instagram - HomeWatchUxbridge 8/25

OLE' HANDYMAN & FAMILY. Waterproofing, seamless eavestrough, landscaping, electrical, plumbing, post rebuilders, mold, kitchen & bath, basements, pot lights, stonework, cement, all roofing, demolition. Arborist. Masks worn. Licensed. 52 years experience. Senior discount. 905-473-5197 or 647-225-3311 (cell). 8/25

WANTED

ANN'S GARDENS NOW HIRING, Gardeners and Fall Labourers. AnnsGardens@Outlook.com. 647-269-4363. Ann's Gardens, we get down to the roots! 8/25

LOOKING FOR a 1-bedroom apartment in Uxbridge for a senior lady. Immediate occupancy. Displaced due to the tornado. Great references. Call 416-655-5710. 8/18

PRIVATE HORSE FARM requires help on Fridays. Uxbridge area. No experience required. \$20 per hour. Call 416-402-1082. 8/25

HAIRDRESSING ASSISTANT (some experience) needed. Also, hairstylist apprenticeships available (hours). Call Artistic Hair Stop at 905-852-7391. 8/18

FOR RENT

UXBRIDGE 2-BEDROOM BASEMENT APARTMENT for rent. Parking. On-Site Laundry, separate entrance, walk to downtown. Large kitchen, spacious living area. No smoking/pets. \$1,500/mo. incl. First & last required. Avail. Sept 1. 416-805-3972 9/8

Township settles with Coffee Time head office

by Roger Varley

As a result of damages to the Coffee Time shop on lower Brock Street,

caused by construction of the downtown culvert, the Township of Uxbridge has reached a settlement with the parent company, Coffee

Time (2015) Corp.

However, although court documents show that Coffee Time sought damages of slightly more than \$66,000, neither the court documents nor the township divulge the final amount of the settlement. Coffee Time had claimed \$66,000 for breach of contract or, alternatively, for negligence.

The township purchased the building housing Coffee Time prior to the start of construction and became Coffee Time's landlord. The company had sub-leased the store to Song Ning, the franchisee. The Coffee Time claim settlement does not cover the franchisee, who must file her own claim for losses incurred after her business was forced to close.

Coffee Time's action said that, due to the negligence of the township,

the construction of the new culvert resulted in structural damage to the premises, leading the township to declare the building unsafe and closing it in January 2020.

The township, acknowledging the settlement has been reached, said the building was closed on the recommendation of Brennan Paving and Construction, the main contractor. The township is claiming the amount reached in the settlement as part of a counter claim against Brennan and AECOM Canada Limited, the design engineer and contract administrator. Brennan has already filed suit against the township for \$8 million.

At this time, Coffee Time (2015) Corp. no longer has a lease at the property and the future use of the site is currently under consideration.

Uxbridge teen wins gold at Canada Games in Niagara

by Justyne Edgell

Cruz Lewis of Uxbridge captured two gold medals this past week at the Canada Summer Games in Niagara - one in the 60kg category and another in the team event as a part of Team Ontario.

To get to the gold medal match, where he defeated Donovan Neudorf of Saskatchewan by 'technical superiority', Lewis, 16, faced, and won, seven grueling fights.

Lewis says he loves that feeling on competition day when he's "a little bit nervous but when I'm on the mat, and have my tunes going, I'm ready to go and I'm locked in."

Jeremy LaTour, one of Lewis's personal coaches and the Team Ontario coach, says Lewis faced tough competition, being the youngest eligible age to participate in the Games.

"His performance was outstanding and whenever he was faced with adversity he shone even brighter. His contribution as an individual was paramount in the team's success"

When asked about his gold medal faceoff, Lewis complimented his competitor, saying he was a tough guy with good technique and great ground defence. "I was trying to make sure I didn't underestimate him," says Lewis.

LaTour says that his accomplishments are directly related to his "second to none" work ethic. "He sacrifices countless hours a week practicing, traveling, lifting weights and doing everything an athlete needs to do to have success at this level and the levels beyond."

Lewis won gold at the Canadian Wrestling Championship earlier this year, and also won gold at the Ontario Summer Games Trials earlier this summer. He is the reigning U17 National Champion in the 60 kg class.

Lewis got into wrestling at the age of eight, along with his older brother, coached by their dad, Courtney Lewis. They started out with Judo but then discovered wrestling and asked if they could try that. "My dad said 'Okay, but I only know one way of coaching, and it's the hard way', and we said alright let's go!" He now trains at The Forge Martial Arts Health And Fitness centre in Mississauga.

"I'd also like to get to the Olympics," says Lewis, "in 2024 or 2028. I'd love to represent Uxbridge."

Lewis sends a "huge shoutout" to his mom Adele, his family, his training partner Tyler Barry, everyone at the YMCA, and his coaches Jeremy Latour and Donald Drummon. "I really appreciate all these people."



Uxbridge Hospital FALL MUM Fundraiser

Decorate your porch and garden with beautiful, LARGE, 14", colourful, potted mums while supporting the Uxbridge Hospital.

5 colour choices: Yellow, purple, orange/bronze, red/burgundy & tricolour

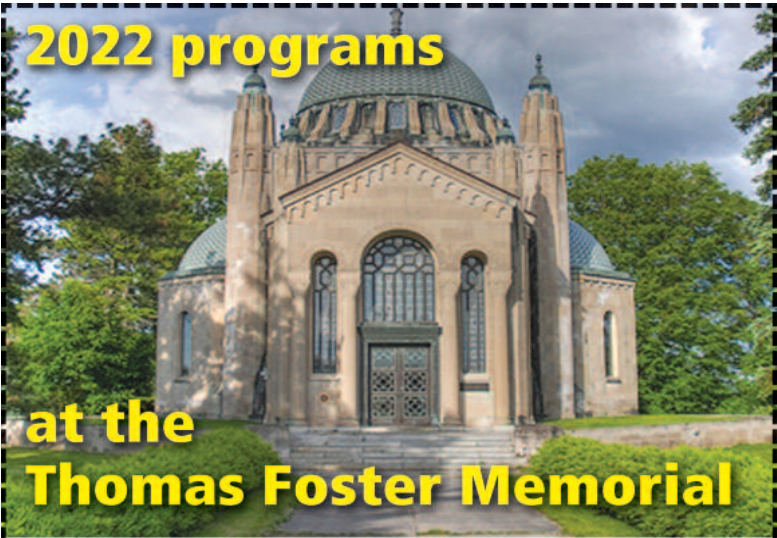
\$28 each or 2 or more for \$25 each (any colour combination)
Price includes HST

Order and payment deadline is
Tuesday, August 23, 2022
Delivery to Uxbridge Hospital is the week of September 12, 2022

Place your order online at
uxbridgehospitalauxiliary.com
and click on 2022 Fall Mum Sale

All proceeds to the
Uxbridge Hospital
Auxiliary





2022 programs at the Thomas Foster Memorial

The Jewel on the Hill
The only book written about the Foster.
Beautifully illustrated, this book makes a perfect gift for that special person + CD of Handel Sonatas, Flute & Cello.
Recorded at the Foster by James Warburton.

Meditation
Relax with crystal singing bowls & crystal harp for deep release, relaxation
August 8 & September 12
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The Foster is open for tours
Wednesday to Sunday and Monday, August 1
11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
\$5 per person

Purchase a Plaque
in memory of a family member or family name.
(Limited number available)

For information, to register for Meditation or bus/group tours, or to purchase a plaque, call 905-640-3966 or email beverlynortheast@gmail.com

9449 Conc. 7 (Durham Reg. Rd. 1), 4km north of Uxbridge
thomasfostermemorial.com

Fridays at the Foster Concert Series
Every Friday night
June - Sept., 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Admission - Donation at the door

Aug. 5 - Mark Thackway, Guitar
Aug. 12 - Linda Dempster & Laura Heighway (Ontario Fiddle Champion)
Aug. 19 - Chris Saunders, Guitar/Vocals
Aug. 26 - Shimoda Family Ensemble, Instrumental
Sept. 2 - Laurelle Augustyn, Guitar/Vocals
Sept. 9 - Gary McLaughlin, Guitar/Vocals
Sept. 16 - Melanie J. Heber, Vocals
Sept. 23 - Andrew Heathcote, Guitar/Vocals
Sept. 30 - Finale - Mike Burns

Special Programs
Sun., Sept. 11, 2 p.m.
An afternoon of Baroque & Classical music with the Lakeridge Trio.
For tickets contact 905-640-3966 or email beverlynortheast@gmail.com

Sun., Oct. 2, 1:30 p.m.
Jazz & Blues. Visit www.thomasfostermemorial.com for performers!



Authorized Dealer of
 gemstone lights
SMART | OUTDOOR | LIGHTING

in support of


(647) 370-3328

Cosmos Readers Receive
\$500 OFF
a Gemstone Lights System
(some conditions apply. See website for details)

Celebrate Your Home



Call today to book your free estimate.
VIBEilluminations.ca