Uxbridge Cos Thursday, September 8, 2022 Vol. 18 No. 35

New lights on school buses • Crooners at the Music Hall • Planting a family tree



CONQUERING THE CURMUDGEON - The normally grumpy Norman Douglas (played by Tanner Ferris, left), celebrates new beginnings with Mary Vance (Virginia Barry) during a lively scene from Rainbow Valley, a musical by Hank Stinson and Dean Burry, based on Lucy Maud Montgomery's seventh installment in the Anne of Green Gables series. Rainbow Valley opens this Friday, Sept. 9, at the Historic Leaskdale Church, and runs for eight performances. See page 6 for details.

Both township libraries have lots of history, lots to offer

by Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative

The Township Empire: Our Public Libraries

This is the second in a Cosmos series leading up to the Oct. 24 municipal election, about the management and funding of the many properties belonging to the Township of Uxbridge. We previously covered the community halls in our three largest hamlets. This week we look at the Uxbridge Public Library (UPL).

The Buildings: If you're a relatively new resident of Uxbridge, you may not be aware that there are actually two libraries in the Township. The beautiful central library near the intersection of Brock and Toronto Streets has been a community hub for 135 years; it was built in 1887 by one of the town's Quaker pioneers, Joseph Gould; the clay for the bricks came from his farm on Mill St., with the lumber from a sawmill in Leaskdale. And as the town has grown, there has been a temptation to build a larger facility in a new building on a site allowing for future expansion.

"There have been lots of proposals over the years," says library CEO Amanda Ferraro, "the latest of which was to build a new library on the Fields of Uxbridge. But the community loves the building and loves the location, so we've committed to doing major upgrades over the last several years, to the lighting, the heating the cooling, the outdoor patio. Just this past year, we did a significant restoration of the

A major renovation in 1987, marking the building's centennial, made a large addition to the library's square footage both upstairs and

downstairs (where the children's library and community rooms reside). And stay tuned there may be an opportunity in the coming years to expand even more on the downtown

But the majestic Uxbridge library has a baby sister up in the northwest corner of the Township. Nestled beside the United Church in the hamlet of Zephyr sits a second public library, constructed in 1972 on the site of the old community hall. It's open from 3-7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 10-3 every second Saturday. That compares to 48 hours a week in Uxbridge (52 in the winter, when Sunday hours are added), but patrons in Zephyr do have access to the full collection at the larger location. The librarian dedicated to Zephyr

...continued on page 3



Patrick Bryant

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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The Township of UXBRIDGE

Trail Capital of Canada

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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 30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
 - 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.

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.

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

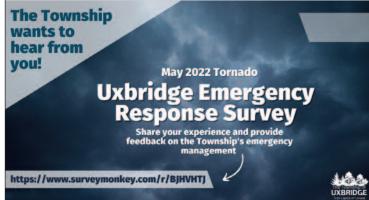
The Township of Uxbridge is an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The Township of Uxbridge will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process to 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.

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.















Swimming







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

Know your libraries, from page 1

regularly totes boxes of materials back and forth.

Management: There are significant operational differences between the libraries and the community halls we examined last week. The most obvious is that the part-time staff dedicated to the halls aren't there when library's management is that its ninepublic libraries must operate. The

member community board is not simply advisory, it's statutory; that is, it's mandated by provincial legislation. The province gives an annual operating grant to the UPL. It's small when compared to the size of the library's budget, and it hasn't seen an increase in years, but in return, the province has standards by which

the Township coffers; in other words, from your property taxes.

The major items in the operating budget for last year were wages and benefits (\$414,000), library materials (\$64K), repairs and maintenance (\$57K) and utilities (\$25K). On the capital side, projects usually total between \$50-100,000 annually, meaning that the total UPL budget ranges between \$900,000 to a million dollars per year.

Where are the hands? The clock in the Uxbridge library, manufactured in Connecticut, is one of its most fascinating features; the mechanism goes all the way to the basement, and you can see a portion of it in the ge-

nealogy room. Last year's work made some long overdue repairs to the clock tower, including the eviction of wildlife; certain squirrels and pigeons had to find other homes. But you might have noticed that the clock's hands haven't yet been replaced.

"They're in good shape," says Ferraro, "but they're not keeping the same time on every face. Our clock doctor is on the case, but parts for 140-year-old clocks of this design aren't easy to source. Watch for them



News Media Canada

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A small commemorative piece outside the Uxbridge Public Library, honouring the late Alexandra Hartmann, CEO of the library from 2003-2018.

Photo by Conrad Boyce

you rent them; you essentially walk into an empty building. The libraries, conversely, are abuzz with people. The public library has two full-time and 11 part-time staff (not counting CEO Ferraro, who wears a multitude of other hats for the Township), as well as five students during the school year. And they're kept

"Happily, we've come back to pre-COVID levels in terms of patron use," says Library manager Corrinne Morrison. "A great example is the TD Summer Reading Program. In 2021 we had 60 children register and report on reading 621 books throughout the summer. In 2022, we had 123 children register and they have reported on 819 books so far with one more reporting day to go! Uxbridgers have been eager to take advantage of all our services". Services which staff will be glad to help you explore.

The other major difference in the

board, for instance, has a major role in the budgetary process.

"Thankfully," says Morrison, "the province helps us in lots of other ways. Ontario Library Services provides training, and operates the interlibrary loan system among other programs. They also negotiate discounted pricing for library items and eResources."

The library also takes advantages of volunteers in a variety of ways, from helping with fundraising to delivering books to people who can't easily get out.

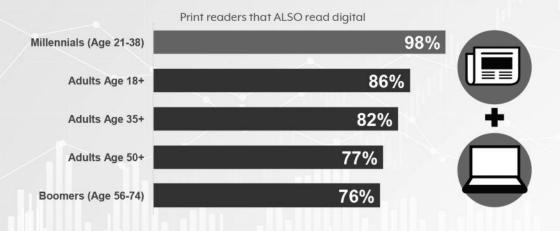
Funding: As mentioned, the provincial grant provides a small portion of the UPL's operating budget: \$24,000 in 2021, from a total of \$855,000. Patrons provide even less. Your library card, of course, is free. In 2021, you paid \$3,500 for late fines and replacement books, \$4,500 in program fees, and about \$7,000 in donations. The balance came from



A view of the clock tower and clock face, sans hands for the time being. Photo by Conrad Boyce

ARE MILLENNIALS IMPORTANT **TO YOUR BUSINESS?**

Millennials are interested in reading news, regardless of platform.



Almost all print readers between 21 and 38 years of age choose to add digital newspapers to their print reading habit.

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



The Zephyr Public Library.

Photo by Conrad Boyce

Our two cents

Your soul for a hot dog, please

We're very excited about the return of the Uxbridge Fall Fair this weekend. Friday and Saturday look great weather-wise; the jury is still out on Sunday. We're looking forward to the rides, the exhibits, all the vendors, the yummy fair food... That is, if we can afford the yummy fair food.

Last week, a letter to the editor writer expressed dismay over the cost of food that was available from the only food vendor on site. (\$13 plus for peameal on a bun, if we recall.) Our own Roger Varley witnessed the same exorbitant prices at Art in the Park the week before. Will the 16 vendors slated to be at the Fair be the same?

We know that inflation is, well, inflating right now, and that the cost of everything seems to be going through the roof. A simple bag of grocery staples can set one back \$100 or more. It seems that we're fast approaching a situation where many of us will have to choose between eating or paying rent or paying the electricity bill. Which is unconscionable, considering those at the top, those who own the companies that provide all we think we need, are still raking in the dough, recording profits in the millions. It isn't complicated economics that run the world, it isn't supply chain issues, it's plain, simple greed. Even supply and demand no longer works according to definition. Instead of "when there's less, the cost is high, when there's more, the cost is low," it's "when there's less, the cost is high, and when there's more, the cost is still high because then we (the manufacturer, etc.)

It's a good thing the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank just received a new fridge from the Dairy Farmers of Ontario. We're willing to bet that more and more people are going to need to partake of its generous services. And as more of us are hit in the pocketbook and unable to buy extra food to donate, food banks are going to suffer right when they're needed most.

Buying a cardboard box full of greasy french fries smothered in gravy and a footlong hot dog is as much a part of the Fall Fair experience as rigged carnival games are. We hope we won't need a bank loan to buy french fries.

All Candidates Forum

for the upcoming Municipal Election Monday, September 26 at 7 p.m. Uxbridge Arena & Community Centre

Uxbridge Cosmus



Uxbridge Cosmus

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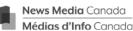
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9,500 copies of The Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Úxbridge: 8,800 delivered by mail. 700 available in stores and boxes.

WE'RE SO FALL FAIR IS BACK! ARTS & CRAFTS. WOO-HOO! RIDES! QUILTS, EXHIBITS, DEMO DERBY! COTTON CANDY .. UXBRIDGE FALL FAIR SEPT. 9,10,&11 **Letters to the Editor**

Re: Heritage Day letter, Sept. 1 edition

We are writing in response to last week's Letter to the Editor regarding Heritage Day (held Aug. 28 at the Uxbridge Historical Centre). While we appreciate Ms. Macbeth's candid opinions about the event, we feel it necessary to explain a few "behind the scenes" circumstances leading up to the day.

The Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society (USHS) normally coordinates and runs Heritage Day to raise funds for the UHC. Planning Heritage Day is an eight-month process, usually beginning in January. This year, many COVID restrictions were still in place; our annual general meeting, at which we put out an appeal for a Heritage Day organizer, was held virtually. We did not have a "taker" for the organizer role, mainly because our membership is an aging one; the older members do not want to commit the time to plan, organize and execute such an event, and most of our "younger" members work full time and/or have young families.

In addition, this year, a number of things led to almost all of the board members being unable to work on Heritage Day and give it the attention it demanded. Jessica Lanziner, the curator of the UHC at the time, was made aware of this fact, and it was agreed that, for this year, the UHC would coordinate Heritage Day and the USHS would support it in any way it could, which it did.

Ms. Lanziner left the UHC at the end of July, leaving coordination of Heritage Day in the very capable

hands of the museum's programming & events coordinator, with assistance from the township's tourism development coordinator. Together they, along with museum staff, put together an event that we feel was the best it could be in a not-quite-post-COVID world. We know that many vendors and exhibitors were already booked elsewhere for that date, and other vendors and exhibitors dropped out of attending at the eleventh hour. Despite this, Heritage Day 2022 celebrated the USHS's 50th Anniversary quietly, with those who care about the museum and the history of Uxbridge the most. And we congratulate the UHC for doing an exceptional job of putting on Heritage Day 2022 in these strange times and circumstances.

As for Ms. Macbeth's yearning for the old "Steam Threshing Days", we would like to clarify that the big machines of yesteryear can no longer attend events like Heritage Day because insurance rates for those who own these machines are too high to warrant the transport, etc., involved.

We are already preparing for Heritage Day 2023, and invite anyone who wishes to volunteer and help coordinate this wonderful family event to contact the USHS and help us as we prepare.

We are passionate about keeping the UHC alive, spreading the word about Uxbridge's exceptional history, and we look forward to seeing you at Heritage Day 2023!

The Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society Board

Re: Lutheran Church relocation

The members of Goodwood Uxbridge Lutheran Church are happy to announce that, as of this Sunday, September 11, they will be begin to conduct their twice monthly worship services at the Uxbridge Free Methodist Church on 81 Reach Street, Uxbridge. The initial service will be at 3 p.m. It will include the rite of Ordination for Sherland Chhangur, who will be installed as the part time pastor of the congregation. He can be reached at 416-417-0379. Subsequent worship services will be at 11

The congregation was established in 2012 by members of the Lutheran community who had moved to the region. They were able to rent worship space in Goodwood United Church until 2020, when the church closed its facilities because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The worshippers continued their services at various venues, including farm homes and barns. They are excited to be able to move to a new permanent location. If you do not belong to a congregation, you are most welcome to join us for worship and fellowship.

Pastor Peeter Vanker helped the congregation set down initial roots, and he continues to be active in its ministry. Arthur Schickedanz is the chair person. He can be reached at 416-540-7060.

> Shanta Chhangur Goodwood Uxbridge Lutheran Church



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

To all my teachers: thank you. And sorry!

"Schoolbag in hand, she leaves home in the early morning, waving goodbye with an absentminded smile."

Those opening lines of the song "Slipping Through My Fingers" by ABBA are almost guaranteed to bring tears to the eyes of one particular friend of mine. I'm quite sure they have caused many a parent to tear up over the years.

This week, whether they knew the words to the song or not, I'll bet a lot of parents felt that tug on the heart strings as they watched their youngsters head back to school or head to school for the first time ever. I can't think of any other time of the year when so many people are affected in one way or another by the passage of time.

It has ever been thus. I remember my eldest son's first day of school as if it was yesterday, even though it was over 50 years ago.

But this year, back-to-school might be even more of a wrench than usual, for both parents and students. Here in Ontario, all COVID-19 protocols and restrictions have been lifted when it comes to the classroom: no masks required, no social distancing, no mandates. On top of that, the province's chief medical officer of health has announced that it's quite okay to attend school even if you have COVID-19. And Stephen Lecce, the minister of education, has declared the schools will remain open all year long, with no shutdowns. I cannot imagine the uncertainty many parents are feeling today.

First, that the CMOH would make such a statement is, to my mind, unthinkable and clearly shows that his pronouncement is based on politics and not on his training as a doctor. Secondly, that Lecce, who has absolutely no background in education at all other than he went to school as a child, should make such a pronouncement is ridiculous, given that we know he doesn't own a crystal ball. The provincial government is in talks with unions representing teachers and support staff and, while everyone hopes the negotiations lead to new contracts, the possibility of strike action is still there. Perhaps Lecce knows something we don't know.

However, having said all that, I have a few words to offer to students, whether you're entering Grade 12 or starting your first day at school. First of all, you have to be there whether you like it or not, so why not decide to like it from the get-go. You likely will not enjoy every course or subject you take, but those are the ones where you need to buckle down and apply yourself. On the other hand, the classes you do like will be a breeze. Of course, there will be teachers you like and teachers you don't like. The trick is to show the teachers you don't like that you can do the work, even if they think you can't. What better way to prove them wrong? And for the teachers you do like, what better way to show your appreciation than by acing their courses?

When I was a schoolboy, way, way back in the dark ages, I was fortunate enough to attend a school where every master (we didn't call them teachers) had a university degree, as was shown by their different coloured cowls on the academic gowns they wore at every morning assembly. This didn't necessarily make them all good teachers, but it showed that they knew their subjects. My best subjects were English, History and Geography -(little wonder I became a reporter) - mainly because those teachers grabbed their students' attention. Imagine an English teacher explaining the meaning of an American swear word (found in a story we were studying) that was new to us and doing it in such a way that it satisfied our curiosity without promoting its use. Imagine a history teacher who didn't mind too much if you got some dates confused as long as you were aware of the reasons and causes and consequences of historical

Now, admittedly, I left school as soon as I could because I didn't like it that much, but it's amazing what conclusions years of retrospective thinking can produce: To whit, I wish I had applied myself more fully to my studies when I had the chance. I might have done a whole lot more with my life.

To all my old masters, thank you for trying and I'm sorry for letting you down. Or, more to the point, for letting myself down.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Home is where the work is

The sign always hung in my father's office, right over the spot where he worked. That happened to be just above his typewriter (in a time before computers) where Dad pumped out many millions of words in a life-long writing career. But Dad had installed this sign over his work space for those days at his office in the basement of our house when maybe the spirit to actually put fingers on keys occasionally eluded him or when he periodically felt unmotivated.

"Nothing gets done," the sign read, "until the seat of the pants hits the seat of the chair." My father, Alex Barris, wrote probably a thousand radio, television and movie scripts, hundreds of columns for newspapers and periodicals, scores of screenplays and at least half a dozen books at that typewriter in his basement office. And I frankly doubt that he ever needed encouragement, coaxing or cajoling to put the seat of his pants on the seat of his chair. My father was self-motivated. He started to work as a freelance writer beginning in the 1950s (when most people couldn't spell "freelance" much less do it). Today's parlance for "freelancing" is working in the "gig economy" or among those working from home during the pandemic, "remote work."

At last count, according to an Angus Reid survey (published by H&R Block) in April 2022, about 13 per cent of Canadians reported working in the gig economy. The survey defined it as freelance or contract work in such work as Airbnb, Uber, dog walking, couriers and commission-only sales to name a few categories. Particularly since the pandemic lockdowns of 2020 and 2021, nearly a million other Canadians surveyed joined the freelance workforce because they were forced to work from home. Nearly 20 per cent of Canadians told the survey they'd never worked in the gig economy but would try it in order to make ends meet. Finally, the survey revealed more than half of the working population had no interest in the world of freelance whatsoever.

The survey offered some of the pros and cons of working for oneself. On the upside, it listed such positives as being able to pocket cash made immediately on payment (rather than waiting for a corporation to make deductions, file and release funds). It also recognized potential tax advantages; with more declared income, the survey noted, gig workers have more room to contribute to RRSPs and other tax shelters. On the downside, free-

lance service workers face the difficult task of keeping track of tips, because they're taxable income. And if gig earnings exceed \$30,000 a year, the freelancer has to register for a GST or HST number. (As a freelancer for nearly 50 years, I truly resented when Brian Mulroney introduced the GST in 1991, making me a part-time accountant submitting quarterly goods and services reports.)

Thursday, September 8, 2022

But all that is the tangible baggage that freelancers carry. I think the Angus Reid surveyors missed the essence of a freelance / gig / remote work-life existence. First the freedom. Depending on the nature of the work commitments, freelancers can specialize or generalize their skill sets. As long as they meet deadlines (set by themselves or their clients) they can schedule their labour whenever it suits. Even at my busiest times, as a freelancer, I managed to balance the demands of writing commitments with the pleasures of attending family moments. I attended school concerts, plays and graduations where some of my friends in staff positions couldn't. And most liberating of all, I've juggled the writing that had to be done, with the writing I wanted to

Of course, the elephant in the room now – with the end of stay-at-home pandemic restrictions - is that many businesses forced to allow their employees to work from home are calling them back to the office. Large corporations (particularly those with empty office towers such as financial institutions, life insurance companies and department stores) want those downtown spaces re-occupied. Particularly now, with summer officially over, some of the big banks and law firms have mandated office attendance. They say it's all about the role that teamwork and collaboration plays in productivity and the bottom line. But now more than ever, former office workers who've experienced the benefits (and pleasures) of a work-at-home alternative are pushing back. Some business observers call it 'a collision course" between remote work and the culture of 9 to 5.

My father's basement office space is long gone. So too is the sign that hung over his typewriter. But among those members of my family who've cultivated freelance lives, the seat of the pants continues to hit the seat of the chair and get the work done.

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

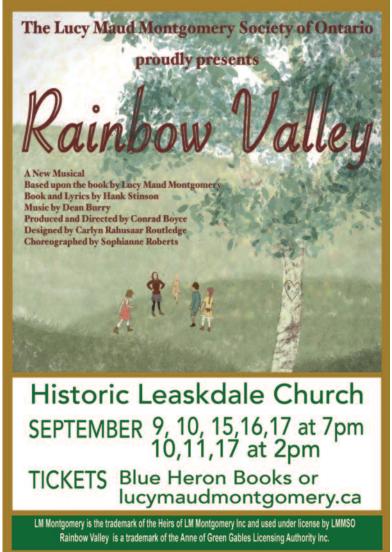


BIG RED EVENT STARTS this THURSDAY! September 8-15

LOWEST PRICES OF THE SEASON Watch for special flyer in your mail this week!







News flash - school buses sporting new flashing lights

by Justyne Edgell

School buses will be flashing a little differently this year, and most drivers aren't even aware of the change.

Motorists are used to the red flashing lights and the extended stop sign arm that indicates the bus is stopping to pick up a student, but as a further safety precaution, a new amber light warning system has been put in place.

Just days ago, the province announced that, effective Sept. 6, as a school bus approaches a stop, it will turn on the flashing amber lights, indicating that it is approaching a stop. This is meant to give other drivers advanced notice of the stop, in hopes of reducing the number of motorists who miss or ignore the stop warning lights and illegally pass the school bus. Once the bus is stopped and the stop arms are extended at both the left side and the front of the bus, the amber lights will turn off and the red lights will turn on.

The new amber lights are located at the top of the bus, next to the red flashing lights.

In an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) news release, OPP officers remind drivers to be observant, especially in the first few weeks getting back on the school schedule.

"Patience on the part of drivers is encouraged as many young children will be excited on their return to school," the release said. "This means they might require extra time boarding and departing the bus.

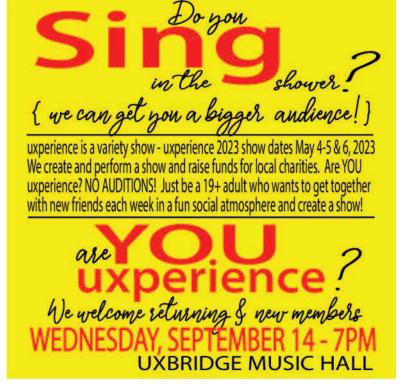
"A zero-tolerance approach will be taken. Motorists encountering a stopped school bus that has its safety lights and equipment activated shall stop before reaching the bus and shall not proceed until the bus moves or the safety lights and equipment have been deactivated," it added.

The new amber lights may confuse drivers, however, as many are not aware of the new school bus proce-

"I didn't know a thing about the new lights until you asked me just now," says Uxbridge resident Margot Sebon. "I'm used to the red flashing lights and the stop arm, etc., but these new amber lights are new to

Drivers who fail to stop for a school bus face fines between \$400 and \$2,000, and up to six demerit points. Those caught offending on multiple occasions face jail time.

If you witness motorists failing to stop for a school bus, you can report them by calling 1-888-310-1122 with vehicle description, license plate number and direction of travel.





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

6777 Perth Line 44

519-345-2941 COBOURG Tues., Sept. 27 TCO Agromart Cobou 7142 County Rd. 2 W 905-885-9400

COTTAM Mon., Sept. 26
Setterington's Fertilizer
Service Ltd. 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 Heimbeck 23312 Dundonald Rd. 519-287-3317

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

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by Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As the Cosmos recently reported in the first of our series on taxation leading up to the Oct. 24 municipal election, your property taxes not only comprise a major portion of revenues for the tier-one municipality known as the Township of Uxbridge. A substantial piece of your tax dollar also goes to the tier-two municipality, the Region of Durham, which we'll discuss next week. And a third piece is forwarded to your local school district (taking 14 per cent of residential property taxes in 2022, and 35 per cent of commercial/industrial ones). But who decides on the rate of taxation, by what process do the school districts receive the funds, what portion of their revenue budget is comprised by them, and most importantly, how is that money spent on the education of your children?

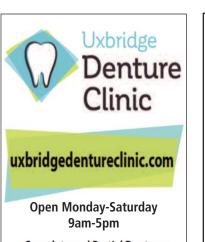
Property taxes: The Ontario Minister of Finance sets education tax rates annually. Municipalities bill for and collect property taxes, then remit the education property taxes to their local school boards on a quarterly basis. In 2022, 75.4 per cent of the Uxbridge taxes for education went to the English Public board, 22.6 per cent went to English Catholic, 0.7 per cent to French Public and 1.3 per cent to French Catholic. An important point is that education taxes do not cover the full cost of education only about a quarter, on average. The remainder of the funding is provided to school boards by the Ministry of Education through grants. The Ministry determines the total amount of funding each school board is entitled to receive in the year under the Grants for Student Needs (GSN). Education taxes (which come from property taxes) do not cover the full cost of education - only about a quarter, on average.

The provincial government allocates funds to school boards based on a number of factors including: number of students and schools; preponderance of special education students; rate of students with English or French as a second language; percentage of Indigenous students; and geographical features, such as having small schools or schools far apart.

Trustees: On Oct. 24, you will elect a trustee to the board of whichever school district you have chosen to support (English public or Catholic, or French public or Catholic). Even if you have no children, if your children go to a private school or are home-schooled, you are still obliged to support one of these four boards with your property taxes. The trustees have these powers in the education system:

- establishing a board's mission, vision, values, goals and climate
- developing multi-year board plans to achieve the board's goals, consulting with parents, students and sup-

...continued on next page



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CAR OF THE WEEK - Last Thursday's Cruise In was an appreciation night and dedicated to the late Jim Hird. The feature vehicle was a 1978 Lil' Red Express, driven by Jim's goddaughter, Karla Koogje and it was Jim Hird's pride and joy. There were over 350 cars on site, the 50/50 was \$650, the food bank raised \$1,350 and 50 pounds of food. There will be no show this Thursday, but there will be a cruise-in at the Uxbridge Fall Fair on Sunday at 11 a.m. Next cruise-in is on Sept. 15, and the theme is Muscle Car. Submitted photo

An education in taxes, from previous page

porters of the board on the plan and bringing feedback to the attention of the board

- ensuring conditions in the board promote student achievement and
- ensuring effective stewardship of the school board's budget and re-
- making decisions about policy direction. Overall policy decisions are made by the trustees with input from the community, and based on the advice of staff. Day-to-day decisions are
- hiring and reviewing the performance of the board's director of educa-
- participating in committees, such as the Special Education Advisory Committee, and the Parent Involvement Committee, and participating in quasi-judicial committees such as those responsible for suspensions and expulsions and special education appeals.

Uxbridge Schools: The Durham District School Board operates six schools in the Township: Goodwood Public, Scott Central Public (Sandford), Quaker Village Public, Joseph Gould Public, Uxbridge Public and Uxbridge Secondary. The Durham Catholic District School Board operates one, St. Joseph's, located beside Quaker Village Public. Many students living in Uxbridge either do



YOUR EDUCATION TAX DOLLARS AT WORK - This capital project, undertaken over the summer at Uxbridge Public School, restoring the old building's roof and bell tower, is only partly paid for by your municipal property taxes. About 75 per cent of education funding in Ontario comes through grants from the provincial Ministry of Education (still your taxes, by another route). Photo by Conrad Boyce

not attend school (being hometaught) or attend schools beyond the municipal borders, either public or private. But as noted above, their parents must still pay education related property taxes.

In a related article later this fall, we'll dive deeper into Uxbridge's current seven schools, and a bit of history about our public education

Celebration of the Arts revives its Music Night

Every September for the past 33 years (not including the past two, however), the town of Uxbridge explodes into a community-wide festival of art and culture with the Uxbridge Celebration of the Arts. This year, the UCA team says it will be staging a bit of a Celebration throw-back by revisiting the festival's long-gone-but-not-forgotten Music Night.

Local jazz singer and songwriter Whitney Ross-Barris revives that tradition at the Uxbridge Music Hall in a concert delivered with her distinctive theatrical ease and air.

It's been many years since her last appearance at the Music Hall.

"I essentially began my career in performance there as a youth choir kid," explains Ross-Barris, "and I have spent the last two and a half years of this pandemic in relative musical silence, so this seems like the best way to re-enter as a performer and songwriter, by sharing all my favourite songs - both old and new - with a Celebration audience in a beautiful and familiar old place."

Accompanying her on stage will be a remarkable group of musicians local saxophonist and beloved Uxbridge Secondary Sschool music educator, Amy Peck; 2022 Juno Award-nominated pianist and composer Amanda Tosoff; and BC-born, Toronto-based bassist and composer Lauren Falls.

Celebration of the Arts runs throughout September and October and the Whitney Ross-Barris Quartet concert will be held on September 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Uxbridge Music Hall. Tickets are \$10-\$25 and available online through Star Ticketing at starticketing.com



"I am beyond thrilled to be celebrating the return of live music in my home town with an extraordinary group of musicians." - Whitney Ross-Barris

The Whitney Ross-Barris Quartet performs a classic and quirky mix of jazz, blues and original music for the Celebration of the Arts at the Uxbridge Music Hall on September 17, 7:30 p.m. Photo by Bill Beard

Across

- 1 Corn
- 5 Plumbing joint
- 8 Comparable (to)
- 12 Flu symptoms
- 13 bad!"
- 14 "Hot in Cleveland" actress Gilpin
- Fraternity party attire
- Rental car service 16
- Recitation 18
- 20 Rocks
- Necessities
- Woman's wear
- 6th month on the Hebrew calendar
- "The ___ Daba Honeymoon"
- 33 Acid alcohol compound
- 35 Bug
- Document type
- Can't get a word in this way? 38
- 40 Wanderer
- Copenhagen natives
- Nightclub (2 words)
- Follow too closely (2 words) Duffer's challenge
- Jamacian fruit
- 55
- Deer type
- Bulgarian coin
- Gaucho's weapon Harry Potter's mailman
- "... happily ___ after"

Down

- Tangle Self image Summer month, abbr. Picked up
- Sicilian rumbler Washerful
- Lesotho coin
- Highest point
- Cognizance
- 10 Sep or traditional
- Opposite of all
- Dew Drop ___ Start on NC motto
- Salmon's destination
- It's a no-no
- Take a piece from
- Tiny Edible seaweed
- Large numbers
- Bring into play Common contraction Yearling sheep

- Modify Showy bloom
- Interweave 41
- Tail wagging animal
- Root
- Put in it's place 45 Remove rind 46
- 47 Place to unwind
- lt's Calamity
- Race
- Welcome, Maria!
- 53 Good thing to break



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YARD SALES

YARD SALE: Saturday, Sept. 10, 10 a.m. -5 p.m. No early birds please. 11120 Conc. 6. In case of rain, it will be in the workshop.

EVENTS

LEASKDALE LOOP DAY, Saturday, September 10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Discover studios, farm markets, orchards, flower farms, historical sites and more. Meet the makers and feel good about what you take home. www.leaskdaleloop.ca

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.

Uxbridge Genealogy Group: Helping to Uncover Your Family's History

Submitted by John McLean, Uxbridge Genealogy Group

Genealogical research is not easy. Occasionally research is a straightline investigation through generations of ancestors. Uncovering births, marriages and deaths, accompanied by letters and various documents expose the heart and soul of one's heritage. The pandemic gave many of us an opportunity to delve more fully into our ancestry, resulting in both successes and moments of frustration.

Those of us who have been involved in family history for years understand that information gaps are part of the research process. Missing dates, misspelled place or family names, sudden occupational changes and perhaps inaccurate family stories can send one down wrong research paths. We have all been there and those obstacles help to explain why some branches of our families go back three generations and others five or seven or more. Research can involve many sources including books, gravesites, webinars and even your genetics.

The Uxbridge Genealogy Group begins its 22nd year this September in the Library and on Zoom. We meet monthly and share a variety of investigative sources and methods. Outside speakers and local expertise tackle a number of family history topics. This month we will be looking at genetics and the value DNA has in connecting to new and often distant cousins. The strategies being discussed will assist experienced family historians and can be of help

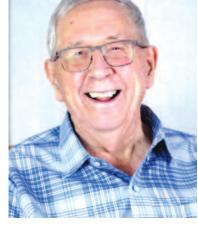
to those new to this engaging hobby. Contact the group at uxbridgegenealogygroup@hotmail.com if you would like to receive a Zoom invitation or just to find out more about the group. Alternatively, you could come to the Library meeting room on the lower level, Thursday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m.

HANSON, Roy

A Service for Roy will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at the Presbyterian Church, 40 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge, at 11:30 a.m.

Immediately following the service, the family invites you to a reception and a time of fellowship.





Donations in memory of Roy may be made to Community Living Durham North or the St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church.

Arrangements entrusted to Low and Low Funeral Home, 1763 Reach Street, Port Perry (905-985-7331).

GOUWELEEUW, Johanna Gertruda

Oct. 2, 1931 - Sept. 2, 2022

Peacefully at Lakeview Manor in Beaverton. Johanna was a long-time resident of Uxbridge. She will be missed for her kind heart, twinkly eyes, supportive and loving manner, gentle soul and her amazing "Oma" hugs.



Johanna is predeceased by her loving husband, Pete Gouweleeuw, and wonderful grandson Ben McGirr. She is survived by her loving children: Bill (Petra), Bert (Vann), Teresa (Tom), Peter (Helen) and Mary Jane. She is also survived by her grandchildren Jeremy (Kristin), Brooke (Bremmon), Erin (Brandon), Krista (Gareth), Amanda (Darryl), Shawna (Chris) and Katelyn (Ezra), and by her great-grandchildren Caela, Addison, Skyanne, Hadley, Hendrix and baby Isla.

We miss her with all our hearts.



A private family graveside service will be held at the Uxbridge Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Uxbridge (905-852-3073). For online condolences, please visit www.lowandlow.ca



Rosemarie Herrell

October 28, 1932 - August 21, 2022

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Rosemarie Herrell at the age of 89 on August 21, 2022, surrounded by her loving family. Predeceased by her husband, Edgar Herrell, sisters Alice, Madeleine, and brother Joey. The heart of our family, she was the loving mother of Jill Coffey (Rick), Owen Herrell (Tina), Marie Herrell, and Anita Speers (John). Deeply missed grandchildren Lindsay (Shawn), Josh (Shannon), Leah (Tim), Eric (Dani), Luke (Chelsea), and Joel. Greatly missed by her nine

great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many more family and friends.

Born in Toronto, Rosemarie embraced and was proud of her diverse, multicultural community. In 1961, Rosemarie and Edgar purchased a small farm in Uxbridge and raised their family. The farm was truly a special place to her; to have animals, especially a horse, was a dream of hers since childhood. She was most happy when she could share her love of the farm and the beauty of nature with others. No holiday or get-together was complete without a hike, jam session/sing-a-long and a lively game of charades! The door was always open to anyone who might benefit from a

Rosemarie's passion for environmental and social justice issues were dear to her heart, evident in her lifelong volunteering and support she gave to so many worthy causes. She was dedicated to the fight to care for the earth and its people.

Rosemarie's wish list of things to do was ever-growing. She was always pursuing new activities and eager to learn new things, most recently playing the ukulele. She lived a rich and full life, surrounded by the people she loved and will be deeply missed by those whose lives she touched. Her passing leaves a huge gap in our lives. Rosemarie will be fondly remembered for her love of music, dancing, travel, theatre, and as a woman who truly enjoyed life.

The family would like to thank Dr. Merrilee Brown, who cared for Mom with tremendous devotion and compassion. Thank you to Doug Brown and his team at Pharmacy Associates of Port Perry for their heartfelt support. Thank you to the doctors, nurses and staff at Uxbridge Hospital for their exceptional care and understanding. Thank you to our angel of a nurse, Mary, who gently and professionally supported Mom and our family, in our home for Mom's last days. Also, a special thank you to the kind and caring staff at Douglas Crossing.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Goodwood Community Centre, 268 Durham Regional Highway 47, Goodwood, Ontario, on Sunday, October 30, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. At 2:00 p.m. we will have a program sharing memories, music and laughter, just as she would have enjoyed. Reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a charity close to your heart. Arrangements have been entrusted to Low and Low Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.lowandlow.ca.











Shane Coxworth



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