

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 18 No. 39

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, October 6, 2022

A haunted park update • The Empire grows • UPS - Uxbridge Police Service?

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ON MY HONOUR - Scouter Marg Gall invests four new Beavers into the 1st Uxbridge Scout Group in Elgin Park. On Oct. 1, the group celebrated 100 years of scouting in Uxbridge. For more on the weekend's festivities, see page 15 *Photo by John Cavers*

Uxbridge teen on track to RBC Training Ground

by Justyne Edgell

Anyone who watched the winter Olympics in February might recall those relentless RBC Training Ground commercials that told young athletes they, too, could be a part of the Olympic dream. Well, Uxbridge Secondary School student Robyn Baker is in the running to be one of those elite RBC Training Ground

Athletes and a possible future Olympian.

This past spring, over 1,500 athletes completed qualifying events and sport specific testing, vying to be among 30 athletes chosen to receive funding for their "journey toward the podium."

Baker, who is in Grade 12 at USS, was at those qualifying events and has placed among the top 100 athletes. She has been invited to

the RBC Training Ground National Final testing later this month.

"I started to play flag rugby in Grade 7 and 8 and then joined the high school rugby team in Grade 9," says Baker, who used to be a track athlete and attributes some of her sporting success to that training.

"My coach encouraged me to try out for the

...continued on page 9

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for the Month of October, 2022

All regularly scheduled Council/Committee Meetings are in recess until the inaugural meeting of Council Monday, November 21, 2022.

Wednesday, October 19

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 24

MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAY

Proclamations for October

Oct. 2-8 – Mental Illness Awareness Week

Oct. 9-15 – Fire Prevention Week

October - Neurodiversity Education and Neurodivergent Acceptance Month
2022 – Year of the Garden

Employment Opportunities

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

Current Opportunities

Crossing Guards

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.

Attention All Pet Owners!

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



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

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

You've Got Mail

Vote-By-Mail kits have been sent out to all eligible electors on the voters' list.

If you do not receive your kit by Oct. 11, 2022 please visit Town Hall to get your ballot (51 Toronto St. S)

www.uxbridge.ca/elections



Happy Thanksgiving

Township offices are closed
Monday, Oct. 10th



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.

What's Coming Up at the Uxbridge Historical Centre

After School Program | Weekly on Tuesdays | 4pm - 6pm

Ever wondered what happens behind the scenes in a museum? Sign up for our 5-week after school program! Starting October 4th 2022. Registration required

\$60 for 5-weeks

An Evening with Angel Morgan | Thursday October 27 | 7pm - 9pm

Meet internationally renowned medium Angel Morgan for a 2-hour group session! Angel will be delivering a group presentation followed by individual readings.

\$20 per participant

Fright at the Museum | Saturday October 29 | 3pm - 8:30pm

Join us for our family friendly evening of Halloween fun at our Annual Fright at the Museum. Games, crafts, a haunted house, and more! Adult accompaniment free.

\$5 admission

7239 Concession 6, Uxbridge, ON, L9P 1N5
www.uxbridgehistoricalcentre.com

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Uxbridge at a Glance continued

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE NOTICE OF VOTE - 2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

NOTICE is hereby given to the Municipal Electors of the TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE
WHEREAS more candidates have been nominated to each of the following offices than the number required to fill such offices:

Office	Members to be elected	Certified candidates
Mayor	One (1) to be elected by all electors in the Township of Uxbridge	Dave BARTON - Acclaimed
Regional Councillor	One (1) to be elected by all electors in the Township of Uxbridge	Jack BALLINGER Bruce GARROD
Ward 1 Councillor	One (1) Member to be elected in WARD ONE (1)	Pamela BEACH Dominic MORRISSEY
Ward 2 Councillor	One (1) Member to be elected in WARD TWO (2)	Patrick MOLLOY Gordon SHREEVE
Ward 3 Councillor	One (1) Member to be elected in WARD THREE (3)	John HADDOCK J.P. HEROLD Zed PICKERING
Ward 4 Councillor	One (1) Member to be elected in WARD FOUR (4)	Willie POPP – Acclaimed
Ward 5 Councillor	One (1) Member to be elected in WARD FIVE (5)	Erin JONES Christine MCKENZIE Todd SNOOKS
Regional Chair*	One (1) to be elected by all electors in the Region of Durham	Laurie BLAIND MACKIE John HENRY Peter NEAL Kurdil-Telt PATCH
English Language Durham District School Board**	One (1) Trustee to be elected to represent the combined area of the Townships of Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock	Gordon BAXTER Carolyn MORTON
English Language Durham Catholic District School Board	One (1) Trustee to be elected to represent the combined area of the Townships of Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock	Richard DAMIANOPOULOS Tim ROBINS
Le Conseil Scolaire Viamonde***	One (1) Trustee to be elected by all french public electors in the Region of Durham, the Counties of Haliburton, Northumberland and Peterborough, and the Cities of Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough and Quinte West.	Kristine DANDAVINO Serge PAUL
Le Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir***	One (1) Trustee to be elected by all french catholic electors in the Region of Durham, the Counties of Northumberland and Peterborough and the Cities of Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough and Quinte West.	Marcellin KWILU MONDO- Acclaimed

*NOTE: Nominations were received in the Clerk’s office of the Region of Durham, 605 Rossland Road E, Whitby, ON
**NOTE: Nominations were received in the Clerk’s office of the Township of Scugog, 181 Perry Street, Port Perry ON
***NOTE: Nominations were received in the City Clerk Services, City of Oshawa, 50 Centre Street S, Oshawa, ON

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, by By-law Number 2021- 050, Council authorized an alternative voting method known as VOTE BY MAIL, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Elections Act, S.O. 1996, as amended.

On **October 3rd a VOTE-BY MAIL KIT** was mailed by Canada Post to each person who has qualified to be on the Voters’ List. The Vote-by Mail Kit will contain a voting instruction sheet, a composite ballot, ballot secrecy envelope, a voter declaration form and a yellow return envelope with prepaid postage.

Persons added to the Voters’ List after October 7th, 2022, may pick up their Mail-in Voting Kit during regular office hours (8:30 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.) at Town Hall at the time they are added to the Voters’ List. The Township will also be open for extended hours.

BY MAIL, the voter:

- upon receipt of the Vote-by Mail Kit, should complete the ballot, place it in the ballot secrecy envelope and seal the envelope;
- then should complete the voter declaration form and place it, together with the sealed ballot secrecy envelope in the yellow prepaid return envelope, seal and return by regular mail.

Please Note: The last date to mail the yellow prepaid return envelope to guarantee delivery is October 13, 2022.

BY BALLOT RETURN STATION

Voters who choose not to use the mail may deposit their ballots at the Ballot Return Station located at the Township of Uxbridge on the dates and times indicated below:

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. or the red drop box in front of Town Hall is a secure place where you can drop off your ballot 24/7 up until October 24 at 8:00 p.m.

Extended office hours will be as follows:

- a) Saturday, October 15, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
- b) Thursday, October 20, 2022, from 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
- c) Saturday, October 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- d) Monday, October 24, 2022, (Voting Day) from 8:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

No **PROXY or ADVANCE VOTING PROVISIONS** other than **BALLOT RETURN STATIONS** are applicable with respect to the Municipal Election being conducted in accordance with By-law Number 2021-050.

Further information related to these requirements or any other information related to the Municipal Election in the Township of Uxbridge may be obtained from the Clerk’s office by calling 905-852-9181 or by visiting Uxbridge.ca/elections.

Dated the 4th day of October 2022.

Debbie Leroux
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk and Election Returning Officer

Our two cents

Do we really have to say this AGAIN?

In just under three weeks' time, the residents of Uxbridge will learn the make-up of the new municipal council. The votes will have been tabulated and the winners announced.

When the results come in, will you have played your part or will you be one of those who decided not to bother voting? We would hazard a guess that if you fall into the latter category, you will be one of those who yell the loudest about council not doing this or not doing that.

You want a pothole fixed on your street? You call up your local ward councillor. You want traffic calming on your street? You call your ward councillor. If you want to complain about anything in the township, you call a member of council to make your case. But, if you couldn't be bothered to vote, why should anybody listen to you?

As a Canadian citizen, you really aren't called upon to do much in the way of civic responsibility. One of the few things you are asked to do - and the key word there is "asked" - is to take part in the democratic process and cast a vote for those you think will do the best job representing you, whether it be federally, provincially or locally. It doesn't take that long and you don't even have to go to the trouble of traipsing down to a polling station. A ballot, which is delivered to you in the mail, can be filled out in less than a minute. All you have to do is make a few marks and then pop the ballot back in the mail box.

But even that minimal effort is too much for some people. And, yes, we've heard all the excuses these people come up with for not voting. "None of them are worth re-electing." Fine, then vote for someone else. "My vote won't make a difference." Maybe not, but you're guaranteed not to make a difference if you don't vote at all. "It's all a waste of time." Really? And what great accomplishments will you produce in the two minutes it took you to vote? In our opinion, none of the excuses hold water. There is only one acceptable excuse: "I'm too selfish and too lazy."

One doesn't have to look too far afield these days to see how the concept of democracy is under significant threat. And those who would steal democracy actually use the democratic process to achieve their aims. But that's not all they use. They rely on apathy.

That apathy was glaringly obvious in the last provincial election when only 43 per cent of eligible voters bothered to cast a ballot. The next time you find yourself in the company of nine other people, reflect that just four of them decided what government the other six will have. Apathy reigns supreme in neighbouring Scugog, where only one seat on council is up for grabs. All the others have been acclaimed because no-one could be bothered to run against them. Even here in Uxbridge, the mayor and deputy mayor have been acclaimed for the same reason. Yes, it is difficult to defeat an incumbent, but at least make them earn the next four years.

So, although it is rather like yelling in a wind storm, please vote!



Letters to the Editor

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge, we would like to thank those who have supported the "Catch the Ace" Progressive Weekly Lottery over the last five years. As well, we would like to express our appreciation to Canadian Tire Uxbridge, Vince's Markets Uxbridge, Pharmasave Uxbridge and Stouffville IDA for allowing their staff to sell tickets on our behalf.

Finally, a huge expression of gratitude to the Uxbridge Royal Canadian Legion Branch #170, which has been our partner in the running of the weekly lottery, providing both monetary and volunteer help in addition to selling tickets in the club room.

We have raised and donated \$111,184 to local charities and causes related to education, poverty and community benefit. Local weekly and Jackpot winners were awarded \$150,715 over the lottery's five year history!

Unfortunately, the pandemic, inflationary pressure on both our buyers and our suppliers, and the increase in large-prize online gaming options have all conspired against us, rendering the ticket-based lottery unsustainable in its current form. Therefore, our most recent edition of the lottery, won by Howie Underwood of Uxbridge, will be the last.

Will we be back in a different form? Not immediately, but who

knows what the future may hold.

Ian Morrison & Terry Chapman
"Catch the Ace" Co-chairs

Re: "Am I wrong?" Sept. 29 edition

I, too, was surprised that the issue of housing did not come up at the All-Candidates Forum. This is an issue that is top of mind for me, as we are facing a housing crisis.

We are told development is necessary, that it is up to municipalities to grow to help provide more affordable housing.

We have been led to believe that we have a shortage of housing supply, while in fact investors are buying up houses at a pace that we

...continued on page 7

Your Universe

The Uxbridge Cosmos

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The Uxbridge Cosmos

Did you miss the All Candidates Forum on September 26?

It's available to watch at youtu.be/4xFYXn2TQXE

Municipal Election: Monday, October 24



A Blonde Moment

column by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Share the freakin' road

I'm going to ask you to do something for me. This weekend, when you're out and about visiting friends and family for the Thanksgiving long weekend, take a moment to thank those who grew and raised the food you're going to wolf down. In fact, take that moment exactly when you're cursing and swearing at the farm vehicle in front of you, slowing you down and stealing precious time from your social occasions while the farmer ahead of you is working.

"Why's she being so snarky?" you wonder? Let me tell you a little story.

Last Thursday, there was a wee incident that occurred right in front of my husband's family farm, which is east of Uxbridge, on a sideroad just off Reach Rd. This incident occurred because some twit behind the wheel of a car couldn't hold her horses for a mere three seconds while a tractor turned a corner.

Now, for you came-from-the-city folk who aren't wise to it yet, it's harvest season. Wheat, corn, soybeans - all kinds of crops are ready for getting off the fields. So our farmers are hard at work cutting, combining, and hauling large loads. A lot of the time, there is only one path for them to get from field to farm, and that's the same path you and I travel - the road. But for some reason, people in cars and pick-up trucks don't seem to think that farm vehicles should have the right to *be* on the road. So they get annoyed and frustrated and do all manner of stupid things to put a farm vehicle in their rearview mirror.

Case in point - the incident on Thursday. One of the fellows from our farm was hauling a large forage wagon up our sideroad, back to the farm. Now, traffic on Reach Rd. was slow because of some work being done, and many people were deciding to forgo the two or three minute wait and deke up our sideroad, turn right at another side road and meet up with Reach on the other side of construction. This made our relatively tranquil sideroad a grand thoroughfare for impatient traffic.

As the afore-mentioned fellow was turning left into the first driveway of the farm, the sweet young thing I mentioned at the top of the column decided she needed to get around this pesky tractor and wagon combo, and proceeded to try and pass him. As he was

slowing down, as he was turning into a driveway. Instead she got herself lodged in between the tractor and wagon, and lost waaayyy more time dealing with the police than she ever would have had she just taken a couple of seconds and let the tractor/wagon complete its turn.

Every single time I discover that my hubby will be driving the tractor along the roads, I tell him to be safe. *Every single time* he comes home from a day of driving the tractor along the roads, he says that his life - his *life* - was endangered by impatient drivers speeding by him, forcing oncoming traffic onto the shoulder, or even into the ditch.

Nothing. I repeat - *nothing* in your life is so time-sensitive and important that you can't take a moment or two and wait for an appropriate opportunity to pass a farm vehicle. You're racing because you're late for work? The five seconds you may or may not save passing unsafely isn't going to make you on time. Someone's having a baby? Better to bring a life into the world in the car rather than get in a self-caused accident that snuffs out multiple lives. Just eager to get home? Your home will still be there, guaranteed. And it would be nice if you'd let the farmer make it home, too. After all, he/she ensures that, in one form or another, you eat. You really ought to afford him/her the respect they deserve.

My strongly worded rebuke also applies to those who feel they can bomb by school buses or blow through their flashing lights. For the love of Pete, there are *children* involved there! You are not one bit more important than they are; just think of how many lives you impact by making one bad decision, one poorly timed pass.

Having a driver's licence, and a vehicle, is a privilege, not a right. While we *do* pay for roads with our taxes, it is *not* yours to own while on it.

When you take that moment I asked you to take at the beginning of this column, remind yourself that a *real person* is doing a tough job. Slow down, breathe and remember that *nothing* is so important it can't wait a few seconds. Because that's all it takes.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

What sustains Canada's small towns

Whenever I get the chance to visit other provinces, I find myself gravitating to smaller towns. Last week, I was travelling through southern Alberta on a public-speaking tour. One of the places where I'd been invited to speak was Nanton (population 2,000), about an hour's drive south of Calgary. While there, my host invited me to lunch at a new eatery in town called The Hive. It was part vendors' shop and part truck-stop café. Inside I was introduced to owner/operator, Kristen Hall. "Welcome to The Hive," she said. "It's what's buzzing in town."

I rolled my eyes and groaned.

"It's always a good idea to start your visit with a laugh," she said. "Enjoy your stay."

Before long I'd wandered well back into this country consignment store and lost myself in an array of paintings, pottery, jewelry, home-made clothing, folk art and books all created locally and presented in a bright, uncrowded and attractive setting. Every Canadian village and town wishing to showcase its talent, products and services, ought to have a place like this, I thought, to help us get back on our feet after the pandemic. "We're a hub to support small businesses, help them showcase, expand and succeed," owner Hall told me.

Back in the early 1970s, when I first travelled to western Canada, I landed in Saskatoon, working in the audio-visual department at the University of Saskatchewan. One of the first projects the department threw in my lap was a university outreach film. Our job was to travel to a cluster of small towns in the eastern part of the province, interview residents (farmers, merchants, teachers, municipal politicians, homemakers) and determine what made small towns tick. It was a time when the both national railways had decided that they could deliver products and services more efficiently by highway and air transport than by rail; so CP and CN began ripping up railway lines all across the Prairies - killing small towns in the process.

"Find out - despite the loss of a railway line - what makes a town live or die," we were mandated. "And pinpoint what community spirit really is." After scores and scores of interviews, we deduced that a small Prairie town could lose its railway line, and even its grain elevators, but if it could keep its farm implement dealership, its place of worship and its curling rink, it could likely survive the loss of other vital infrastructure.

Some years ago, I'd learned the history of

Nanton. The community was established around farming and ranching, but it had a unique asset - a source of spring water with a tap by the main road where travellers could stop and refresh themselves with a drink. The *Calgary Herald* published a story in 1964 that the best drinking water in the world could be found in the "town of the tap," Nanton. In addition, about the same time, several of the town fathers noticed the Air Force scrapping Lancaster bombers nearby; they salvaged one for \$513 and hauled it 17 miles to the outskirts of Nanton. It was the birth of Nanton's other unique tourist attraction, the Bomber Command Museum of Canada, which draws aviation buffs from around the world.

It all reminded me of comedian Johnny Harris's long-running CBC TV show *Still Standing*.

"Towns that are up against the ropes, but still hanging in there," is the show's tagline slogan. And it features comedian Harris visiting small Canadian communities that have struggled from boom and bust economies, lost industries, young people moving away, or just the vagaries of evolving populations and setbacks. Harris has an amazing knack for connecting with small-town residents because he came from one in Newfoundland. And he helps people in those struggling communities recognize their strengths, capabilities and drive to survive. Over six seasons, Harris has featured places such as Souris, PEI, Wawa, Ont., Stanstead, Que., Fort McMurray, Alta., and Inuvik, NWT. Harris claims he's on a mission to find humour in the funniest places. I think he's found the secret of small-town spirit too.

I eventually finished my lunch at The Hive in Nanton, this past week; I enjoyed its specialty, gourmet grilled-cheese sandwiches. I did a bit more browsing around Kristan Hall's consignment store. Then, I stepped up to the cashier's counter at the exit to pay for my lunch.

"What a place!" I said out loud.

"We like it a lot," the cashier said. "It really represents the essence of Nanton."

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"Well, I'm Jennifer Handley," she said. "I'm a real estate agent and part-time employee here at The Hive. I'm also the mayor."

Now that's commitment to community spirit.

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

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FOR
WARD 3 COUNCILLOR

Bruins lose third in a row

by Roger Varley

An empty-net goal with just 16 seconds left on the clock Friday night gave the Uxbridge Bruins their third loss in a row as the Port Perry LumberJacks downed them 6-4.

In what was generally a scruffy game, the two teams battled back and forth for the first two periods. The Bruins continued to have difficulty on defence, often struggling to clear the puck out of their own end. Port Perry opened the scoring midway through the first period with a power-play marker.

The Bruins tied the game with Peter Kerr's power-play goal early in the second, assisted by Caleb MacLeish and Anthony Lamanna, but the LumberJacks responded 30 seconds later. The visitors made it 3-1 before Lamanna scored late in the period when his shot on goal bounced high in the air and dropped down behind the LumberJacks goalie.

Kerr had the assist. Quinn Meek, assisted by Stelluccio Basile, tied the game with a goal from a face-off early in the third. However, Port Perry scored two within four minutes near the midway mark. Basile combined with Kerr to reduce the deficit to one with just under two minutes left and goalie Noah Acciaccaferri was pulled for the extra attacker, but Cameron Marshall's empty-netter put the game away. The *Cosmos* selected Kerr as player of the game for the Bruins, while Mark Stoop received the nod for the LumberJacks. The Bruins' 1-3-0 record puts them in fifth place in the seven-team PJHL Orr Division. The team returns to action at the arena tomorrow (Friday) evening at 7:45 p.m. when they host the Georgina Ice. They then travel to Little Britain for a game against the Merchants on Saturday night before heading down to Clarington to face the league-leading Eagles next Thursday.

CW

The Cindy Wood Team

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At this time of year we give thanks for friends, family,
and the new relationships we've built. We're deeply
grateful to all of our clients, past and present.

From our families to yours, Happy Thanksgiving.

905 852 6143 • 47 Brock St. W. Uxbridge • cindy@cindywood.ca • www.cindywood.ca

Motorbike collision leaves one teen dead

A 16-year-old Uxbridge male was fatally injured after his motorcycle rear-ended a vehicle on Davis Drive in Uxbridge.

On Monday afternoon, police were called to the area of Davis Drive and Conc. 6 for a two-vehicle collision involving a motorcycle and a motor vehicle. The teen motorcyclist was seriously injured as a result of the collision and transported to a local hospital. He later succumbed to his injuries. The driver of the other vehicle, a 40-year-old female from Uxbridge, was not injured, and remained on scene.

Members of the DRPS Collision Investigation Unit attended the scene to conduct an investigation. The roads in the area were closed for several hours while evidence was collected.

Anyone with information about this incident or who witnessed this collision is asked to call D/Cst. Ryce at 905-579-1520 ext. 5255 (toll free 1-888-579-1520). Anonymous information can be sent to Durham Regional Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.durhamregionalcrimestoppers.ca and tipsters may be eligible for a \$2,000 cash reward.

Letters, from page 4

haven't historically seen. According to a recent report from Statistics Canada multiple-property owners account for 31 per cent of all homes in Ontario.

And while investors are increasing their share of home ownership, the number of first-time homebuyers is decreasing. Average folks are being priced out of the housing market as investors are driving housing and rental prices up.

In the meantime small towns like ours are growing past our capacity, we are losing our farmland, our green-space and our small-town charm.

The problem needs to be fixed at the federal and provincial levels, but since there is no will to do so, it is up to the municipalities and residents to push back until our voices are heard. Rebellion indeed.

*Erin Jones
Uxbridge*



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- ✓ Higher standards imposed on developers to maintain the look and feel of our community
- ✓ Develop a plan to ensure our local businesses thrive

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www.jpherold.ca

jpherold65@gmail.com

The Township Empire: three heritage buildings

by Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In this series about the properties that belong to you, the taxpayer of the Township of Uxbridge, so far

we've discussed our community halls, libraries and museum, as well as all the outdoor recreation spaces with which the municipality is blessed. But in addition to the eight restored buildings at the Historical Centre,

the Township owns three other buildings of significant heritage value; two of them at opposite ends of downtown, the third set in the rolling hills on the way north to Leaskdale.

The Uxbridge Music Hall: This well-equipped theatre at 16 Main Street South is the oldest of the three, built in 1902 to house not just concerts and other community events, but as the town's government centre

as well. Until a few years ago, it had a long-term tenant, the Uxbridge Dance Academy, but now is rented exclusively in the short term to a variety of performing arts groups. Unlike the similar Town Hall in Port Perry, the Music Hall has no fixed seating on the main floor, meaning it can continue to host one-off events like wedding receptions.

There is an advisory board to assist the Township in planning for future



Interior of the Uxbridge Music Hall.

Photo by OnStage Uxbridge, one of the many user groups of the Music Hall

STUDENTS

Earn Community Service Hours

The Uxbridge Lions Club is looking for 20 high school students to help out with the 2nd Annual Hallowe'en Parade at Elgin Park on Sunday, October 30 from 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Students will assist with the set up of games, support participants, manage simple games and help with the parade. Several students will be able to earn an extra 5 hours for work that will need to be done prior to the day. If you are interested please contact Sally Kotsopoulos at sallykprodev@gmail.com or by text at 647-206-8645 before October 16.



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improvements, as well as a part-time technical manager, paid on an hourly basis, who ensures the building's sound and lighting systems are properly used and well-maintained. In addition to paying rent on the space, users must apply a surcharge on tickets, which goes toward a fund for improvements.

The Township budgeted about \$90,000 for the Music Hall in 2022, expecting to receive about half of that back in rental fees.

The Railway Station: Our "witch's-hat" station, so often used as a set for historical films and television shows, was opened in 1904 by the Grand Trunk Railway. The primary user, the York Durham Heritage Railway (YDHR), leases the train station from the Township and covers all the utilities. The YDHR has greatly expanded its programming

...continued on next page

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Our heritage buildings, from page 8

over the last several years, and has its own staff, both paid and volunteer, to manage its activities. It's important to note that the Township owns only the station; the train cars are owned by YDHR, and the tracks by Metrolinx out of Toronto.

The Township budgeted about \$29,000 to maintain the station this year, expecting to recover about two thirds of that in rentals.

The station received substantial damage to roof and windows during



The iconic “witch’s hat” of the Uxbridge Railway Station, moments after a tornado went through Uxbridge and blew out most of the station’s antique windows.

Photo by Conrad Boyce

the May 21 tornado. Because of its heritage character, replacement windows and shingles can be difficult to source; it's expected that repairs will be completed next spring.

The Thomas Foster Memorial: It's safe to say that not many municipalities include a majestic mausoleum (it's one of the largest in North America) on their roster of properties. To cut a fascinating history short, the memorial, about 10 minutes north of town on Conc. 7 (Reg. Rd. 1), was built during the Great Depression by a former mayor of Toronto with roots in the Leaskdale area. Foster built it as a memorial to his late wife and daughter; on his death in 1945, he joined them inside, and ownership was transferred to a trust company.

After years of neglect, the building was taken over by the Township in 1992, at the instigation of a volunteer group called the Friends of the Foster, which continues to play a large role in fundraising and programming of events (including a popular Friday night concert series from spring through fall). A note that the Friends would very much like to swell their diminishing ranks; see

their website for how you can help.

The Township undertook a refurbishment of the roof recently, and



The Thomas Foster Memorial.

Photo from thomasfostermemorial.com

has a number of major improvements planned, including painting of the interior domes and repairs to the exterior stonework. An improvement fund of \$10,000 is set aside every year. In 2022, about \$50,000 was budgeted for the care of this unique building, of which only a tenth is expected to be recovered through rentals or donations.

Caring for the Departed: Although the Township owns the Memorial, it does not own the cemetery beside it, nor any of the other major

ones in the municipality. Cemeteries are usually administered by a volunteer board, or a particular church congregation. Sometimes an older cemetery will be “abandoned” for various reasons. Under the provincial Cemeteries Act, ownership of the cemetery then reverts to the municipality. There are a handful of such grounds in Uxbridge; the Township parks department cuts the grass regularly, and does other minor maintenance, or contracts this responsibility to a third party.



**Richard
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Robyn Baker, a Grade 12 student at USS, is vying for one of 30 coveted positions on RBC's Training Ground.

Photo submitted by Robyn Baker

Heading for RBC Training Ground, from page 1

Ontario team and I just went on from there.”

After applying to the RBC Training Ground regional testing day, Baker competed in front of many different sporting scouts, including one scout who showed interest in her joining a track cycling team. Baker says that, while she knows of athletes who have been scouted for other sports and become Olympians, with her busy rugby schedule and passion for the sport she hasn't yet explored cycling.

While most of her rugby competing took place over the summer, Baker is playing on the Uxbridge Secondary School Rugby 7s team this fall, working towards LOSSA, as well as the Rugby 15s team in the spring, hoping to get to OFSAA.

This summer, Baker played at the Ontario Summer Games as well as the Canada Summer Games.

As far as next steps, Baker will continue her training through the winter months. “I do hope to play varsity rugby in university and want to represent Canada at the national level in the future,” she says.

Baker will be heading off to Ottawa for the RBC Training Ground Final on Friday, Oct. 21. The final testing includes trials such as a 40m sprint, jumps from a stand still and endurance stationary cycling.

Baker says that while she would love to be chosen as one of the 30 athletes, she's not really setting any expectations for the finals.

“I'm definitely looking forward to meeting new people from around the country who are all at the same level. I think it'll be a really great experience and I'm excited to learn from everyone else who's there too!”

RE-ELECT

John Henry
For Durham Regional Chair



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Gordon Shreeve
Councillor Ward 2
905-251-4972
gordonshreeve@gmail.com
@gordonshreeveon

Celebration of the Arts brings big names to Uxbridge

If you're a music lover, the Uxbridge Celebration of the Arts 2022 says you absolutely must mark Friday, Oct. 14 on your calendars, because that's when the Juno Award-winning Allison Au Quartet is performing at the Uxbridge Music Hall (7:30 p.m.)

Adding to the evening's excitement, the Uxbridge Secondary School Third Avenue Jazz Ensemble will open for the quartet.

This multi-award-winning group was formed in 2009 by Au (pronounced "ow"), a saxophonist, composer and arranger known for her juxtaposition of musical styles to produce a unique jazz tapestry.

Au grew up in Toronto to a Chinese father and Jewish mother, and was exposed to a variety of musical styles from an early age. She gravitated to jazz for its openness to musical interpretation and experimentation. Since forming the quartet, Au and her band mates have toured across Canada and the United States, transporting audiences to a place where melodies and rhythms coexist in unexpected and delightfully surprising ways.

The group won the 2017 Montreal Jazz Festival TD Grand Prix de Jazz, received the 2017 Halifax Jazz Festival Sting Ray Rising Star Award, and was named a 2017 Finalist for the Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Jazz Artist Award.

Au earned her first Juno nomination for her debut album, "The Sky Was Pale Blue, then Grey" in 2013, and in 2016 seized the Juno for "Best Jazz Album of The Year: Group" for "Forest Grove." In 2019, she garnered another Juno nomination for "Best Jazz Album of the Year: Group" for "Wander Wonder."

How appropriate that the group opening for Au's quartet is the USS Third Avenue Jazz Ensemble? This auditioned group features students from Grades 9 to 12, who rehearse twice a week. In 2019, they received the gold standard at the Southern Ontario Jazz Band Festival and were invited to the nationals in Calgary, but due to the pandemic, they were unable to attend. In spring 2022, they received an invitation to perform at the Downtown Toronto Jazz Festival as part of the Big Band Slam. They performed at their first spring concert in three years, as well as a hometown gig at Slabtown Cider. In June, they were one of three high schools to perform at the Toronto Jazz Festival and had the pleasure of working with nationally acclaimed trombonist, Kelsley Grant. They are honoured and excited to kick-start their year with this opening performance for the incredible Allison Au Quartet.

For more information and to buy tickets for the Allison Au Quartet performance, visit celebrationofthearts.ca/cota/allison-au-quartet/ or go directly to starticketing.com/tktweb/

Another feature of this year's Celebration of the Arts, The Book Drunkard Literary Festival, continues until Nov. 14, with author nights including Ann-Marie MacDonald, John Irving and Uxbridge's own Ted Barris. For tickets and more information, visit bookdrunkard.com/

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An army of members and volunteers, both adult and student, gave generously of their time and talents to ensure a quality event.

Thank you all for your enormous contribution to the success of the 157th Fair.

We would be unable to present one of Ontario's best country fairs without the support of the sponsors listed here. Please show your thanks by supporting them this holiday season and through the year.

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See you in the Santa Claus parade, November 19, and at the Fantasy of Lights in Elgin Park, December 3 to January 1.



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Where Your Tax Dollar Goes - Inside the Township budget

by Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As moderator Ted Barris noted at the *Cosmos's* all-candidates forum last week, as much as the federal and provincial governments have much larger budgets and much bigger headlines, it is the work of the municipal governments that has a more noticeable impact on our daily lives. And although Durham Region, headquartered in Whitby, is the greater bureaucracy, with almost 5,000 employees and an annual budget of more than \$2.2 billion, the Township of Uxbridge, with only 57 full-time and 73 part-time employees, and a budget for 2022 of only \$31 million, is much more visible and tangible in what it does for us.

You took out a library book this week? Your kid scored her first goal

at the arena? You enjoyed a concert at the Music Hall, or a stroll on the Countryside Preserve? You take for granted that your streetlights will come on at dusk, or that your street will be plowed when that first snowfall hits next month, or that a state-of-the-art pumper truck, complete with superbly trained volunteers, will come to your rescue if your son's old Ford catches fire in the driveway? You can thank the Township of Uxbridge for all that, whose seven-member council you will be electing on Oct. 24. And as Ted Barris also noted at the forum, because that council makes decisions that have a direct impact on your daily life, your presence at the ballot box is very important. So please vote, or you don't have a lot of room to complain.

The 2023 Township budget is in its formative stages now, as staff tweaks

this year's numbers to reflect your ever-changing priorities. The new council members will barely have a chance to get comfortable in their chairs before the public consultation begins, with a view to finalizing the budget before the new year is very old. Based on those final numbers, the Township will set its property tax rate. But that's not the whole story.

To repeat the breakdown from the first taxation story a few weeks ago, the two lower levels of government, as well as the school districts, are primarily funded by property taxes, although every municipality has other revenue streams in varying proportions, such as user fees or grants from senior government. There are four main types of property taxes: residential (84% in the 2022 Uxbridge budget), commercial (8.4%), industrial (3.7%), and farmland (2.1%).

The lower tier municipality, in this case the Township of Uxbridge, collects the property tax for the school districts and Region of Durham, and

erty varies each year depending on two principal factors: the taxation rates assessed by each of the three taxing entities, and the value of your personal property, as assessed by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, a provincial agency.

The Township budget can be easily broken down into two portions: the operating budget, which as the name suggests, covers the day-to-day business of running a municipality; and the capital budget, which funds improvements to the Township's physical assets, whether it be a sidewalk, a baseball diamond, the roof of the Foster Memorial, or a fire truck. Capital projects will be discussed next week.

The operating side takes just about 60 per cent of the total budget: \$18.8 this year from the \$31 million total. Almost a third of that goes to public works, maintaining the infrastructure that smooths your life (more on that in the "Empire" series next week). Another fifth goes toward "general government," the fabric of municipal regulation. Twelve per cent is allotted to recreation, outdoor and indoor, another 12 per cent to culture and tourism, including the library and historical centre. And nine per cent goes to the

...continued on next page

The amount you pay on your property varies each year depending on two principal factors: the taxation rates assessed by each of the three taxing entities, and the value of your personal property, as assessed by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, a provincial agency.

distributes them in varying proportion according to the source. In 2022, 58 per cent of residential taxes went to the Region, 14 per cent to the school districts, 28 per cent to the Township. In the case of commercial/industrial taxes, 43 per cent went to the Region, 35 per cent to education and 22 per cent stayed here with the Township.

The amount you pay on your prop-

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Police give update on human remains found on Conc. 6 in spring

Durham Regional Police recently provided an update on the homicide investigation related to Ariel Kaplan, a 32-year-old Toronto man whose remains were discovered in Uxbridge earlier this year. Investigators are also appealing to the public for more information on this case.

Members of North Division responded to the area of Conc. 6 and

Allbright Rd. on May 10. Police recovered human remains concealed inside a hockey bag that was retrieved from a private pond adjacent to the road.

Shortly after this discovery, police say the Homicide Unit, in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Coroner, identified the body as Kaplan's. The results of the post

mortem, along with information obtained from the investigation, has determined the deceased was murdered. Toronto Police Service has initiated a missing person investigation on Kaplan in September 2021, and through investigation, police say they now believe Kaplan was abducted from the area of Yonge St. and Sheppard Ave. in Toronto on Aug. 29, 2021, before he was killed and his body disposed of. His last known location was corroborated in part through cell data and interviews.

This case is multi-jurisdictional and the DRPS says it has received the support of the Toronto Police Service in this joint investigation.

Police would like to hear from anyone who had contact with Kaplan in any way around the time of his disappearance and in the weeks prior, and have set up a dedicated toll free tip line for people to reach out to the investigative team. That number is 1-888-579-1520 ext. 5444.

Anyone with information pertaining to this investigation is asked to call Det. Graham of the Major Crimes - Homicide Unit at 1-888-579-1520, ext. 5418.

Anonymous information can be sent to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or www.durham-regionalcrimestoppers.ca and [tipsters](mailto:tipsters@durham-regionalcrimestoppers.ca) may be eligible for a \$2,000 cash reward.

Budget low-down, from page 12

fire service (the other first responders, police and paramedics, are supplied by Durham Region).

A significant part of every department's expenditures is "amortization," the depreciation of the physical assets spoken of earlier. Everything, from a popular mystery novel to a hard-working dump truck, wears out sooner or later; the amortization line in the department estimates acknowledges that one day, that item will need to be replaced. Amortization is based on the actual cost of the capital asset at the time of acquisition, not on current replacement cost of the asset. The cost of replacement may come from "reserves," funds into which the Township puts a little bit every year. User fees may also contribute to those reserves; an example is the Music Hall Improvement Fund: every ticket you purchase for an

event at the Hall has a surcharge dedicated to the Fund.

Unlike the senior levels of government, which are free to run up deficits as large as they like until the voter makes them answer for it, municipal governments are obliged by provincial legislation to balance their budgets; the Township's \$31 million in expenditures must be mirrored by similar revenue. Overall, about half of that comes from property taxes, 22 per cent from user fees, 10 per cent from reserves, 10 per cent from senior government grants, five per cent from "debentures," which are long-term loans budgeted for repayment over several years, and one per cent from "development charges," fees charged to residential or industrial developers to help pay for infrastructure related to new growth. The last four items, which can vary greatly from year to year, play a greater role in capital budgeting, so these will be discussed more in depth next week.

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What would an independent Uxbridge police service look like?

by Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As the *Cosmos* noted in a recent article on Durham Region taxation a few issues back, policing takes a healthy hunk of the Region budget, 30 per cent this year. The Township of Uxbridge forwarded \$31.6 million in property taxes to the Region in 2022; 30 per cent of that total is

\$9.48 million. So the *Cosmos* raised the question: for about \$9.5 million, could Uxbridge safely and effectively run its own police service, or could the job even be done for significantly less, and save the taxpayer some important money?

In the same article, it was noted that the small town of Deep River, in the upper Ottawa Valley, has been running its own police service for

decades, despite the fact that the town is part of the upper-tier municipality, the County of Renfrew, which, like its counterpart, the Region of Durham, also has a police service; in this case the O.P.P., which all of its member municipalities, apart from Deep River, use.

So what is Deep River's secret? The *Cosmos* spoke to its police chief, Dean Duchrow, to investigate the fis-

cal and logistical advantages, and challenges, of running an independent police service.

To begin, the Deep River police serve a much smaller population and geographical area than Uxbridge: about 4,400 people compared to 22,000, and 50 square kilometres to 420. So one fifth the people and one eighth the land. In 2022, the budget of the Deep River Police Service was \$1.44 million, about 15 per cent of what Uxbridge paid for policing this same year. Which municipality is getting the better bang for its buck?

Deep River has maintained an independent police service since its founding in 1957, not surprising, perhaps, for a small town which also has its own hospital, yacht club, even a symphony orchestra!

"It's definitely a matter of civic pride," admits Chief Duchrow, who spent many years with the much larger York Region Police. "But it's also a real advantage for our members to know the faces of most of the people we serve, and for them to know us."

The Deep River service, considering its size, is remarkably self-sufficient; the need to consult outside agencies, including the O.P.P., is rare. The service consists of the chief and two sergeants, each of whom has a three-constable squad under his command, and an administrative assistant. There are two part-time special constables, who often look after guarding and transporting prisoners, and another part-time constable (retired from a long police career) who will fill in as needed for vacation or illness relief. That's a total of 10 full-time and three part-time personnel.

"Our members are well-trained for any kind of front-line duty," says the chief, "from crime or accident investigation to public education."

The physical requirements of the Deep River service are two patrol cars (valued at about \$60,000 apiece), an administrative vehicle, an office with five desks (there are rarely more than three officers on a shift), and one holding cell. The cell's occupants receive an immediate bail hearing, and

if they need to be held in custody, they are transferred to Ottawa.

So if the Deep River police can do their work for less than \$1.5 million, be highly respected in their community and largely self-sufficient, what would it cost for

Uxbridge, with its larger population and service area, to do as good a job. Three, four times as much? That's still significantly less than the township is paying now with the Region, and it's safe to say that the DRPS's officers are not nearly as visible as a locally-based service would be.

As for where the police would be headquartered, it has been suggested that there is a fairly large, nearly-complete office building right downtown that is probably looking for tenants, and has a large parking lot just across the tracks to accommodate a small fleet of squad cars.

Uxbridge ran its own police for almost two decades prior to the emergence of Durham Region in 1974. Could it do it again? When the possibility of saving significant dollars (in tight-money times) is paired with the probability of having a police service much more in touch with the community, perhaps it's worthy of debate.



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Uxbridge
celebrate
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Scouts
special
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by Roger Varley

Beavers, cubs, scouts and venturers took over Elgin Park on the weekend as they celebrated 100 years of scouting in Uxbridge.

About 75 scouting members - and a number of parents - set up camp in the park and took part in numerous activities, including ball hockey, scavenger hunts, fire building and relay races. The highlight of the weekend was the traditional Saturday night campfire.

As a prelude to the campfire songs and skits, new members were inducted into the various sections. As well, two scouts - Gabriel Dubeau and Travis Taylor-Shields - received their Chief Scout Awards, the highest award a scout can earn. Among the long list of accomplishments required to earn the award, the two lads hiked a total of 100 kilometres each and both spent an accumulated 106 nights camping. On top of the badges, they received plaques and letters of congratulations from the prime minister, the premier, Uxbridge council and the region.

Scout leader Craig Mallat said the 1st Uxbridge Scout group has over 100 registered youth, making it the largest group in the district.

Annual food drive under way

by Roger Varley

The Care-a-Van annual food drive is well under way, gathering food and cash donations for the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank. The drive began on Sept. 15 and continues until Oct. 15.

Cindy Wood, one of the main sponsors of the drive, said the Care-a-Van drive began seven years ago and, since then, the number of people and sponsors involved have increased and the drive now is showing up at more places around town. She

said the drive has been successful over the years.


"We usually deliver a truck-load of food to the food bank every week," she said.

Wood said the food drive used to be held nearer to Christmas and then was moved to the summer, but the fall drive is more successful.

"This is a great time of year for it," she said.

A schedule of places where the vehicles will be accepting donations is posted every week on Facebook and Instagram.





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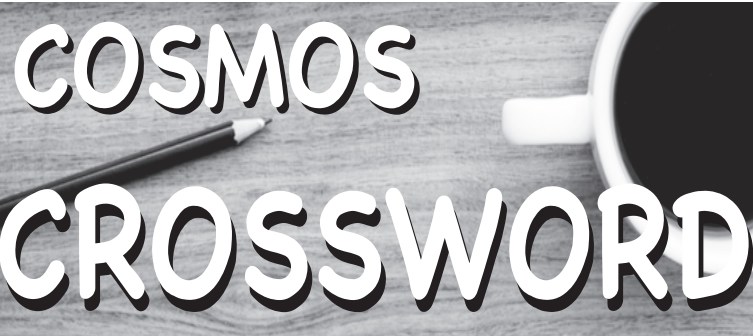
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Across

1 Next in line?
5 Adam's madam
8 Check record
12 Mil. supplies
13 Ability to hit a target
14 Holy Father
15 Stage in life cycle of a moth
16 Cheesiest
18 Bee contestant
20 Certain print
23 Slothful
27 World power (abbr.)
28 Fix
31 Make a ringing sound
32 Quandary
33 Blackbird
35 Record
36 ___ gate
38 Pronoun
39 Pitching stat
40 At its original position (2 words)
42 Venomous snake
44 It's baked in a muffin tin
47 Greyish brown bird
50 ___ halfway, in negotiating
54 Irish offshoot
55 Decide
56 Sworn declaration
57 Withdraw gradually
58 "Whew!"
59 Donkey noise

Down

1 Fortune
2 Kiwi comparable
3 Babysitter's handful
4 Criticize in no uncertain terms
5 No difficulty
6 Earlier stringed instrument
7 Worker
8 Élan
9 Little piggy
10 Fedex competitor
11 Put your chips in
17 Most preferred
19 Cancún coin
20 Muslim scholar
21 Lebanese, e.g.
22 Cabs
24 Lubricated
25 Night time racket
26 Variety of moth
29 Dishonest scheme (3 words)
30 Volcanic spew
34 Plumbing problem
37 Rock cover
41 Egyptian boy king
43 Retire from military service
45 Mafia chief
46 Affectedly creative
47 Modern
48 Intense anger
49 Govt.dept.
51 Piece of corn
52 In-flight info, for short
53 Possessive thou



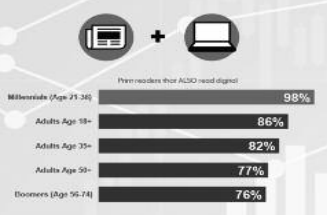
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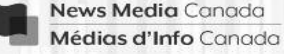
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Millennials (Age 21-35)	98%
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Almost all print readers between 21 and 38 years of age choose to add digital newspapers to their print reading habit.



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.

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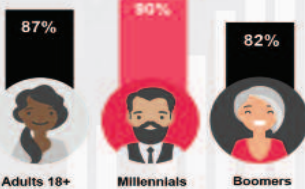
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News Media Canada
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Results are sourced from a November 2020 national online research survey managed by Tatum Research. Interviews were conducted with 855 English and French Canadians in every province,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

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EVENTS

LEASKDALE LOOP Saturday, Oct. 8, Kids' Day. Tour our studios, farm markets, flower farms, cider, etc. on our Leaskdale Loop Day. Lots of fun kid activities and live music too. See leaskdaleloop.ca for details.

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

ATTENTION ALL SENIORS: Progressive Euchre, 2nd Thursday of each month. Sept. -June. Uxbridge Legion, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Cost \$2, on now! All proceeds go to the Legion.

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.

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TOWN HALL

by Roger Varley

Notes from the October 3 Council Meeting

Haunting in Elgin Park: Council approved a request from the Uxbridge Lions Club to hold its second annual Halloween parade in Elgin Park on Sunday, Oct. 30.

Sally Kotsopoulos said the club will need the park from noon to 5 p.m., during which time children and parents will parade in their costumes, take part in various activities and listen to a storyteller at the bandshell.

She said the club hopes to have a piper lead the parade. As well,

the club will be looking for student volunteers who need community service hours (see page 8 for details).

Meanwhile, at the other park: Several residents of the Campbell Drive/Cemetery Road neighbourhood sent letters to council regarding a proposed playground to be erected in the "passive" park in the area. Some of the letters were in favour of the playground, while a couple were opposed.

Councillor Willie Popp noted he was "happy to see residents working together . . . to find a path forward." He further noted that any such project would have to be addressed in upcoming budget talks.

The letters were sent to staff, who will be tasked with preparing a report on the proposed play-

ground.

And there were other letters: Several residents sent letters opposing a proposed development on Toronto Street South, which they say will negatively impact their homes on Fred Barnard Way, which abut the subject property.

Popp said the letters raise some concerns that "might be of a regional concern that needs to be looked at."

Council voted to send the letter to the township planning consultant, the applicant, staff and the region.

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Submitted photo

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MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

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

The 'Pick Your Pleasure' trip, won by Lynda Knapp, ticket # 288, sold by Getaway Travel

2nd place winner, \$150, won by Rick Zambri, ticket # 060, sold by Dale Hickey


3rd place winner, \$100, won by Lindsay Reimers, ticket #339, sold by Deirdre Gibson

Congratulations to our September winners, and best of luck for the October draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge Trip of the Month Club for the 'Samana Seashore' trip! This includes round trip direct non-stop airfare from Toronto to Samana, Dominican Republic, and 7-nights accommodation at the 5-star, adults only Bahia Principe Luxury Samana in a Superior Sea View Suite. All meals, drinks, snacks, daily activities and nightly entertainment are included, as are a complimentary couples massage, all gratuities and round trip transfers.

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

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Did you miss the All-Candidates Forum on Sept. 26 at the Arena?

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CHAMPIONS OF THE TRUTH

The Township Empire: our arena and pool

by Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In this special Cosmos series on the funding and management of the Township's properties, we now turn our attention to the busiest buildings in the municipality, our arena and swimming pool.

Uxpool

The swimming pool, across from the Legion on Franklin Street, was built in 1971. In addition to the main six-lane, 25-metre pool and its attendant dressing rooms, Uxpool, as its known, also has a squash court downstairs, as well as a small hall and classroom upstairs, which can be booked by the public for a variety of uses.



The pool is kept at a steady temperature of 28 C, which is a little warm for most competitive swimmers and public users (except seniors and toddlers!), and a little cool for therapeutic purposes. It's a Goldilocks alternative.

The pool is heavily used from as early as 5:15 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. for a variety of users, from pre-schoolers literally just getting their feet wet, to highly skilled competitive swimmers. Two hundred and fifty to 300 users will go through on an average day. Pool manager Carolyn Clementson does all the scheduling herself, and is the pool's only full-time employee. There are also five adult and as many as 30 student part-timers who serve as lifeguards, swim instructors, and program supervisors.

You may recall that when the Township acquired the Fields of Uxbridge, there was excitement about the possibility of a new pool on the site.

"We've done the consultation, we have the drawings," says community services director Amanda Ferraro, "but the project will probably cost about \$25 million, so we need grants or partners in order to go ahead."

The Township currently has about \$4 million in a reserve for the purpose.

The Township budgeted about \$675,000 for pool operations in 2022, \$425,000 of that for wages and benefits. They expect about \$280,000 to come back in user fees.

The Arena

The arena on Brock Street West was built in two phases; the west pad and community centre in 1978, the east pad in 1997. The pads are of NHL size, and are each supplied with capacious dressing rooms. The west pad can accommodate 684 spectators, the east 954 (so it plays host to Uxbridge Bruins games). There are two boardrooms and a number of offices leased to user groups. On game days, more than 1,000 participants and spectators can pass through the arena doors.

The ice is on the pads from September through April, when arena manager

Hunter Gardner is assisted by five full-time arena operators, four adult contract staff, both full and part-time, and four or five part-time students. In the late spring and summer, the ice is taken out, and the concrete pads are used for ball hockey, lacrosse and assorted large events. Although a great deal of maintenance is still carried out in the summer, two of the full-time staff were transferred to the parks department this season.

The concession stand in the lobby, which operates mostly evenings and weekends, is leased to a private operator. This has also been the case with the pro shop, but the Township is considering taking this operation in-house in the future.

Major user groups like the Uxbridge Skating Club, the Uxbridge



A zamboni cleans the ice at the Uxbridge Arena.

Photos by Conrad Boyce

Bruins and the North Durham Minor Hockey Association play a strong role in scheduling and advising on future development of the facilities.

The Township budgeted about \$1.38 million for arena operations in 2022, with more than \$700,000 coming back through ice rental and other user fees.

In the May 21 tornado, a portion of the membrane on the roof of the west pad was torn away, and has been replaced. An HVAC unit above the community centre, which is adjacent to the arena, was ripped off its moorings (a backup is currently in service) and water damage was sustained through the building, with restoration nearly complete.

Keyzers, William (Bill) Francis

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Bill Keyzers on October 2, 2022, in his 90th year.

He will be so greatly missed as a beloved and loyal husband of 66 years to Ricki; amazing dad to Dorothy (Tim) and Frank (predeceased); wonderful Opa to Candace (Ryan) and their daughters Sophie and Calie; step-Opa to Ben (Nicola) and son Luca; Amy and daughters Evy and Nevaeh; Elise and daughters Elizabeth and Isabelle; dear brother to Marjory and predeceased brothers John, Peter and Tony. He will also be greatly missed by his extended family, nieces and nephews and dear friends.

Bill was born in Deurne, The Netherlands, to Guillaume and Dora Keyzers. His family owned a newspaper and printing business where he learned the trade. He moved to Canada as a young man in July 1953. He first worked on a farm in Grosse Isle, north of Winnipeg, and then decided to settle in Uxbridge in March 1955. He worked as a printer at the Uxbridge Times-Journal. In 1960, Bill and Harry Stemp formed Uxbridge Printing Co. Ltd. Over the years, they purchased eight weekly newspapers, including the Uxbridge Times-Journal, in June 1974, as well as operated a large commercial printing business.

Bill was married on October 13, 1956, to Ricki Janssen, also a native of The Netherlands. They met at the Roxy Theatre in Uxbridge. They raised two children, Dorothy and Frank. Frank's life tragically ended at the age of 16.

Bill and his daughter Dorothy owned Uxbridge Travel Centre for 31 years.

He was an active part of his community through involvement as president of the Kinsmen Club, chairman of the local Catholic Separate School Board, served on the committee of minor variances and the Uxbridge Credit Union Board and, more recently, involved in the Quaker Hill Printing Shop at the Uxbridge Museum, along with his continual involvement at the Sacred Heart Parish Church and cemetery board.

Bill will be remembered and deeply missed for his dedication and provision as a husband, father and Opa, his hard work and intellect, love of people and loyalty to his community.

Many, many thanks to Drs. Patricia Wong and Spencer Chau for above and beyond personal care, and Home and Community Care Health services, especially the nurses, for their tender guidance and care.

Visitation will be at Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge, L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073) on Thursday, October 6, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. A Celebration of Life will be held at Sacred Heart Parish Church on Friday, October 7, at 11:00 a.m. Interment to follow at the Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery.

Donations to the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, St. Vincent de Paul or the Uxbridge Hospital Foundation would be appreciated. Online condolences can be made at www.lowandlow.ca



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