

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 18 No. 47

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Eleven fascinating firehall facts • Foster granted a makeover • Bruins floating near the top



IT IS FINISHED - Demolition experts carefully removed the 133-year-old, 1,200 lb. bell from the roof of Trinity United Church on Monday morning. Demolition of the church, which was damaged beyond repair during the May 21 tornado, will be completed this week, and an auction of some of the church contents which have been salvaged will be held by Gary Hill Auctions in the near future.

Photos by John Cavers

Bill 23 may mean 'significant' municipal tax increase

by Roger Varley

Council members made their first public comments about the provincial government's controversial Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, on Monday, with most of them expressing concern.

The discussion came during examination of a 13-page report on Bill 23 by Kyle Rainbow, director of development services. Complaints from council centred on the township's loss of control when it comes to development as well as the possible financial impacts of the bill. Mayor Dave Barton said the financial implications are the major concern, while Ward 4 councillor Willie Popp offered that tourism in town could be affected if the bill leads to Uxbridge's character changing. During the discussion, both Barton and Popp made passing

reference to a double-digit property tax increase, with Popp noting that the bill results in a lot of downloading on municipalities. Asked to expand on a possible tax increase, Barton said it is too soon to know how the budget will be affected but added: "It will be significant."

Ward 5 councillor Todd Snooks, who has been named chair of council's planning committee, said Bill 23 creates more problems than it solves, saying it doesn't take into account all the side effects. He had another concern as well: "This eliminates a lot of democratic process."

Popp also questioned how Uxbridge's Downtown Revitalization plan would proceed under the bill. Rainbow said the bill could affect the township's ability to push for heritage-style facades on new buildings in the downtown area.

"We'll lose a lot of control," he said.

The possibility of extra living units in existing homes was another bone of contention. The bill would allow a homeowner to put in a basement apartment, plus a granny flat in the back garden, without seeking a zoning by-law change. All that would be required is a building permit and the township would not be able to impose restrictions on unit size or parking availability. Township solicitor Quinto Annable offered that council could adopt a by-law regulating such units based on the availability of municipal services as a tool to prevent an explosion of such units.

Rainbow's report dissects Bill 23 part by part. One of the most telling parts concerns "streamlining" the development process. He points out the bill removes the public meeting requirement for draft plan of subdivision approvals;

...continued on page 3

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for December, 2022

Thursday, December 1, 9:00 a.m.
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – Council Education Session – Closed to the Public
Monday, December 5, 10:00 a.m.
GENERAL PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Council Education Session – 2:00 p.m.
CANCELLED - Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1:00 p.m.
FINANCE COMMITTEE
CANCELLED - Thursday, Dec. 8, 1:00 p.m.
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Monday, December 12, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday December 13, 1:00 p.m.
FINANCE COMMITTEE
Thursday, December 15, 1:00 p.m.
FINANCE COMMITTEE
CANCELLED - Wed., Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

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

Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge hereby declares the following lands to be surplus to the needs of the Corporation:

Part of Ontario Street (Closed by By-law 96-022 and Part of Church Street (Closed by By-law 96-022) and Part of Lots 94, 95 & 114 on Registered Plan 64, designated as Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7, Plan 40R-31931, Township of Uxbridge, Regional Municipality of Durham;

FURTHER, NOTICE is hereby given that the Township Council at its regular meeting held on November 28, 2022, declared by Resolution No. 2022-08 the aforementioned lands to be surplus to the needs of the municipality. A copy of the plan showing the location of the lands may be viewed in the Office of the Clerk.

Road Closures

- 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, to 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.

Bids & Tenders

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

U22-32 - Uxbridge Arena - Supply and Delivery of One (1) Ice Resurfacer – Closes December 2, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be received by the Township by the deadline stated, either electronically via the Township's website or in-person at the Township Office located at 51 Toronto St. South. Public tender bid results are posted at [uxbridge.ca/bids and tenders](http://uxbridge.ca/bids%20and%20tenders).

Employment Opportunities

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

Current Opportunities

Animal Control – Animal Care Attendant, Casual Contract

Closing Date: Monday, December 5, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Development Services - Planning Technician

Closing Date: Friday, December 9, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

Crossing Guards - Resumes accepted on an ongoing basis

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.

Uxpool Closure

Uxpool will be closed for repairs December 9, 2022 to January 16, 2023. The pool desk and squash courts will be open during this time.

Winter Parking Reminder

No overnight parking on
Township streets or
in Municipal Lots
from 2am -7am



November 1st to April 1st



Santa Claus Parade Committee

Kristi Honey
Dave Barton
Todd Miller
Adam Ruppel
Sierra Miller
Lisha Van Nieuwenhove
Christina Curry
Debbie Leroux
Willie Popp
Colleen Baskin
James Drake
Nadine Messina

Parade Day Volunteers

Ed Johnson
Hilary Williams
Ron Cordingley
Jessica Pett
Emily Lanos
Ryan Pryce
Julia Shipcott
Lee and John Fischer
Joel Speers
Paige Ouellette
Tim Leroux
Cory Blanchard
Laurel Cashen
Nicholas Pryce
Gina Shipcott

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**Thank-you to all parade entrants for their time
effort and dedication to our community!**



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Bill 23 fallout, from page 1

Conservation Authorities would be limited to comment on planning applications only as they pertain to natural hazards and flooding; responsibility for wetland evaluation would be shifted to local municipalities; planning responsibilities would be taken away from Durham Region and shifted to Uxbridge; projects with 10 or fewer residential units would be free of site plan control; limits would be imposed on the powers of a local municipality to regulate

the conversion of residential rental properties.

Rainbow also offered a look at what "affordable housing" means. His report stated that the average sale price across all unit types in Uxbridge over the last three years is approximately \$1,202,080.

"If the province adopts such a figure as the average purchase price, then any residence sold for around \$960,000 - (80% of market) - will be considered affordable and exempt from paying (development charges," the report said.

Also at council on Monday, Brent Lund of the Uxbridge Optimists appeared before council to request that the club be allowed to place a second storage unit in Elgin Park to hold equipment used to prepare and erect

the annual Fantasy of Lights.

He told council that the Fantasy of Lights started years ago with only 12 displays: that now has grown to almost 100. Lund said the attraction drew in over 50,000 visitors in the

last couple of years.

This year's display opens this Saturday at 6 p.m. with free hot chocolate being offered.

The club's storage request was given the okay.

MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

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

The 'Chateau Montebello Christmas' trip, won by Krista Appleton, ticket #255, sold by Mike Banh.

2nd place of \$150, won by Wendy Foster, ticket #182, sold by Dave Boulton.

3rd place of \$100, won by Julia Kearley, ticket #087, sold by Dale Hickey.

Congratulations to our November winners, and best of luck for the December draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge Trip of the Month Club! 'SANTA'S SURPRISE' package includes round trip airfare to a SURPRISE exotic destination and 7 nights' accommodation at a 5-star resort, all meals, snacks daily, nightly entertainment and all gratuities. As the December destination is a surprise, here are a couple of hints: pack a bikini or Speedo, bring sunscreen and shades, and get ready for some R & R!

A gift certificate from Getaway Travel worth \$2,500 or cash of \$2,250 is available instead of the trip. The trip must be taken in the month following the draw.

Rotary Club of Uxbridge





A TRAIL OF BRILLIANT LIGHTS, FESTIVE WINDOWS, AND HOLIDAY CHEER!

Throughout December Uxbridge invites you to explore "Holidays Around the World" in the decorated shop windows, enjoy Holiday Trail specials at local eateries, take a drive or trolley ride through the Optimist Fantasy of Lights and book tickets on a Holiday train.

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Our two cents

Your town, your region, Doug's rules

Just over a month ago, residents of Durham Region went to the polls to elect both a regional council and eight municipal councils. However, with the vote tabulation machines still warm from counting the ballots, Premier Doug Ford came out the following day to tell voters that he knows best and he will decide how regional and municipal governments will be run.

There has been a multitude of articles and commentaries about Ford's "strong mayors" fiat, under which the mayors of Toronto and Ottawa - (others will likely be named) - will be given enhanced powers to push through legislation with only one third of council support if such legislation concerns "provincial priorities." But one aspect of Ford's Better Municipal Governance Act that has received scant attention is his intention to place "facilitators" with regional governments, whose job will be to assess what's working and what isn't.

A government release says "these facilitators will work with local governments to assess the best mix of roles and responsibilities between upper and lower-tier municipalities and ensure they are equipped to deliver on the government's commitment to tackle the housing supply crisis."

The Ford government apparently believes regional council's main function is to facilitate the implementation of government housing policy. But voters in the region might think differently. Shouldn't the region be focusing on things like policing, infrastructure, economic development, environmental issues, waste management, transit, sustainable growth and preserving the region's agricultural lands, which are already under threat?

And that line about assessing the roles of the region and the municipalities just doesn't hold water. There were no facilitators in place when the Ford government decided in Bill 23 to usurp the regional government's role in the planning process or municipal governments' role in setting zoning by-laws.

Therefore, if the provincial government has already made moves to see that Bill 23 will not be thwarted by regional governments, one is led to ask just what else is being planned with the placement of these facilitators? How will regional staff work with the facilitators? Will they be required to seek the facilitator's approval of any reports they prepare for council? Will our elected representatives have to kow-tow to these mandarins or will they be allowed to represent the residents? Will any of them - staff or councillors - be required to take orders or direction from these facilitators?

Durham is one of several regions that will be lumbered with a facilitator. Jan Liggett, mayor of Cambridge, wondered whether the facilitator is going to be someone local who knows the community.

"I hope we don't have a facilitator from, let's say Toronto or Windsor, who doesn't know our community or its needs," she said.

Both the region and the municipalities will bear the brunt of whatever changes these facilitators decide to bring in. But it's the voters in the region who are really being shafted. They're the ones being told they wasted their time voting in October.

It seems there are only two possible outcomes. Given the undemocratic handcuffing of local representatives, either the percentage of eligible voters casting ballots in the next provincial or municipal election will decline even more or the voters will be so angry at being told they don't count that they will turn out in droves. Maybe voter voices will be heard then.



Letters to the Editor

I have just come inside after installing my Christmas lights on Centre Road in Uxbridge. I feel like putting up drag racing lights out there! The 40 km/h limit was a nice try by those involved but it is absolutely useless without enforcement. I'd be guessing, but I would say the average speed up and down Centre Road is closer to 70 km/h than it is to 40.

As for the lines that have been painted on the road, I fear they have created a danger rather than the intended purpose of reducing speeds. My case was proven today when two young children, with backpacks on so probably on their way to school, were walking on the road between the curb and the white line when a 30-something female driver went racing by while clearly talking on her phone. I don't understand why they were walking on the road when there is perfectly good sidewalk for them, and I don't understand why people are so completely oblivious to speed limits and the dangers of distracted driving near children (and pets and seniors).

Here is an opportunity for decision makers to prevent a disaster before one happens - get some enforcement or photo radar or stop signs (my preference) on Centre Road.

Rick Gaukel
Uxbridge

There sure seems to be a lot of media attention and opposition to the proposed Bill 23. Where were all these voices back in 2001 when the government of the day confiscated - er, stole - er, rezoned

470,000 acres of land and called it the Greenbelt, effectively circumventing (ignoring) the Planning Act which prevents anyone, other than the owner, from rezoning land (unless expropriated and paid for, of course, - think Pickering Airport Lands - approx. 19,000 acres). After all, Bill 23 is only proposing to return 9,400 acres (a mere two per cent of the stolen 470,000 acres) back to pre-ORMA status. And the notion that developers and the like will "run roughshod" over the existing Official Plans and secondary plans is nothing more than fear-mongering. The actual running roughshod occurred back in 2001 by the government of the day when this whole process was rammed through in the first case.

I suspect many of your readers have no idea how difficult it is to "develop" land these days...five years to replace a driveway culvert, denial of a building permit for a barn on a farm property zoned agricultural (when, by the way, the Farming & Food Production Protection Act allows farmers to build barns on their property if required for "normal farm practices".) You would think having a barn (built to code with size and set back allowances met) would be "normal farm practice". How about this as a solution or compromise? For every acre of Greenbelt land developed, we create the Greenbelt Repatriation Act. The purpose of this Act would be to grab (er - steal, er - rezone land not owned by the province (circumventing the Planning Act, again) and take residential land south of the

Moraine all the way down to Lake Ontario. Everyone knows this is some of the most fertile land ever paved over. Why not let the protesters offer up their homes, streets, workplaces, give them a chance to put their money where their mouths are. I would be all for it - my bulldozer is at the ready!

G. Mills
Uxbridge

There was so much to comment on in the issue Nov. 24 edition of the *Cosmos*, ranging from "Our Two Cents", to Frank Mroz's lament about seniors seeking employment, to "A Blonde Moment" lamenting cancel culture in the Brownies, to Ted Barris' revealing article regarding the backroom action on the *Hilarious House of Frightenstein*, to Conrad Boyce's great article on our water supply.

All particularly good articles, but an advertisement incited me to action. After seeing the heartbreaking demolition of the Trinity United Church building and remembering how it housed the *Messiah*, I thought of the Music Hall. Maintaining a large building like Trinity or the Music Hall is expensive due to the safety concerns of the public using them. With dwindling numbers attending churches these days it makes it extremely hard to maintain a large old landmark such as Trinity, so what the tornado did probably hastened the inevitable.

The Music Hall is a wonderful old gem of a building, and my hope is that the town council will put every effort into preserving this piece of

...continued on page 9

Your Universe

The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Wandering the Cosmos

column by Conrad Boyce

Alleluia

We went to Trinity with the idea of perhaps taking home a pew. The church played such a huge role in my wife Lisa's life for so many years, she wanted something tangible to remember it. So we made an appointment a few Saturdays ago with Jennifer Pilkey, a member of the congregational group charged with saving everything they could before the building came down.

Ultimately, we decided against a pew, but we didn't go home empty-handed. While we were standing in the sanctuary, surveying the devastation, I couldn't help but think about the choir, because the loft, along with the organ, the piano and everything on the altar, bore the brunt of the damage when the roof was torn off. But what about the choir room behind the organ pipes, where all the robes and music were stored?

Jennifer told us that the room had survived virtually intact. She said the robes, several sets of them, would probably be auctioned. But nobody had expressed an interest in the music, it would probably have to be thrown away. Lisa and I looked at each other. By later that afternoon, Jennifer, Lisa and I had filled every bin we had with every scrap of music in that room. It had been rescued; for what purpose, who knows?

Now, three large bookcases in our basement are crammed with hundreds of manilla envelopes of sheet music, gathered by Trinity's choir directors over the last 130 years, along with sets of cantata music, miscellaneous songbooks and organ compilations. It will be our winter's project to catalogue and count it all, perhaps making it useful for Trinity's future choirs (whatever shape they might take), as well as other church or secular choirs across Canada that might be able to use it. We've already had an inquiry from one United Church choir director in Collingwood.

To suddenly lumber ourselves with hundreds of pounds of paper, and the huge job of making sense of it all, might seem to be an act of impulsive folly. But Lisa knew that for me, a whole lifetime of experience went into the decision. I've directed a few choirs in my time, and a couple of them, the Uxbridge Youth Choir, and the young women's chamber group Uxtet, have enjoyed the glorious

acoustics of the Trinity sanctuary. But I've also sung church music my whole life, most of the time in United Church choirs. When I first came to Ontario in the late 90s, I sang for a while in the Trinity choir, so I got to know that choir room fairly well. I was a member of the Uxbridge Chamber Choir, which often performed there. It had wizard choirmaster Tom Baker, and I sang again for him every couple of years in the glorious tradition of Handel's *Messiah*, which filled Trinity with some of the most splendid music ever written. For Uxbridge residents who weren't actually members of the Trinity congregation, the *Messiah* performances will always be their principal memory of that church.

I thought perhaps most of the older music in the collection had already been culled, but boy, was I wrong. A lot of it bears a pencilled note saying it belonged to the Methodist Choir, which means it was acquired before Trinity became a United Church in 1925, almost a century ago. The oldest copyright date I've seen on any of the sheet music so far is 1893, only five years after the church's construction. And it turns out manilla folders are excellent preservatives; a lot of the antique music is in remarkable shape, easily taken out and rehearsed so many decades later.

Speaking of which, I've been mentally putting together a programme of pieces that could be performed at a commemorative concert when the new Trinity opens its doors. One is a lovely little Christmas piece (on parchment paper) called "Jesus Lullaby", by former Trinity choir director Henri Vanderkooi, who was very young when he composed it in 1976, with lyrics by long-time choir member Ruth Wade.

As mentioned, I've been singing this music for a long time, so as I open each envelope, there's a good chance I'll recognize the piece. The best moment so far was re-reading a short, solemn, breathtakingly beautiful chorale by American composer Randall Thomson, written near the beginning of the Second War in 1940. It's called "Alleluia", and that's the only word in it, apart from "Amen". If you don't know it, listen to it on YouTube. When you do, you'll know why this music had to be salvaged.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Hands off our Greenbelt!

On a recent nighttime flight home from a trip out West, I looked out the passenger jet window. Our landing approach toward Pearson took the flight across terrain northeast of the GTA. In the darkness, I spotted a cluster of lights I knew to be Uxbridge. A calmness came over me. The darkness around that cluster of lights reassured me that our Greenbelt looked safe. Untouched. Protected. Then this week, I heard the municipal affairs minister at Queen's Park describe a land swap to reporters.

"It's a bold action to ensure that we meet our housing target," Steve Clark said.

Bold indeed. But in my view not in a positive way. Despite all of their promises to protect and preserve such environmentally sensitive and life-giving areas as the Oak Ridges Moraine, the provincial Tories announced this week, they're going to allow developers to build on our Greenbelt. Clark has pledged to build 1.5 million new homes in 10 years "to alleviate the severe housing crisis." To be sure, according to a Statistics Canada study in 2017, as many as 300,000 Canadians live without adequate housing. But, on whose watch has this Ontario housing crisis arisen? During whose administration have homeless numbers skyrocketed to 40,000-plus in Ontario? Under whose governance has death by a thousand cuts hurt health, education and affordable housing investment. Theirs! And their solution? To renege on a promise made in 2001 by their own Conservative brethren. And I quote the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act passed by the Mike Harris government that year.

"The Act (allows) the establishment of an ecologically based land-use plan that would provide for future protection of 100 per cent of the significant natural and water features on the Oak Ridges Moraine," Chris Hodgson, then minister of municipal affairs and housing stated in 2001. "The plan preserves agricultural land and limit(s) almost all development."

The bill declared the horseshoe of parkland around the GTA – stretching 160 kilometres from the east around Cobourg right across the Niagara Escarpment in Caledon – development-free. But the Ford government appears to have misplaced a copy of Bill 122 as well as Hansard documenting those very words voiced in the Ontario Legislature, in lieu of what some critics call cronyism – rewarding developers who donate regularly to the Ford Conservatives.

To boot, the province's Bill 23, the so-called

"More Homes Built Faster Act" (Who comes up with this stuff?) has lots of fine print, including the removing of fees that developers pay for the privilege of building affordable housing. In other words, those ancillary costs to install sewers, roads and easement for transit – formerly borne by developers – will now have to be paid by municipalities, i.e. taxpayers. That could mean a \$5.1 billion revenue shortfall for Ontario towns and cities.

If this all sounds vaguely familiar, I remind readers what another Conservative administration did in 1997 when it passed Bill 160, the equally perversely named "Education Quality Improvement Act." That bill transferred funding control (and curriculum control) from local school trustees to the Ontario cabinet. That Conservative initiative translated to nearly \$1 billion removed from public education funding and at the same time transferred the burden of responsibility and funding for social services to the municipalities. Towns and cities in Ontario are still reeling from the impact on local school budgets, not to mention the strain of having to deal with everything from mental health patients on the streets, to abused spouses, to youth unemployment. I remember as well at the time the then education minister, John Snobelen, caught on film arguing that the PC government needed to create a "useful crisis" in order to initiate reforms.

I'm not minimizing either the plight of citizens who are homeless or the struggles of those Ontarians trying to find affordable housing. But when I hear Minister Clark declare "a severe housing crisis" on one hand and his plans to open up 7,400 acres of protected Greenbelt for 50,000 homes on the other, I'm as suspicious as ever.

I'm also wondering whether another of the Ford initiatives might be our only salvation. What if the provincial government's new Better Municipal Governance Act to give greater powers to Ontario mayors backfired? What if every municipal leader in the province chose to use her/his newfound power to reject Minister Clark's land grab and fee-removal incentives to developers? What if Ontario mayors invoked their legislatively granted equivalent of the Notwithstanding Clause to fight back? It may be our only chance to save the Greenbelt – that sanctuary of darkness around the cluster of lights I saw flying over Uxbridge the other night.

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Fascinating Finds at the Fire Hall

on Brock Street as part of
a lot of fascinating items

Reporter



6 Rescue Randy, as this attractive fellow is known ('Rescue Randy' is a brand name - most fire departments have a 'Randy' acquired from the same supplier), is used in training for retrieving victims from a variety of situations. Here, he's in a simulated house custom-built for the Uxbridge department. And Randy's no blow-up doll; he weighs more than 200 pounds!

7 For water rescues in frigid ponds or streams, firefighters don a water rescue suit before pulling victims to safety. The suit can only be used in shallow water. Firefighters typically don't have scuba training, that's left to specialized police units. The suit floats, but a PFD (personal flotation device) is usually worn over top.

8 High-pressure air bags, which are made of a reinforced rubber compound, are used to jack up trees or cars to extricate victims from beneath. The small one can hold up 21 tons, the big one 34 tons (enough to lift a gravel truck and its contents!).

9 If you get in a traffic accident and your car doors aren't able to open, this little device will come to your rescue. It's called a Rhyno, and it cuts through glass like butter. Your windshield will be toast, but you'll be out and free!

10 The Firefighters' Association room has a lot of great artifacts, from 100-year-old log books to the siren that used to wail at the old downtown location. But one of the most interesting is only a year old. This meeting table was built by the firefighters themselves, using barnboard that's almost as old as the fire department itself. And that's not a painting of fire axes - those are real axes from an old truck, inset into the wood!

11 Known as the nerve centre in the fire hall, the control room is where the department maintains contact with the various players on an emergency call - 911 dispatch, police, paramedics, and other fire departments who might be summoned to help. All firefighters are trained in taking charge, so the first member into the hall sets up camp here, and doesn't leave until all the trucks are back home.





THE RETURN OF THE MESSIAH

(the oratorio, that is)

Every two years for the past 45 years, there's been a performance of Handel's *Messiah* in Uxbridge - with orchestra and 100+ voice choir - except 2020, when Covid forced cancellation.



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- Blue Heron Books in Uxbridge
- Brian J. Evans Financial, 38 Toronto St. N
- on line at www.uxbridgemessiahsingers.com



Masks? Provincial & municipal guidelines will be followed

Grant fosters upgrades at Memorial

by Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A recently received \$62,000 federal government tourism grant has allowed for some long-overdue improvements at Uxbridge's Thomas Foster Memorial. The work is in three major areas:

1. Lighting - Visibility has been enhanced both inside the Foster, for events such as the Friday night concert series, and outside, to improve safety and give the Memorial a greater presence from the road.

2. Painting of the dome ceilings - Over the years, considerable damage has been done to the ceilings of the central dome, and the north and south half-domes, by condensation and water leakage. Recent improvements to the roof have done much to prevent further damage; now patch-

ing and painting can complete the job. Last week, Fleming Heritage Restoration of Whitby brought in a huge crane to do the work, and everything in the Memorial, from chairs to stone capitals to stained glass windows, has been covered for protection. The job should be done by mid-December.

3. Promotion - The grant will cover increased advertising, printing of new brochures and road signage to elevate the Memorial's profile.

"The grant is a godsend," says Bev Northeast, longtime head of the Friends of the Foster. "It would have taken us some time to raise the funds to get this important work done. There are still some projects on our wish list, but the grant checks off a lot of boxes."



ON THE CEILING - Workers from Fleming Heritage Restoration in Whitby begin the process of repainting the dome ceilings in the Thomas Foster Memorial, repairing damage done over the years from condensation.

Photo by Conrad Boyce

Uxbridge swimmers train with Olympian

by Justyne Edgell

When Haseeb Tariq moved from Pakistan to Canada, he could hardly have imagined that he would one day be an Olympic athlete inspiring members of the Uxbridge Swim Club to swim for the stars.

Tariq grew up in Karachi, Pakistan, where he was first introduced to swimming as a sport. "I was not great," says Tariq, "but I was passionate and dedicated and was not going to stop chasing my dreams."

In 2013, he moved to Canada for university and says this is when he really started to improve, qualifying for his first U-Sport Championship and Canadian Olympic trials in the 2016/2017 season.

"I was then very lucky to have been given the opportunity to compete for Pakistan in the 2018 Commonwealth Games and at the Tokyo 2020(1) Olympic Games. Of course, due to COVID, I had a shaky season and decided I wanted to pursue another cycle (four years) of swimming with my eyes on Paris 2024," says Tariq.

Tariq met Sarah Steinke, the head coach for the Uxbridge Swim Club, at York University where they were both swimming on the varsity team. They married and moved to Uxbridge last year. Tariq says he often chatted to her about joining the team and wondered how they could make it work, as the Uxbridge team is a group of younger swimmers.

"We have more than doubled our membership in just one season, moving from a club of 40 swimmers, to 90 swimmers aged 6 to 17 which is truly remarkable," says Steinke. "We have also increased our staffing team."

Soon after joining the team, Tariq says he realized age was just a number.

"I have to work my butt off daily to keep up with 12-year-old Chloe Walker, who is just a remarkable athlete - watch out for her in a few years!"

The young swimmers quickly got Tariq's season going by recently competing in the Toronto World Cup. "I managed to swim a 50 and 100m freestyle best time. I was very happy with that performance, and eager to get back to work!" he says.

"Haseeb is a huge asset to us," says Steinke. "Not just for performance, but every day he is motivating and inspiring the younger generations that he is training with. We are so thankful to have him on the team!"

Tariq says he's happy to have moved to such a welcoming and support town. "The parents, swimmers and coaches alike! I felt at home right away. I am honored to be a part of your team!"




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Julien Kelland



Whitney Ross-Barris



Meek, Lamanna key to Bruins hot streak

by Roger Varley

With weekend wins over the Port Perry LumberJacks and the Lakefield Chiefs, the Uxbridge Bruins are now on a seven game winning streak and have won 11 of their last 12 games.

A large part of that success results from the play of Quinn Meek and Anthony Lamanna. Lamman scored a hat-trick against the LumberJacks at the arena on Friday and had an assist against the Chiefs on Saturday. Meek had a goal and two assists on Friday and notched two goals on Saturday. Add line-mate Peter Kerr into the equation and the line has accounted for 39 of Uxbridge's 73 goals so far this season. Meek has 18 goals and 13 assists, Lamanna has 13 goals and 13 assists and Kerr has eight markers and 13 assists.

Friday's game was a typical Uxbridge-Port Perry match-up, with more ohs and ahs than a bowl of alphabet soup. After one period of play, the LumberJacks held a one-goal lead. In the second period, Lamanna tied the game with a beautifully executed penalty shot at the

Letters, from page 4

history. The loss of Trinity and the loss of the old building on Brock St. W. is too much for those of us who love our town. Let's make a real effort to preserve what's left and rebuild with an eye to our heritage.

Dave Jones
Uxbridge

I see that Bill 23 was passed today (Monday, Nov. 28). The Greenbelt Act, however, has not yet been amended. It can't happen here, you say?

Uxbridge residents might recall the production of "It Can't Happen Here" at the Music Hall in 2019. Fast forward three years - and it is happening right here! The Ontario government's proposal to open land in the Greenbelt to development is a disturbing attack on responsibility to future generations. It's an attack based on a lie that there is no land for development (there's 80,000 acres available). This proposed legislation reduces the Greenbelt into a land bank for a few politically connected developers.

Uxbridge is a community that prides itself on its environmental awareness, climate change action, and understanding of the economic importance of wildlands, wetlands, and farmlands. Is Peter Bethlenfalvy representing this Township? If he doesn't know better, let him know that you do. Let's not let it happen here. Tell him, hands off the Greenbelt!

David Le Roy
Uxbridge

17:32 mark. Five minutes later, Lamanna scored his second, a power-play goal, assisted by Meek and Mark McGean. But Port Perry responded late in the period to tie the game with a shot from an impossible angle..

Near the midway point of the third, Meek gave the Bruins the lead again, assisted by Alex Hyde. Two minutes later, Lamanna struck again with another power-play goal, assisted by Hyde and Meek. With just over two minutes remaining, Matt Gordon combined with Declan Meek to put the icing on the cake. The LumberJacks managed to add one more with only four seconds left on the clock.

The *Cosmos* selected Lamanna as player of the game for Uxbridge and Dale Faubert for the LumberJacks.

The following night, the Bruins travelled north to the confines of the tiny Lakefield arena, where the

Chiefs took the lead midway through the first period. But that was the only offence the Chiefs mounted. Nic Colangelo evened the score with an unassisted marker as the period wound down and then the Bruins hammered three more goals in the second period. Meek, assisted by Kerr, scored a power-play goal, Stelucio Basile picked up an unassisted score and Meek notched his second of the night, assisted by Lamanna.

Basile, assisted by Nolan Winter, finished off the scoring with only four seconds left in the game.

The Bruins retain sole possession of second place in the seven-team PJHL Orr Division. Tonight (Thursday), they visit the league-leading Eagles in Clarington before returning to the arena tomorrow (Friday) at 7:45 p.m. to meet the Georgina Ice. The team then has a week to rest before their next game.



For complete season and player information go to
uxbridgebruins.pjhl.on.hockeytech.com

Thursday, December 1
Uxbridge against Clarington at the Rickard Recreation Complex, 7:25 p.m.

Friday, December 2
Georgina against Uxbridge at the Uxbridge Arena, 7:45 p.m.

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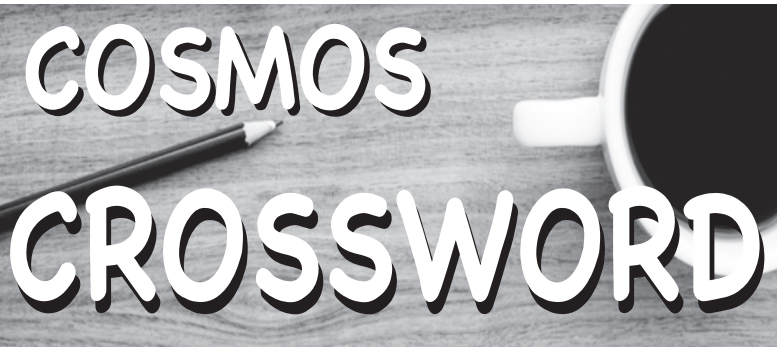
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Across

1 "In your dreams!" (2 words)
5 Sales caller
8 Not crazy
12 Expert adviser
13 Arthur Godfrey played it
14 When
15 Dentist's request
16 Profoundness
18 Splashed around
20 Happen
23 Vatican related
27 Protection against wet weather
31 More
32 Percentage rate
33 Mayhem
35 Home of the brave
36 Fortune
38 They take boats across rivers
40 Way down
42 Bridge positions
43 60s strike (2 words)
47 Fighter for a cause
50 Asian ruler
54 Primo
55 ___late, do better than
56 Anomalous
57 Spiffy
58 Matter for a judge
59 Business V.I.P.

Down

1 Earlier
2 Break bread
3 Hotness under the collar
4 Amusing play on words (2 words)
5 European freshwater fish
6 Skimped
7 Rind
8 Kid's treat
9 Primate
10 Board room votes
11 Naval rank for short
17 Sparkle
19 Gym motion, perhaps
20 Tough tests
21 Head
22 Approximately
24 Fruits
25 It's a plus
26 Reclines
28 Buffoon
29 5th is a famous one
30 Rocky peak
34 Ship members
37 Fate
39 NY baseball player
41 Light into
44 Layer in a wedding cake
45 Volcano feature
46 Load
47 Soup holder
48 Cultivate
49 Gasteyer of "Mean Girls"
51 Spell
52 Verb for you
53 The Big Apple



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Prov. 17:22

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biblesociety.ca/scriptures-daily-manna/
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Celebrating the Stingers: a profile of St. Joseph's Catholic School

by Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In the *Cosmos*' series on taxation a few weeks back, we noted that your property taxes are split three ways: some support your local municipal government, some go to the Regional Municipality of Durham, and others are forwarded to whichever school district you choose. Since none of those authorities are actually headquartered here, the only tangible evidence of where your tax dollars are going is the schools they operate.

Here we begin an occasional series looking at each of the eight major schools in the township, including six public schools and a private school (which your taxes do not support): their history, their staffing, their attendance numbers, and a bit about what makes them special. We begin with Uxbridge's only Catholic school.

History: Among Uxbridge schools, St. Joseph's School on Quaker Village Drive is unique in at least three ways.

First, it is the only Catholic school: both teachers and students are required to have at least some background in the Catholic faith. Religious education is a fundamental part of the curriculum, and the parish priest makes regular visits to the classroom.

Second, because it is the only Catholic school for many miles around to offer French immersion (where most of the curriculum is taught in that language), it attracts students from all over north Durham. The student populations of the township's other schools live almost exclusively within township boundaries.

The other interesting thing that makes St. Joseph's unique is that it's the only school that has moved. It was founded by the local parish in 1959 on Toronto Street, on the property where the Uxbridge municipal hall now sits. In fact, when the town hall was built, it incorporated part of the original school. Why did the parish choose that spot? Well, the

property was originally the site of the home of Uxbridge's legendary founder, Joseph Gould; after a hundred years, in 1951, it became the residence of an order of Dominican nuns. After only a few years, they moved on, but offered the building to the local parish as a school. Although the site was used, the old Gould house was not; it was torn down in 1961. After 30 years, St. Joseph's outgrew the site, needing more room for both classrooms and

athletic fields, so sold the property to the Township. The new school opened in the fall of 1990, and underwent expansion in 2010.

Numbers: When the school first opened in 1959, there were 95 students and only three teachers. For this school year, there are 325 students and 34 staff.

School Pride: The school's athletic nickname is the Stingers, and school teams regularly excel in inter-school competition. The staff also puts a strong emphasis on outdoor education, taking full advantage of Uxbridge's many trails, and the

grounds of the school include an outdoor classroom with a background of rocks and trees. Students and staff participate in many community events, such as parades and the Yuletide Fantasy of Lights.



PRIDE OF ST. JOSEPH'S: Lauren Brown, the longest-serving teacher at St. Joseph's Catholic School (at 28 years!), is surrounded by three of her charges: James Haddock, Grade 5, from Goodwood; Sarai Brown, JK, from Uxbridge; and Emily Bohte, Grade 7, from Mount Albert. Photo by Conrad Boyce



The current St. Joseph Catholic School was built in 1990.

Photo by Conrad Boyce

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