

# The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 18 No. 36

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, September 15, 2022

Online this week: How to do the Studio Tour &amp; Art on the Fringe • Book Drunkard is back!



**SMASH 'EM UP, BASH 'EM UP** - The Demolition Derby, one of the highlights of the Uxbridge Fall Fair, was back in smokin' style last Saturday evening. After being cancelled two years in a row due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fair enjoyed record crowds and excellent weather. For more, see page 3.

Photo by John Cavers

## Proposed park pits neighbour against neighbour - again

by Roger Varley

Uxbridge council heard a deputation Monday from a couple of residents of the Cemetery Road/Campbell Drive neighbourhood who want to see a playground built in the area.

Heather McDonell told council that 115 residents in the area support the idea, noting that there are 132 children under the age of 18 living in the neighbourhood. She said there are no playgrounds available within 500 yards of the neighbourhood.

In a brief slide presentation, she said only six residents were opposed to the idea. However, the council agenda included 15 letters from residents who want a small park area at one end of Campbell Dr. retained as a "passive" park." McDonell said she was not pushing for a spe-

cific location, but wanted township staff to look at possible sites for the playground in the neighbourhood.

Ward 4 Councillor Willie Popp recalled that the neighbourhood was "fractured" several years ago when a similar proposal was made to install a playground on the passive park.

"It looks like it's doing it again," he said. "We have to try to find common ground."

Council directed staff to look into the situation and report back on what opportunities exist for a playground in the area.

Also on Monday, in a report to council, Hunter Gardner, arena and recreation manager, asked that arena staff take over the running of the pro shop. She noted that the previous operator had not renewed the lease and the pro shop is now vacant, resulting in a loss of rental

revenue of just over \$2,400 a year.

Gardner estimated that, if staff operates the pro shop - which offers skate sharpening and skating equipment - even for just a three-month trial period, the arena would see slightly more than \$4,300 in additional revenue. She asked that council allow a three-month trial period from October to December.

Popp opined that the township could be undertaking something that will be difficult to manage.

"This is an area where we have no expertise," he said.

However, council approved the three-month trial, which will see the shop operated by staff from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays and from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays.

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## Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for September, 2022

Wednesday, September 21

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT-  
MEETING- CANCELLED

AGE FRIENDLY COMMITTEE, 2:30 p.m.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE, 7:30 p.m.

### Proclamations for the Month

- National Hunger Action Month
- Sept. 21 – International Day of Peace
- Sept. 30 – National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
- 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.

RETAIN YOUR 2022 FINAL TAX BILL FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES. If a reprinted tax bill, receipt or Statement of Account is required for any year's taxes, a fee of \$15.00 will apply.

To update or change the mailing address, please contact the Tax Department at 905-852-9181 or [tax@uxbridge.ca](mailto:tax@uxbridge.ca).

## Employment Opportunities

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

Current Opportunities

**Manager of By-law Services**

Closes September 16 at 4:30 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.*

# Uxbridge at a Glance

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge  
51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190  
Uxbridge L9P 1T1  
905-852-9181 [info@uxbridge.ca](mailto:info@uxbridge.ca)

## In Memorium

The public is invited to sign a book of condolence for the Queen at:

Uxbridge Town Hall

or

Uxbridge Public Library

during regular hours of operation




## Film Crew on Location

**Wed. Sept. 14 - Sat. Sept. 17**  
near the Roxy Theatre

On Friday Sept. 16th please expect

- late night noise/lights
- intermittent road closures
- intermittent sidewalk closures

Learn more at [www.uxbridge.ca](http://www.uxbridge.ca)

## Road Closures

- 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.

## 1 in every 7 households in Durham Region are food insecure

Do your part by donating your non-perishable food to

**Town Hall (51 Toronto St. S.)**  
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**the Uxbridge Public Library (9 Toronto St. S.)**

**September 6-29**



## Santa is ready, are you?




Register your float today at [www.Uxbridge.ca/parade](http://www.Uxbridge.ca/parade)



## Get on the list to vote!

Visit [Uxbridge.ca/elections](http://Uxbridge.ca/elections) to register



The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge congratulates

*J. Patrick Higgins*

on being the inaugural recipient of the  
**ORDER OF UXBRIDGE**  
in recognition of his long-term and outstanding commitment to the betterment of the community




## The Township wants to hear from you!

May 2022 Tornado

## Uxbridge Emergency Response Survey

Share your experience and provide feedback on the Township's emergency management

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BJHVHTJ>



## Swimming Lesson Registration Now Open!



Register on-line at Activenet, in-person at the Uxpool, or by phone 905 852 7831




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

email: [accessibility@uxbridge.ca](mailto:accessibility@uxbridge.ca)  
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209



# Fall Fair enthusiastically welcomed back

by Roger Varley

After a two-year hiatus, the Uxbridge Fall Fair returned with a bang to Elgin Park on the weekend.

Under beautiful clear skies, large crowds packed the fair all weekend to such an extent that the Lion's Club food booth and a couple of other vendors ran out of food all three days. On Friday evening, the lineup of vehicles waiting to enter the grounds stretched from the Elgin Park Drive entrance down to Main Street and then all the way up to Reach Street.

Once again, the thunder of roaring engines in the tractor pull reverberated across the urban area on Friday, there was standing room only for Saturday night's demolition derby and the crowds gathered again on Sunday for the quieter horse pull competition. Most of the usual

events were back: the livestock showings, the horse competitions in the show ring, the classic cars and antique tractors

Exhibits in the craft building and the horticultural building were fewer this year because the fair board, recognizing this as "a transition year" from the COVID-19 pandemic, reduced the number of categories available. This was done in order to allow more space in the buildings for the public to move around and maintain some semblance of social distancing.

To acknowledge the tornado that hit Uxbridge in May, the fair board, instead of holding its usual appreciation night for the hundreds of volunteers at the fair, will make a donation to the Uxbridge Optimist Club's tornado relief fund.

Food prices were higher than previous years, with one vendor selling

slices of pie at \$15 each. But it was still possible to buy fries for \$5 or a hot dog for \$6.

Sizeable audiences gathered at the bandshell for a variety of free entertainment; children had fun petting a porcupine, shucking and grinding corn, having their faces painted or riding the midway; and for many adults, the weekend was a long-awaited opportunity to meet and talk with old friends.

One highlight of the fair was the presentation of the first Order of Uxbridge to Canadian Tire Uxbridge owner Pat Higgins, who was recognized for his many years of running the Huck Finn fishing derby, the JumpStart program, his involvement with the Santa Claus parade and numerous other community initiatives.

## Tiny homes promise affordable housing - township says it has no land

by Roger Varley

Adrian Giacca, a former resident of Uxbridge who now lives in Revelstoke, B.C., appeared before council to present his ideas for affordable neighbourhoods of micro-houses. Giacca noted he moved to Revelstoke because he could not afford a home in the GTA and especially in Uxbridge.

Giacca, who was involved with the design of the Uxbridge skate park, the pump park and the proposed accessible playground in Elgin Park, pointed out that it is becoming increasingly difficult for many to afford a home. He said he would like the township to find a suitable piece

of land to construct a small pilot project community of micro-homes.

His presentation included a number of slides which showed how several micro-homes could be built on small parcels of land in an aesthetically pleasing way.

Following his presentation, Mayor Dave Barton said that while he "loved the concept," Uxbridge has limited land available and is focused on intensification in the downtown area. He said he would prefer to see a design for micro-houses that could be built in back yards.

Anyone interested in Giacca's ideas can contact him at [adrian@remotelandscape.com](mailto:adrian@remotelandscape.com)



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## All Candidates Forum

for the upcoming Municipal Election

Monday, September 26 at 7 p.m.

Uxbridge Arena & Community Centre

To submit questions for the candidates prior to the event, email [Lvann@thecosmos.ca](mailto:Lvann@thecosmos.ca)

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# Our two cents

## Do it right the first time

The *Uxbridge Cosmos* extends its heartiest congratulations to Pat Higgins for being the first recipient of the Order of Uxbridge.

Anyone who doesn't know why Pat would receive this honour obviously doesn't know of the many contributions he has made to this community over the years. We are hard pressed to think of anyone who deserves the recognition more. This year saw the 20th edition of the enormously successful Huck Finn fishing derby at Elgin Pond, which Pat and his Canadian Tire crew have run every year. (For those not in the know, Pat owns the Canadian Tire Uxbridge store.) Many Uxbridge youth are participating in sports because of the Canadian Tire JumpStart program, and not many months ago we saw the JumpStart multi-sport court open at Bonner Field. There are so many more ways Pat has contributed to the community, both financially and through personal, sleeves-rolled-up work.

At this point, though, you can probably see a big "but" coming and here it is. *But*, in our humble opinion, the township flubbed the opportunity to show that this is not just another award or certificate of appreciation handed out to some random volunteer. This is the Order of Uxbridge. The title alone indicates that the award is something special, something above the ordinary.

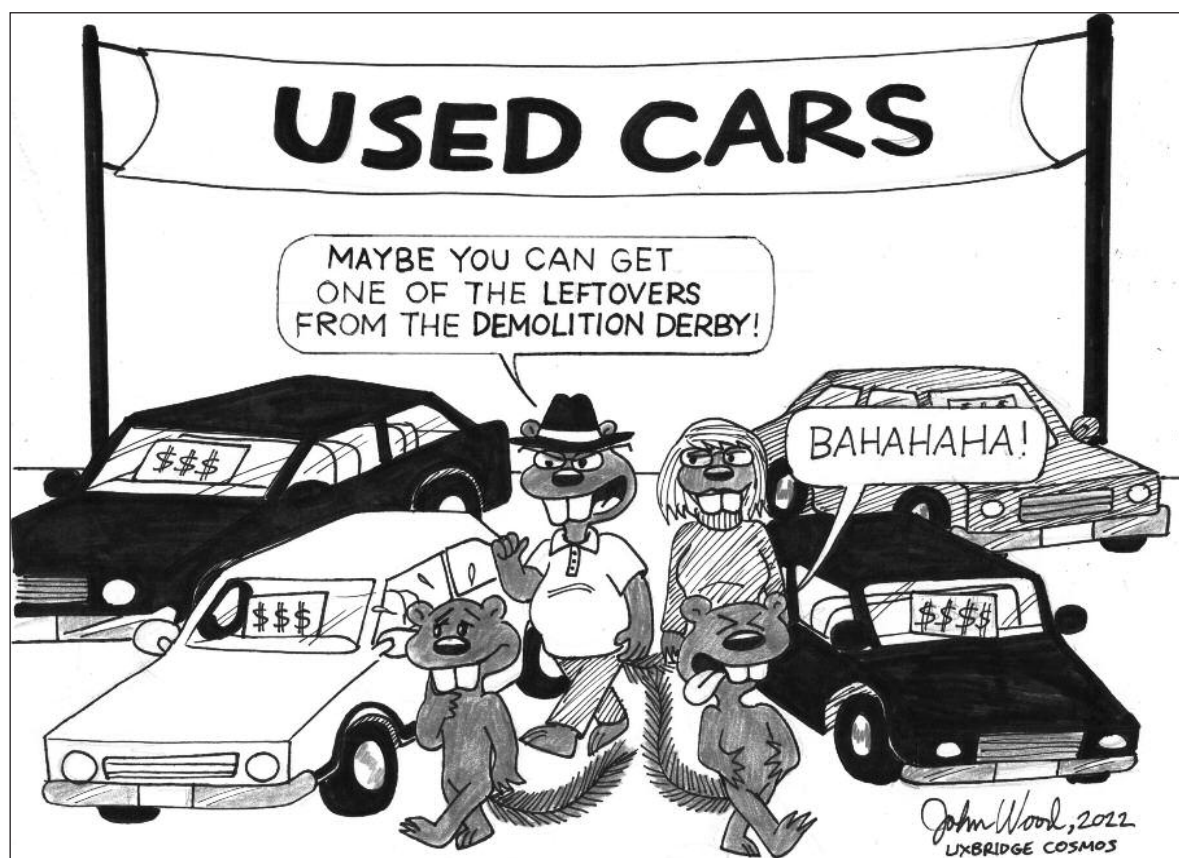
When an award is prefaced by the words "Order of," it tells you that the recipient has proven more than worthy of the honour. One of the oldest orders is the Order of the Garter, instituted by Edward III in 1348. George I put into place the Order of the Bath in 1725. Closer to home, we have the Order of Canada and even the Order of Ontario. Now, while some appointments to the Orders of Canada and Ontario could rightfully be labelled as political payoffs, that does not detract from the distinction of the awards themselves.

So it should be with the Order of Uxbridge, and having the mayor, wearing a T-shirt and jeans, make the presentation of the award in a dirt-filled arena used for tractor pulls and demolition derbies in the middle of a fall fair just doesn't cut it. Now, to be fair, the township has told the *Cosmos* that Pat will be formally honoured at an upcoming council meeting. But that's rather like an actor receiving his Oscar weeks after his win has already been announced: it really doesn't have the same effect.

It should be pointed out that Pat is actually the reason the Order of Uxbridge was created. Wanting to recognize Pat for all his contributions, councillors and township staff apparently held numerous discussions to figure out the best way to honour him and the Order was born. As the township says, "he was always going to be the first recipient."

As the township also says, the Order of Uxbridge is the highest honour bestowed by the Township of Uxbridge and honours individuals who make extraordinary contributions to the municipality. Given that description, it seems to us that a certain amount of pomp and circumstance should attend the bestowing of the Order. We're not sure handing it to someone against a backdrop of midway rides, ice cream cones and French fries is the way to do it.

Again, congratulations Pat. The bar has certainly been set high for whoever next receives this prestigious honour.



## Letters to the Editor

### Re: Affordable housing in Uxbridge

There is a lot of talk about affordable housing, yet we all know it is the government (regional or provincial) who will ultimately be the owners of affordable housing. Once a house is sold for the first time, it is no longer affordable, so the definition of affordable housing is homes owned and rented out by regional and/or provincial government.

With tax dollars financing the affordable rented homes or apartments, I think it becomes important they are also energy efficient to address climate change issues and to make them more affordable for the residents to rent. For quicker results addressing the homelessness issue, I suggest putting on information nights to encourage those who need or would like to have an income by creating apartments in their home.

Building smaller homes is also important for energy conservation; Uxbridge has a minimum size allowed for homes. Other communities have discarded the regulated minimum size for homes and use a minimum lot coverage /or frontage which allows a smaller house with less expense.

Municipalities can lower their building permits fees for smaller homes, and perhaps put together an information package with information on solar energy, wind energy, grey water use, low maintenance for inside and outside, and distribute this package to developers who want to build in Uxbridge.

This could make a huge difference.

It could save energy, save money and create a healthier, cleaner community for everyone now and for generations to come. And our tax dollars will be put towards cleaner, efficient energy that will save the environment and dollars.

**Bev Northeast  
Goodwood**

### Re: Reflections on the monarchy

I was born in 1953, the same year that Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne. She has been the only monarch in my life, as for all those who are my age.

She came to the throne as a 25-year old and stayed there until last week. A job well done!

My life has been under one queen, the coins in my pocket have always had her face. Now we have King Charles III, and he is a 73-year old. Doing some basic math, I can see that my children and grandchildren will likely live under two or three kings with no more queens in sight.

What will become of the monarchy in Canada? That is a question we all need to think about. God bless the King.

**David Moseley  
Uxbridge**

### Re: Speed limits in township

I am puzzled. What is going on with the speed limits in the township? They are all over the map, so to speak.

I understand the need to lower speed limits to save lives and make communities more livable, but I am completely puzzled by how each

section of road is assigned its maximum. Recent changes to the regional roads around town have seen the limits on Main St. (R.R. 1) north of town lowered from 80 km/h to 70 km/h for a long stretch; likewise for Hwy. 47 east of town before bringing the limit down to 50 km/h.

On the other hand, Hwy. 47 west of town has a very short stretch that was recently lowered to 60 km/h, before being further reduced to 50 km/h. Why not 70 km/h, for consistency?

Reg. Rd. 8 west of town drops from 80 km/h to 50 km/h just west of the roundabout, with no transitional section. Why the inconsistent treatment?

As for township roads, I have been speaking with local councillors for years regarding Centre Rd., especially the rural section just beyond the Maplebridge subdivision. It's 80 km/h, as is Ball Rd. Conc. 6 to the west is 60 km/h, as is Davis Dr. to the north. Main St. becomes 50 km/h at the Fields of Uxbridge. Main St. south of Elgin Park Dr., in a completely rural area, is 50 km/h for at least one kilometre over landscape that is very similar to Centre and Ball Roads. Even Owen Rd. is now posted at 60 km/h.

Recently, the speed on the urban section of Centre Rd. was posted at 40 km/h. At the transition from urban to rural, the sign reads "Maximum 40 km/h Area Ends". So, what is the limit beyond the sign? Is it 50, 60, 70 km/h, or the provincial default of 80 km/h? In fact,

*...continued on page 6*

Your Universe

# The Uxbridge Cosmos

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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.

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## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Goodbye, "Mum"

It's possible some of you might have difficulty understanding my feeling here, but, for me, learning of the death of Queen Elizabeth II almost felt like losing my mom again. Yes, we'd been expecting it: her failing health had been evident for some time. But the news of her passing still filled me with sorrow.

Many English people thought of the Queen as a "mum," just as they called her mother the Queen Mum. (Familiars to the Queen, and other female royalty, are/were to address her as Ma'am, which sounds a great deal like "mum".) It was an idea that took root in Queen Victoria's time when, because of a prolonged absence from public life, the English began to feel their mother, their "Mum," had deserted them.

I was born and raised in England over 80 years ago, so it should be no surprise that the monarchy means a great deal to me. I remember the death of Elizabeth's father when I was 11 years old. In our Scout group, we all wore black arm bands and turned our Scout lapel pins upside down. Then came the Queen's coronation! Just about every street in England held community parties that went from early morning to late at night. Almost every house was decorated in some manner and the trams that ran down our street were all decked out in fairy lights. The entire nation joined together in a party that hasn't been equalled in the passing years.

I've been a huge fan of Elizabeth ever since. I remember as a young lad I would become angry when I heard adults say that Princess Margaret was prettier than Elizabeth. I wouldn't have it! Years later, when I was a photo editor at The Canadian Press, stories (rumours?) circulated that Lord Snowden had taken photos of the Queen breast-feeding her newest child, Prince Andrew, and that these intimate family pictures had been leaked. It was further reported (rumoured?) that the Queen had appealed to the press not to publish the photos if they received them. On hearing that, I told my bosses at CP in no uncertain terms that if any such photos were made available to us from The Associated Press while I was on the job, I would refuse to circulate them to Canadian newspapers. Luckily, the photos never surfaced.

Would that such restraint had been shown by the press (and, in particular, the British tabloids) in the years following. Instead, they hounded the royal family constantly, always ready to pounce on anything which might embarrass them, no matter how trivial. And so it continues today. Before the Queen has even been laid to rest, the media are tripping all over themselves to rehash and revisit the disruptions and disputes within the royal family, to keep poking into their private lives. And they apparently feel it is their duty to go out and find people who are not sad the Queen has died and report their remarks breathlessly.

And the stupid questions they keep posting in front of their readerships: should Charles change his name? who will get the corgis? what happens to our Canadian money? If you are really desperate for the answers, they are as follows: no; family; it will change eventually. After her 70 remarkable years of service, can't we just take time to remember her with grace, instead of pandering to the tastes of those who only read the *National Enquirer*?

Now we have King Charles III and the hyenas are already yapping. They conveniently forget that Charles has commanded a naval warship, can fly jets and helicopters, is an accomplished polo player, also plays the cello, has initiated a number of environmental projects on his lands, has a great interest in architecture, is a history buff and on and on. To all the hyenas, I ask, what have you accomplished?

It's quite a stretch, but one of my favourite stories concerning the royals involved my own mom. We were visiting a gift shop at Buckingham Palace. Although the entrance to the shop was on a public street, the shop actually sat on palace grounds. A very well-spoken lady came over to tell my mother she had to leave because the shop was about to close. My mother replied that she wanted to say she'd been thrown out of better places, but couldn't.

Having said all that, if you are not in any way affected by Elizabeth's death, so be it. But please don't belittle either my grief or my Queen.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Anger with no clear target

I had just finished one of my anti-technology rants. I'd complained about something my computer had lost. I was angry that our television service provider had updated all of our access to programming such that I needed an electronics degree just to tune in the news. And I hated the way some of the on-air newscasters mispronounced names and places. My wife patiently waited for me to take a breath.

"Is there anything that made you happy today?" she asked.

I smiled sheepishly back at her. Then, apologized. We agreed that anger has become prevalent. People feel perfectly comfortable raging – whether it's at their TVs, other drivers on the road, public servants, flight attendants, health-care workers, restaurant servers, and maybe even their own family members. In the course of apologizing to my wife, I noted that anger seems to be a sign of the times. And it's a *bad* sign.

Among the first places I noticed this unbridled rage was a year or so ago – with the COVID pandemic between waves – when the major airlines began opening up flights to travel again. Suddenly, people who'd been masking, isolating, and tracing contacts for two years in their homes had become passengers in an enclosed space for hours with others who might not agree with them politically. Circumstances provoked some travellers to unravel. A *New York Times* feature writer quoted flight attendants having to duct-tape a drunken passenger after he physically and verbally assaulted them.

"What really hurts are people who won't even look you in the eye," a flight attendant told writer Tracey Rychter. "I don't even feel human anymore."

The *Times*' reporters ran a series of investigations about people's attitudes at this stage of post-pandemic life. They revealed startling reactions. In one case, at a café in the eastern U.S., a group of diners grew so furious at the long wait for food that they demanded the meals be boxed up; then they dumped all the orders, uneaten, into the garbage. The waiting staff was so traumatized, the owner gave them "a day of kindness" break. Much of this comes from society transitioning back to regular consuming habits and expectations when the original delivery system is broken. People want things to be back the way they were,

right now, or else!

I trace a lot of this sentiment to the polarization of North American politics. Where once our legislatures and congresses housed civilized discourse on policy and the evolution of law, today we see and hear nothing but name-calling and rancor. The rise of populism and nationalism has done nothing but play on anger. When Donald Trump accepted the Republican nomination for president, he hailed his audience of angry yet noble sufferers as "the forgotten, the downtrodden, the discarded, and the subjugated," he said, then shouted, "I am your voice!" Capitalizing on anger got him elected, but his resulting presidency had few successes, to say the very least.

I noted the assessment from Thornhill, Ont., MP Melissa Lantsman, who described Pierre Poilievre's strategy for winning the Conservative leadership like "taking anger ... and making sure that we capture it a bottle." Bottling anger, however, isn't a panacea. Calgary political scientist Duane Bratt pointed out earlier this year that a savvy politician can leverage anger, channel it during a campaign and even win a victory on election night. But he asks, "What about the day after? While anger is a great strategic tool for winning elections, it is a poor strategy for governing." He suggests that anger leads to short-term fixes, bad promises, inappropriate choices, the creation of enemies and ultimately more anger.

Does anybody recall Howard Beale? If a man in a wrinkled trench coat, waving his arms around like a madman in front of a TV newsroom camera comes to mind, you remember the 1976 movie *Network*. According to its creator, screenplay writer Paddy Chayefsky, newscaster Beale (played brilliantly by Peter Finch), crystallizes the anger and powerlessness felt by people with no recourse, no options, no plan. He is anger without a clear target. "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore," he shouts.

By the way, in answer to my wife's question – did anything make you happy today – absolutely. When I walked my grandsons to school that morning, they told me about the view from the top of the Ferris wheel at the fair and how great the cotton candy tasted. You see, anger can be defused.

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Letters, continued from page 4

why do the speed limits on Ball Rd. and Centre Rd. continue to be outliers with respect to nearby roads? I remain puzzled.


Grant Baines  
Uxbridge



Re: Salvation Army needs kettle volunteers

It is that wonderful time of year again when everyone pitches in to create Christmas morning for a family in need, and this year the need is even bigger! Salvation Army will be setting up its kettle at Zehrs and LCBO stores starting Dec. 1, and running for three weeks, three days a week (Thursday, Friday and Saturday), and we're looking for volunteers. Christmas is magical; creating a special day for children and their families in our community takes those special people called volunteers who give of their time to make sure the magical day happens. Please take a moment and call 905-640-3966 or email beverlynortheast@gmail.com and volunteer for our only fundraiser, the Salvation Army Kettle.

Bev Northeast  
Chair of Salvation Army  
Uxbridge Unit



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# Uxbridge marks Queen's death in small ways

by Roger Varley

Books of condolence; a portrait draped in black. These are a couple of the small ways in which Uxbridge is marking the passing last Thursday of Queen Elizabeth II.

Books of condolence are available for the public to sign at the township offices and at the Uxbridge library. They will be available for a couple of weeks. At the township offices, the portrait of the queen in the council chambers is draped in black and flags at all government facilities in the township are at half-mast.

At Monday's council meeting, a resolution was passed stating council is "deeply saddened" at the death of the Queen and directing the clerk "on behalf of the Township of Uxbridge and the entire Council (to) convey an official letter of condolences to the Royal Family, Britain, and the Commonwealth for our collective loss of the Queen by way of the Governor General of Canada."

Council observed a minute of silence at the start of Monday's session to honour the Queen.

Members of the 1st Uxbridge Scouts, meeting Thursday evening just hours after the Queen's death was announced, immediately changed their promise - (which has been



in place for 70 years) - from "duty to God and the Queen" to "duty to God and the King." The cadet corps at USS said it is likely they will be receiving new insignia in the near future. A small tribute was placed inside the horticultural building at the Uxbridge Fall Fair.

As of press time on Tuesday, the federal government had announced that Monday, Sept. 19, the date of Queen Elizabeth's funeral will be marked in Canada with a national holiday for federal government employees only. Ontario will not have a statutory holiday, but will mark the date as a "day of mourning." Ontarians are encouraged to observe a moment of silence at 1 p.m. ET on Sept. 19.

**"I will work diligently with our Mayor, Councillors, Staff and other levels of government to secure funding through annual budgets, grants and partnerships to upgrade our hamlets. I will be a strong, positive voice for Ward 2."**

*- Gordon Shreeve*

**On October 24th,**  
send Gordon Shreeve to Uxbridge Council  
as your representative from Ward 2!



**ELECT**  
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Councillor Ward 2  
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gordonshreeve@gmail.com  
f @gordonshreeveon

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IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE MEETING WITH SO MANY OF YOU. THE VISITS CONTINUE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR FRONT DOOR CONVERSATION. - ZED



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# Where Your Tax Dollar Goes - What Durham Region does for YOU

by Conrad Boyce  
Local Journalism Initiative  
Reporter

Fifty years ago, there were a lot more

municipalities in southern Ontario, and most of them handled services like garbage collection, road construction and maintenance, sewer and water systems, even policing or

hydro-electric generation, on their own. In what is now the Township of Uxbridge, there were three separate local governments: Scott Township, north of Davis Drive; Uxbridge Township, south of Davis, with its municipal hall in Goodwood; and the Town of Uxbridge. Coincidentally, it was another Davis, premier Bill, who in 1973 eliminated Davis Drive as a boundary, amalgamating the three into one municipality. Around the same time, legislation was passed at Queen's Park creating a number of upper or second-tier municipal governments that would deliver many services on behalf of all their member first-tier municipali-

ties.

The Regional Municipality of Durham came into existence on Jan. 1, 1974, with eight member first-tier local governments, four of them primarily urban (Oshawa, Whitby, Pickering and Ajax) and four largely rural (Clarington, Scugog, Brock and Uxbridge). Uxbridge sends two representatives to regional council, our mayor and regional councillor. We also take part in directly electing the Regional Chair.

And now, after several decades of operation, the Region takes the lion's share of your property taxes. In 2022, 58 per cent of your residential property taxes were forwarded to the

Region (headquartered in Whitby), and 43 per cent of commercial and industrial ones, about twice what goes to Township coffers (the rest being collected on behalf of school boards). This year, the Township forwarded more than \$31.6 million to Region coffers.

In addition to your property taxes, you also support Durham Region operations through your water/sewer bill. That money goes exclusively to the construction, operation and maintenance of water and sewer systems in the Township; all other Regional services are funded through property taxes. In 2022, the Region budget for water and sewer was about \$478 million, for all other operations about \$1.73 billion.

There are currently about 4,940 people employed full or part-time by Durham Region; this does not include contractors, like the folks who pick up your recycling.

You can probably think of many Regional services without much trouble, because its logo is there on a sign or the side of a truck: our water treatment plant on Main

Street; the transit bus that takes you to college in Oshawa; the police or paramedics that attend traffic accidents; the snow plow that clears Highway 47 in January (there are six other regional roads in Uxbridge, tended to out of yards near Sunderland and Utica).

But the contractor who picks up your garbage or recycling is also hired by the Region. North House, the agency working on behalf of the homeless, is largely funded by the Region. Vaccination programs during the pandemic were administered by the Region's Public Health Department. The Region manages two housing complexes in Uxbridge that are considered social housing, on Perry St. and in Testa Heights.

The Region's Works Department is responsible for goods and traffic movement through the Region. This means it has a traffic control centre, assists with traffic studies and carries out engineering that benefits its member municipalities.

The Region also provides significant support in areas such as economic development, tourism, planning, legal advice, environmental planning and mitigation, insurance advice and coverage, human resources, geomatics, (mapping, data and geo-information), and emergency management and coordination (which is pretty important when you have several nuclear reactors in your Region). Recently, the Region has also become actively involved in developing fibre and internet backbone infrastructure which will enable "last mile" internet connectivity to rural areas such as Uxbridge and its hamlets.

"The public may not see some of these other services that are offered," says township communications officer Colleen Baskin, "but staff at the Township rely very heavily on the expertise at the Region, as we do not always have staff or consulting service budgets to hire that expertise ourselves, and our residents definitely benefit as a result of the Regional support for the work we do."

Adds current Regional Councillor Gordon Highet (not running again in this election): "There are many services that the Region can deliver that we could not hope to do at the Uxbridge level without huge expenditures in infrastructure and staffing, with according massive local tax increases. The simplest way to look at percentages is: the higher percentage of the total tax bill goes to the Region because the Region provides the higher percentage of the services."

Almost all municipalities in Ontario, except the largest like Toronto

...continued on next page

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Regional taxes, from previous page

or Ottawa, are now included in regional governments, the theory being that it is more efficient for an upper tier to manage services like those above. But participation is not obligatory, and there are exceptions. In the upper Ottawa Valley, for example, the second-tier municipality is the County of Renfrew. However, the largest first-tier entity in the area, the City of Pembroke, does not belong to the County, and operates entirely on its own (even though the County is headquartered there!). Pembroke is much smaller than Oshawa.

Another opting-out example in Renfrew County is the town of Deep River, which operates its own police force, even though the County, like all second-tier municipalities, has its own. Deep River has a much smaller population than Uxbridge, fewer than 5,000 people.

Policing takes the largest piece of the Region budget, more than 30 per cent. Thirty per cent of our property tax contribution to the Region is about \$9.5 million. So if Uxbridge was to follow the Deep River example, could we, for \$9.5 million, operate an effective force that would be more visible locally? Provincial legislation obliges us to have police, but they don't have to be Regional ones. We could contract the OPP, or we could use our own.

Every four years during the municipal election campaign, questions are asked about whether Uxbridge is getting its money's worth from

the second-tier municipality. They are legitimate questions.

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- Across**  
1 One-third of a Beatles refrain  
5 Peculiar  
8 Nest part  
12 Lab burner  
13 Directly  
14 Wheeze  
15 Switchblade  
16 Lure by flattery  
18 Soccer blunder (2 words)  
20 Bananalike plant  
23 Polished  
27 Martini ingredient  
28 Winter Palace ruler  
31 Chinese money  
32 Auctioneer's sale  
33 Big drinker  
35 Word on a nickel  
36 "Sitting on the dock of the bay" singer  
38 Famous fiddler  
39 Kiwi walk-alike  
40 Sushi condiment  
42 Proof of purchase  
44 Kids' room item (2 words)  
47 Form a base for  
50 Cambodian money  
54 Skyrocket  
55 Absorbed, as a loss  
56 Not to be trusted  
57 Sleeves go here  
58 Soaked  
59 Mute performer
- Down**  
1 For sure  
2 Numerical ending  
3 Florida blackbird  
4 Disorder  
5 Valhalla V.I.P.  
6 Fertilizer  
7 Someone who eats greedily or voraciously  
8 Fedora  
9 Funny person  
10 Feverish  
11 "Wow!"  
17 Corn part  
19 Scottish inventor  
20 Burning  
21 Flora and fauna  
22 Opposers  
24 Type of bit  
25 Model Campbell  
26 Get to final form (2 words)  
29 Relative (3 words)  
30 Gibbon, for one  
34 Pink table wine  
37 Heavy one-edge swords  
41 Sticker  
43 Computer storage medium  
45 Spring day toy  
46 Red vegetable  
47 Dos Passos trilogy  
48 Here \_\_\_\_ there  
49 Hydroelectric project  
51 "Rocky \_\_\_\_"  
52 Wych or white  
53 Soap ingredient



Cleanfarms 2022 Unwanted Pesticides & Old Livestock/Equine Medications Collection  
Southern Ontario – September 19 to 27

**Farmers!** Safely dispose of unwanted or obsolete agricultural pesticides and livestock/equine medications – **no charge!** Take them to the following locations on the dates noted between **9 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

**BRADFORD**  
Wed., Sept. 21  
Bradford Cooperative Storage  
61 Bridge St.  
905-775-3317

**BRODHAGEN**  
Fri., Sept. 23  
Hoegy's Farm Supply Ltd.  
6777 Perth Line 44  
519-345-2941

**COBOURG**  
Tues., Sept. 27  
TCO Agromart Cobourg  
7142 County Rd. 2 W  
905-885-9400

**COTTAM**  
Mon., Sept. 26  
Setterington's Fertilizer Service Ltd.  
3518 McCain Side Rd.  
519-776-7041

**DELHI**  
Tues., Sept. 20  
FS Partners  
1161 Fertilizer Rd.  
519-582-0444

**DUNDALK**  
Mon., Sept. 19  
Huron Bay Co-operative  
35 Dundalk St.  
519-923-2014

**DUNDAS**  
Mon., Sept. 19  
County AG Services Inc.  
1377 Highway 5 West  
905-628-4488

**DUNNVILLE**  
Wed., Sept. 21  
Hessel's Farm Supply  
555 Diltz Rd.  
905-774-3641

**GLENCOE**  
Wed., Sept. 21  
Parrish and Heimbecker  
23312 Dundonald Rd.  
519-287-3317

**GUELPH**  
Tues., Sept. 27  
Woodrill Ltd.  
7861 Hwy 7 East  
519-821-1018

**HARRISTON**  
Wed., Sept. 21  
North Wellington Co-Op  
56 Margaret St. S.  
519-338-2331

**HICKSON**  
Mon., Sept. 19  
Oxford Agromart Ltd.  
596222 Hwy 59  
519-462-2721

**NEW HAMBURG**  
Mon., Sept. 26  
Silver Creek Ag Ltd.  
4693 Road 106  
519-656-3344

**NIAGARA ON THE LAKE**  
Mon., Sept. 26  
Niagara Orchard & Vineyard Corp.  
1196 Irvine Rd  
905-646-5777

**OAKWOOD**  
Mon., Sept. 26  
Sunderland Coop  
381 Taylors Rd.  
705-953-9660

**ORANGEVILLE**  
Tues., Sept. 20  
Holmes Agro  
473088 County Rd. 11  
519-941-0450

**OXFORD STATION**  
Wed., Sept. 21  
Harvex Agromart  
2109 B County Rd. 20  
613-258-3445

**PAIN COURT**  
Fri., Sept. 23  
Sylvite  
6857 Pain Court Line, RR1  
519-354-5900

**PEMBROKE**  
Tues., Sept. 20  
M & R Feeds & Farm Supply  
2768 Micksburg Rd.  
613-735-3689

**PICTON**  
Fri., Sept. 23  
County Farm Centre  
38 Cold Storage Rd.  
613-476-9183

**SCOTLAND**  
Tues., Sept. 20  
Scotland Agromart Ltd.  
218 Oakland Road, RR#1  
519-446-2218

**SELBY**  
Thurs., Sept. 22  
TCO Agromart Ltd  
11 Pleasant Rd.  
613-354-4424

**ST-ISIDORE**  
Mon., Sept. 19  
Uniaq Cooperative  
4650 Ste-Catherine  
513-524-2828

**TARA**  
Mon., Sept. 19  
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519-934-2340

**UXBRIDGE**  
Thurs., Sept. 22  
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5309 Durham Rd. #30  
905-640-1583

**VERNER**  
Wed., Sept. 21  
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723 Gingras  
705-594-1268

**WALKERTON**  
Tues., Sept. 20  
Huron Bay Co-Operative Inc.  
1291 Bruce Rd. # 3  
519-881-8490

**WELLANDPORT**  
Thurs., Sept. 22  
Clark Agri Service  
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905-386-6293



Next Cleanfarms collection in these areas in 2025.  
For collection dates elsewhere, go to:  
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Uxbridge & Area Networking Group

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**Romans 10:17**

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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.

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**PART-TIME SERVERS** with Universal Wings & Burgers. Smart Serve required. Apply at

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**EXPERIENCED TIRE TECHNICIAN.** Full-time. We also require an experienced technician helper. Call 905-960-8473. 9/15

**EXPERIENCED AUTO DISMANTLER.** Contract work. Call 404 Auto Recycling at 905-868-6921. 9/15

FOR SALE

**UTILITY TRAILER** As new. 42"W x 62" L. Spare tire. \$600. 905-640-6815. 9/22

EVENTS

**UXBRIDGE MINDFULNESS/INSIGHT MEDITATION** is holding in-person meetings at 10 a.m. every other Sunday. Our next one is Sept. 18. Whether experienced or new to meditation, all are welcome. Location is Blue Heron Studio. Email Gail: ghorner550@gmail.com 9/29

**ATTENTION ALL SENIORS:** Progressive Euchre, 2nd Tuesday of each month. Sept. - June. Uxbridge Legion, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Cost \$2, on now!

**MUSICFEST IS BACK AT REACHVIEW VILLAGE.** Since 1993, we have been entertaining residents with all kinds of music, dancing, joke-telling once a month on the first Sunday at 10 - 11 a.m. For more info please contact jo at 905-852-6487.

**FASHION SHOW AND DESSERT:** Thurs., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. Sponsored by Bethesda Reach Women's Institute, featuring fall fashions by Brock's of Port Perry. Tickets \$20. Call 905-852-5284 or 905-852 -4024. Proceeds to support local scholarship projects.

**100 WOMEN WHO CARE UXBRIDGE** Come join us Wednesday, Sept. 29, Uxbridge Legion, 7 p.m. For more information, visit 100womenuxbridge.ca



# The Township Empire: the Historical Centre

by Conrad Boyce  
Local Journalism Initiative  
Reporter

In our series on the Township of Uxbridge's properties, we come to the one with the most individual structures: the Uxbridge Historical Centre (UHC).

It was the idea of local history buff Isobel St. John to found the Uxbridge-Scott Museum in 1972, on the site of the recently-closed Quaker Hill School. The Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society was founded to administer the museum, and continues to play a key role in fundraising and volunteer support, although the Township took over as owner and operator in 1997. Allan McGillivray of Zephyr was the museum's first and long-time curator, and continues to lend his expertise as a historical resource.

**The Buildings:** Over the years, a number of structures were added to keep the schoolhouse company. There are now 11 principal buildings on the site, eight of heritage significance, and three as support (but built to resemble period structures). They are:

1. Stokes-Kydd House – built in 1908 on the grounds where Uxbridge Secondary School now stands. Now serves as the UHC's administrative hub.

2. Lodge Hall – previously sat just east of Victoria Corners, northeast of Uxbridge (built in 1856). Received major damage in the May 21 tornado.

3. School House – on its original site (built in 1924). Now serves as the Centre's principal programming site.

4. Fifth Line Church – built in 1870 at Coppins Corners, near the intersection of Brock Rd. (Fifth Line) and Goodwood Rd. (Durham

Road 21) (built in 1870).

5. Hillson Shed – originally located on the northeast corner of Colborne and Victoria Streets in Uxbridge (built in 1800s).

6. Gould-Carmody House – originally located near the site of the present-day Uxbridge arena (built in 1860). Fully restored with furnishings from the late 1800s.

7. Nesbitt Shed – originally located on the farm of Robert and Muriel Nesbitt on the west part of Conc. 6 Lot 14 in Uxbridge Township.

8. Scott Hall – built in 1860 on the northeast corner of Conc. 5 Lot 14 in Scott Township. The UHC's principal exhibit hall.

9. Print Shop – built on UHC grounds in 1994 to house its collection of printing artifacts.

10. Implement Shed – built on UHC grounds in 1975 to house its farm machinery.

11. Gazebo – built on UHC grounds in 2003 as a centre for events.

**Management:** The Township is supported by the six-member Museum Advisory Committee, which plays a major policy role and according to museum standards, must put its stamp on various heritage procedures. Since the Township took over the Centre, it has never had full-time, year-round employees. Curatorial and programming staff are contracted spring to fall, often supported by summer students. The Centre's director, Amanda Ferraro, wears a number of similar hats with the Township. Uxbridge's Manager of Cultural Services and Tourism, Lisa John-Mackenzie, only recently added the museum to her other roles. Programming and Events Coordinator Annabelle Kolomeisky is on a seasonal contract. This summer, the UHC was assisted by six students (facilitated by grants awarded to the

Historical Society, a registered charity, as well as others arranged by staff) in areas ranging from summer camps to maintenance to digital cataloguing of the Centre's artifacts and archives.

**Funding:** The Township's annual budget for the operation of the UHC approximately \$170,000. About \$100K goes to wages and benefits, with the other principal expenses being maintenance of the buildings and grounds at \$40K, and utilities at \$10K. Revenue-wise, the Township budgets to recover about a quarter of the budget, mostly through grants (although the province's operating grant only amounts to \$12K, and hasn't risen to reflect the Centre's steady growth). User fees (building rentals, admissions, programming fees) don't currently contribute a significant amount on the revenue side, though the Centre plans to market more aggressively to both tourists and locals in the future.

**What is Scott?** - If you're not an area old-timer, you may not be familiar with why "Scott" was part of the museum's original name, and is retained in the name of the Historical Society. The reason is that the northern half of the Township, above Davis Dr., used to be a separate municipality, Scott Township. In 1973, a year after the founding of the museum, Scott amalgamated with the Town of Uxbridge and the original Township of Uxbridge to form the new Township, as part of a province-

initiated amalgamation movement.

**Under a Tree** - It was a stroke of good fortune that most of the UHC's buildings sustained little damage from the May 21 tornado, nothing that some paint and patching won't fix. The Lodge Hall, however, wasn't so lucky. A very large tree fell on its eastern half, and was only carefully removed last week.

"The good news," says Ferraro, "is that all artifacts that were in the

Lodge Hall during the tornado have been recovered with minimal damage. As for the building, we are preserving as much of the Hall as possible. Right now it looks like the front vestibule can be saved and half of the standing side wall. We'll continue to look at options to re-build a replica building using the saveable standing walls. This will most likely happen in the spring. We will protect what is left standing over the winter."



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