

Online this week: Back to school safety • Educating tax dollars • Inside the Library



THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY - Maria McMahon-Cordero, left, seems fascinated by the work historical reenactor Judy Findlay is doing on her spinning wheel during a demonstration at Heritage Day, held last Sunday at the Uxbridge Historical Centre.

Photo by John Cavers

North House pleads for action on affordable housing

by Conrad Boyce Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Seven years ago, the expansion of residential housing in Uxbridge was severely limited in two ways: the proximity of Greenbelt lands, and the capacity of the local water treatment plant.

The price of housing was also reasonable. But seven years later, everything has changed.

"The Greenbelt restrictions still exist," says Kyle Rainbow, the township's director of development services, "meaning we're still pretty much doing infill, but that infill can be much more intensive, because five years ago, Durham Region made improvements to the treatment plant that allow us to increase the town's population from 11,000 to 15,000. We're only at about 12,000 now, so there's room to grow."

But to grow in what way? To buy a house here now is, for many, almost impossible; even rental prices are high. This means that the composition of the town is changing. Kids that grew up here can't consider raising their own families in Uxbridge. People in Toronto and the immediate suburbs are fleeing the city in droves, looking for homes even a little less expensive. And they're finding them here.

There are a number of subdivisions that will be completed in Uxbridge in the next couple

of years. They're being marketed to the upper middle class buyer. There is no range of housing options included.

North House is a non-profit organization, founded in 2004, that is dedicated to helping the homeless and those at risk of homelessness in North Durham (Townships of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge). For the first 15 years, their clients fluctuated between 150-175 per year, but now, with a perfect storm of conditions including an actual storm - it has created a crisis. North House currently sees a caseload of over 450, with Uxbridge having the highest number of all three townships with 185 people ...continued on page 3



Patrick Bryant

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The Township of

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The Township of UXBRIDGE

Trail Capital of Canada

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MORE INFO www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committee Meetings Meeting Schedule for September, 2022

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

Public Meeting-309 Zephyr Rd., 7:00 p.m. Public Meeting-181 Toronto St. S., 7:45 p.m.

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

From The Tax Office

Property Tax due date is September 27, 2022. Please ensure your payment is received at the Tax Department by the due date to avoid penalty/interest charges.

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!

Employment Opportunities

Complete details and qualifications required for these positions are available at https://www.uxbridge.ca/careers/

Current Opportunities
Uxpool – Lifeguards and/or Instructors,
Fall Session

Closes September 14, 2022 Completed Request for Hours form is required by September 15, 2022

Crossing Guards-Closing Date Extended
Uxpool - Lifeguards-Closing Date Extended

Board and Committee Appointment
Opportunities

2022 Santa Claus Parade CommitteeClosing 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.

Road Closures

- \bullet Portion of Village Green Lane between 46 and 52 will be closed for utility work between August 17 31, 2022.
- Planks Lane from Marietta St. to Franklin St. will be closed to traffic for road reconstruction between July 13 October 14, 2022.
- Lake Ridge Road (Reg. Rd. 23) from 100m north of Myrtle Road (Reg. Rd. 5) to 1.6 km north of Chalk Lake Road will be minor traffic delays for construction work between August 22, 2022 September 2023.
- 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





The 2022 Mayor's Golf Tournament raised over \$20,000 to support non-profit groups and individuals seeking financial support for activities and events that will benefit our entire Community! Thank-you to the **Wooden Sticks Golf Club** and to Kyle Hopper and Steve Wilson for all your help, and to participating golfers.

We are grateful to key sponsors:

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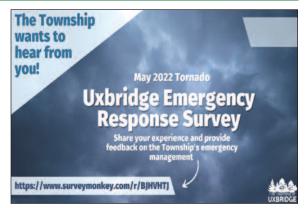
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Housing crisis at home, from page 1

and families needing help. The dilemma of those displaced by the May 21 tornado is a perfect illustration. Some 60 people lost their homes, and many of them found refuge with family or friends. But winter approaches, and it appears that even for those whose homes can be rebuilt (particularly in three apartment buildings near the train station), it will be nearly a year before they can return. Temporary housing, in shelters, hotels or vacant apartments does not exist at any price here, let alone an affordable one.

And homelessness is no longer something that happens somewhere else. It's not uncommon for tents to be spotted along the trails, in public parks, even in the green space behind a downtown bank. It's a frequent enough occurrence that township bylaw officers have developed a pro-

"In 2019, we established a relationship with the township's bylaw department," says Mona Emond, executive director of North House. "Because our staff are trained for these situations, we are the first people they call when they get a report of someone living unsheltered. We have access to options that they don't, in order to help assist the person for the short-term until housing can be found."

Few of those options are within the township, however, since Uxbridge has no shelter, no hotel, no motel. In late June, North House chairperson Ron Houston appeared before town council, pleading for housing solutions both short and long-term.

"I asked them to consider dedicating one of their township buildings as an emergency shelter," says Houston, "perhaps a community hall with a kitchen and washroom. On another front, I asked if they would

consider requiring a designated number of affordable units in any new development, even perhaps developing a subdivision designated just for tiny homes."

So far, there's been no response to those requests, though Houston hopes that affordable housing will become a key issue in the current municipal election. In the meantime, the case numbers at North House keep growing, and winter creeps ever

A group of concerned local organizations, including North House, Uxbridge Cares, St. Paul's Anglican, St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian and the Food Bank have formed the Uxbridge Coalition Against Poverty. The goal is to eliminate poverty through advocacy, education and collaboration with the community and government. If you'd like to be involved, an information session is being planned for Oct. 2. Check their Facebook page for more infor-



Board of Directors

A mid-size seniors non-profit housing corporation in Uxbridge seeks volunteers to serve as directors. Individuals with an interest or experience in social housing, finance or property management are preferred. Applicants should have some familiarity with governance and be able to attend monthly virtual meetings. Please forward an expression of interest or resumé to:

More information: www.UxbridgeSeniors.com

Uxbridge Senior Citizens' Club

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This posting will be open until September 20, 2022. Please note that only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



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

The 'White Water Wishlist' trip was won by Scott Davidson, ticket #326, sold by Fran Taylor.

2nd place winner of \$150 was won by Carl Cornell, ticket #365, sold by Steve Snoddon.

3rd place winner of \$100 was won by Mary Harwood, ticket #271, sold by Doug Wilson.

Congratulations to our August winners and best of luck for the September draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge Trip of the Month Club! It's a 'Pick Your Pleasure' package, which includes round trip direct non-stop airfare from Toronto to England, Scotland or Ireland (your choice), 7 nights' stay at a fully furnished seaside self-catering cottage, an 8 day compact car rental including full insurance, and a comprehensive touring map.

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



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Foxbridge

Scrambles

Our two cents

The stuff you'll really learn at school

The first day of school looms on the horizon, so we thought we'd take this opportunity to share a few pearls of wisdom that some students - especially older ones - might do well to remember.

You will learn that, if you gossip about others, that gossip will come back to haunt you, and you'll wish you'd kept your mouth shut.

You will learn that you don't have to try to be someone you're not just to impress people. You're fabulous just the way you are.

You will learn that actually reading the books that are assigned in English class is a really good idea. They're great reads, and you'll feel like all that when you can knowledgeably talk about a classic title.

You will learn that what's in your head is way more important than what's on it. Your feet don't care about Nike - they care about great adventures.

You will learn a lot from your teachers, but your teachers may learn a lot more from you.

You will learn that your parents aren't the dolts you may think they are. They were teens once, too, and they do have some idea of where they are coming from.

You will learn that you aren't at school to find a life, you're there to start building one. Make sure the bricks are solid.

You will learn that not everyone is going to like you. Get over it.

You will learn that questioning authority is good, but disrespecting au-

You will learn to stick to what you believe, not what you're told to believe. You will learn that your circumstances may have influenced who you are, but you are fully responsible for who you become.

No book can teach you this stuff, but you still have to go to school to learn it. Take it in, along with the algebra and history, and you should be off to a good start. Happy Back to School.

Inspired by Liv Taylor, "43 Things High School taught me," theodysseyonline.com



Uxbridge Cosmus

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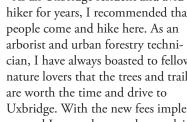
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This is my first time writing into a newspaper. I am very passionate about our trails here. In my view, the fee is not what the spirit of Uxbridge is all about. Why set up a process that deters hikers from getting out and enjoying nature without the worry of phones, money, and applications?

I hope we as a town make the right decision and remove the fees from our trails.

> Cameron Stuart McFarlane Uxbridge

Re: Heritage Day 2022

I just returned from attending Heritage Day. This letter is not to criticize or denigrate the wonderful people who volunteer for Uxbridge events such as Heritage Day, because all events need enthusiastic volunteers and workers. And Uxbridge has never been short of marvellous folk who help out all the time. (So often the same reliable faces.)

In addition, it was terrific to see all the sponsors (the usual bunch!), from the UPS store who donated the catalog and the others, particularly Canadian Tire and Rutledge Jewellers - Pat Higgins and Scott Rutledge, the town's two most generous sponsors, who seem to support literally everything.

But as someone who has attended and supported the former Steam Threshing/Heritage Days event faithfully for more than two decades, it was beyond disappointing to see the poor morning turnout, the sparce number of vendors, the lack of any feeling of en-

thusiasm... Despite the heroic efforts of the Highland band, the atmosphere resembled a funeral.

The main bone of contention, however, was not the lack of attendance, it was the lack of affordable food. Gone were the lovely ladies who sold those great pies and sandwiches. No cobs of corn bubbling in a cauldron. Or friendly food trucks. Just one lone food vendor, with such outrageous prices it was rightfully ignored. \$15 for a cheese and bacon burger. \$9 for a small poutine, \$11 for a larger portion. It was irresponsible to have only one food source. Imagine a young family arriving at lunchtime with hungry kids, and reeling at the cost of a

After COVID, one would have hoped a resurrection of the "good old days" when Uxbridge's magnificent museum complex, with all those remarkable buildings, would have attracted crowds on such a stunningly beautiful day.

Without new ideas, new blood, more variety, and an enthusiastic public, perhaps our wonderful tradition of Heritage Day is no longer viable. Even the Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society's website is obsolete, showing photos of historical demonstrations, none of which were part of the event. (The antique cars, including ours, were there, but no where near the numbers from the past.) So sad.

Mike Macbeth Uxbridge



Letters to the Editor

Re: Uxbridge trail parking fee

On a recent trip to the Walker Woods trailhead on Conc. 6, my sister and I were surprised with new scan code signs. Neither one of us had brought a cell phone so that we could have a bit of an escape from the internet. After getting out of the car, a fellow hiker explained that an app is needed to register as an Uxbridge citizen in order to park at the trailhead. Within five minutes of arriving, two separate hiking parties pulled in, read the sign, and then left to hike somewhere without a parking fee. The need to register to park sent my sister and I straight home to download an app and return with the one thing we wanted to escape from - our phones.

As a university student I am always looking for free and fun activities. Now one of the only free activities we all enjoy has an associated price tag with it. Getting out into the woods and enjoying the mental, physical, and health benefits is essential. The trail fee is not something everyone can afford and should be reconsidered so all can enjoy the benefits of nature without the worry of affordability.

As an Uxbridge resident and avid hiker for years, I recommended that cian, I have always boasted to fellow nature lovers that the trees and trails Uxbridge. With the new fees implemented I am embarrassed to explain that you now need to pay for parking at trailheads.



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Accountability? Not any more

Robert Stanfield, the best prime minister Canada never had, lost his last federal election in the late 1970s to his old nemesis, Pierre Trudeau. There were several factors that led to his defeat, not the least of which was that Trudeau had already beaten him in two previous elections. But a photo of Stanfield fumbling a football was seized on by his opponents as proof that he wasn't up to the job of prime minister.

I was the photo editor who selected that picture from among many taken by Canadian Press photographer Doug Ball. I didn't choose the photo for any political reasons: it was simply an eye-grabbing picture. But it did damage his campaign.

Stockwell Day, an Alberta conservative, once showed up for a news conference on a jet ski wearing a wet suit. Boy, was he ridiculed for that. Then there was former Conservative prime minister Joe Clark who was roundly dissed for losing his luggage on an international trip.

All rather mundane incidents, but they had severe political consequences.

Now, let's look at where we are today. Pierre Poilievre talks to a plank of wood, believes the economy should be based on cryptocurrency and holds imaginary conversations with a political opponent who isn't there. And he is set to win the Conservative leadership. Danielle Smith, running for leadership of the UCP in Alberta, claims cancer could be treated with naturopathic medicine and says she would pass an Alberta Sovereignty Act so that the province wouldn't have to enforce any federal laws it didn't like. And she is set to win that leadership.

Maxime Bernier is so off-the-wall (he's antiimmigration and against taxing corporations) that even the Conservatives find him too extreme, and yet he continues to make inroads into Conservative support with his People's Party. In Ontario, the buffoonery and bull-ina-china-shop antics of the Ford brothers at Toronto city council (as well as their questionable associations with drug dealers) didn't prevent Doug Ford from becoming premier.

All this seems to indicate that, where we once expected, or even demanded, that our political leaders show a little class and have the sense to avoid situations that could needlessly end in embarrassment, now it's the

most outrageous behaviour that earns support and wins votes.

Unfortunately, that approach is now filtering down into the masses, as evidenced by the so-called Freedom Convoy, which demanded the Governor General throw out the elected Parliament, by the disgusting incident involving Chrystia Freeland on the weekend, and the recent attempt to "arrest" the Peterborough police department and turn them over to the army.

If you ask any of these people the reason for thier actions, it's usually a one-word answer: "Trudeau." According to them, Trudeau is responsible for the inflation that is hitting countries around the world, he is seeking to starve Canadians by reducing fertilizer use, he is responsible for the health-care crisis, the housing crisis, you name it. There are any number of reasons why Trudeau should be criticized, but according to the right-wing fringes he must be blamed for everything. And the current crop of Conservative leaders encourages this thinking at every turn. That is dangerous, leading to such things as the Freeland incident - and it could get worse. Poilievre couldn't even bring himself to criticize, never mind denounce, the individual who accosted Freeland.

This ain't your granddaddy's Conservative party, folks. Stanfield fumbled the football, but he was an honest, decent man. Clark lost his luggage, but he is an earnest, decent man. In Ontario, John Robarts and Bill Davis (though I didn't agree with their politics) were decent, honorable men. With the current crop, I wouldn't leave a loonie sitting on the table if they were around. They are willing to say and do anything to get elected, and what they say and do isn't always in the public interest.

John Diefenbaker and Lester Pearson used to go at each other hammer-and-tongs in Parliamentary debates, but I don't recall either of them ever descending into personal attacks against each other. They differed widely politically, but they respected each other as politicians, as people.

Stanfield must be rolling in his grave. But I know he would forgive me for choosing that photo.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

The black and white of grey

First, I welcomed the opportunity. The CTV producer invited me on spec to come up with an idea for a show featuring prominent Canadians. At the time, back in the 1980s, as a freelance writer I made much of my living pitching ideas without payment on the chance if the broadcaster liked the idea, I'd win a contract to write the script. So, I massaged the prominent Canadians idea into an outline, presented it to the producer and asked for a contract to write the show.

"We'll have to see what the budget is," he warned.

"When will you let me know if I can write the show?" I asked.

"After we've budgeted for the guests and the paint for the set."

You could have knocked me over with a feather. When I pressed him for the chance to write the show I'd created, he told me in so many words, it was a "business decision." I've worked in broadcasting for 50 years. I understand programs cannot exist without budgets. But in a media environment dominated by corporations and not broadcasters, one begins to doubt whether anything else – broadcast quality, journalistic excellence or the experience of contributors – matters when everything is determined by business

decision-making.

Like so many, I was incensed by CTV's (a.k.a. Bell Media's) firing of Lisa LaFlamme. Clearly her 33-year career in news reporting covering wars, federal politics, natural disasters, while blazing a trail for women in Canadian news broadcasting and serving as CTV's chief news anchor since 2011 - meant nothing to CTV executives. In typical corporatespeak Bell Media issued an excuse about its need to recognize "changing viewer habits" to move "CTV National News and the role of its Chief News Anchor in a different direction." That direction became crystal clear when Michael Melling (according to the Globe and Mail) questioned who had allowed LaFlamme, who is 58, to let her hair go grey. It seems another business decision has resulted in Melling's taking a leave of absence. Despite all its bafflegab about viewer habits and different direction, Bell Media must admit it botched this entire matter, as evidenced by the chorus of respected journalists who've called them on the firing.

Rosie DiManno at the *Star* commented that LaFlamme's decision to allow her hair to go its natural silver during the pandemic sparked a "duplicitous and repugnant" response from

Bell Media "suits ... not satisfied merely orchestrating a cancel culture around LaFlamme (but) badmouthing the woman who brought the network so much glory and a heartfelt connection with viewers." The apparent sexism and age discrimination in CTV's decision prompted long-time CBC News reporter Anna Maria Tremonti to say, "The idea of what a woman looks like on television is still something ... bosses think they can weigh in on ... (and) has been a problem since day one." Lloyd Robertson, who anchored CTV News until 2011 when he was 77, commented at a panel discussion in Stratford, "You don't go laying off ... the way (they) laid off Lisa LaFlamme."

Thursday, September 1, 2022

I have to admire the business decision-making at Unilever Canada. A few days after LaFlamme went to Twitter to describe being "blindsided" by Bell Media, the makers of Dove soap launched a "Keep the Grey" social media campaign. "Women with grey hair are being edged out of the workplace," the Dove ad pointed out. "So, Dove is going grey. Together we can support women aging on their own terms." Adding fuel to the fire that CTV News journalistic decision-making is being trumped by Bell Media corporate bosses, the Canadian Association of Journalists learned that CTV coverage of the "Keep the Grey" story was nixed by management. "At what point does the issue of editorial independence become questioned?" asked Brent Jolly, CAJ president.

From the moment I was told by CTV that my scripting contract might be considered after the paint for the set was paid for back in the 1980s, I've always been suspicious of private sector programming decisions. Some years after the paint incident, the CTV affiliate in Edmonton invited me to host a daily open-line television program. The producers gave me free rein to choose topics, issues and guests. The show became popular; ratings were great; the show offered a public service. Then, part-way through the season, the producer booked a guest I had problems with - a fortune-teller. I pushed back, suggesting clairvoyants are fakes, fabricating predictions about people's futures. Well, you know where this is going. The next season, CTV changed hosts and content. The soothsayer now hosted the open-line show five-days-week. I hadn't turned grey. Factual programming simply got blindsided by a business decision.

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

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Region warns of water treatment sales scam

The Regional Municipality of Durham recently issued a statement reminding residents that the Region does *not* sell or endorse water filters or treatment equipment. The Region says it has been contacted by concerned residents inquiring about phone calls from salespeople who want access to their home to test the water or inspect the water service. In the past, salespersons have gone door-to-door making similar claims.

If someone calls you or shows up at your door, remember the following to protect yourself from scams:

•Did you request a call or visit? Re-

gional staff will not visit without sending an official letter to schedule an appointment; never give out your personal information.

•Call the Region at 905-668-7711 to confirm that the phone call or visit is legitimate.

• If you receive a phone call, don't feel pressured to agree to a home visit.

•If someone comes to your door, don't feel pressured to sign contracts on the spot, or to let anyone into your home.

•If they come to your door, ask for identification. All regional employees

and authorized contractors carry photo identification.

According to the statement, "the Regional Municipality of Durham provides safe drinking water to residents through the municipal water supply system, meeting Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. The quality and safety of the Region's water are confirmed at an accredited laboratory, which is licensed by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change."

Information on water quality testing is available from the region by contacting the Works Department at 905-668-7711, and online at durham.ca/water

Feds pump more money into Uxbridge

Pickering-Uxbridge MP Jennifer O'Connell made another visit to Uxbridge on Monday, once again bringing federal money to local projects.

O'Connell came to announce a federal grant of \$500,000 for improvements to the Fields of Uxbridge. At the same time, she also announced a grant of \$92,000 to upgrade the washrooms at Sandford community hall.

Just recently, she was in town to deliver a \$775,000 grant for extensive improvements to Elgin Park.

The FOU grant, awarded from

the Federal Tourism Relief fund, will be used to improve accessibility, safety and year-round use at the recreation site. The improvements include a new, paved parking lot with lighting, landscaping with new accessible paths, portable toilets and new gates and fencing.

The Sandford grant helps cover the cost of recently completed work installing new accessible washrooms. That grant comes from the federal government's Enabling Accessibility fund.



Allan Davis, 1957 - 2022

His family is sad to share the news of Al's tragic passing after a vehicle accident near Melrose, Nova Scotia, on August 7, 2022.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Uxbridge Legion, September 8, from 1 - 4 p.m.

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Thomas Foster Memorial



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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.

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Visit our website at **uxbridgestudiotour.com** for tour details.



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