

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 18 No. 45

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Goodnight, Trinity • Rally for housing • Bruins still close to top spot



Patrick Bryant
Broker of Record

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DON'T TELL WHODUNNIT! - Audience members who see Agatha Christie's most famous play *The Mousetrap* are implored not to spill the beans on who committed the dastardly crime. OnStage Uxbridge brings this popular murder mystery to the Uxbridge Music Hall this weekend and next. Pictured here: William Kennedy (Christopher), Liam Elliot (Giles), Onella deZilva (Mollie), Greg Landry (Paravicini), Ray Walker (Trotter), Rhys Kennedy (Miss Casewell), and Simon Marwood (Major Metcalfe). For show times and ticket information, visit starticketing.com

Photo by Krystyne Elliot

Uxbridge pays respect to veterans in moving ceremonies

by Roger Varley

Uxbridge Secondary School's gymnasium was packed to capacity last Thursday for the school's annual Remembrance Day observation.

Numerous dignitaries and a large contingent of veterans were on hand for the occasion. The dignitaries included Regional Chair John Henry, several members of council, Pickering-Uxbridge MP Jennifer O'Connell, Durham MP Erin O'Toole, Pickering-Uxbridge MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy and former mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor.

Every veteran was assigned one or two students to accompany them throughout the ceremony.

Along the school corridors, about 50 students stood with laptops, each laptop showing a biography of a local veteran. Several students

were dressed in period uniforms and throughout the school were numerous Remembrance Day-related displays. In the library, where participants gathered for snacks and coffee, were a series of "Honour Them Well" crafts that students had made for veterans. In one corner was a mock-up of a fortified First World War trench. Outside the school was an extensive display of white, wooden crosses.

Following a parade through the school corridors to the gymnasium, led by the fire department colour party, the veterans and dignitaries were piped into the auditorium. The ceremony included a couple of songs performed by local choral group *Bella Nove* and an original composition by the school band, put together by USS alumnus Steffan Brunette. The singing of *O Canada* was accompanied by a large group of students signing the anthem's words.

The guest speaker at the event was Major Jeff

Peck, also a USS alumnus, who led a standing ovation for the veterans. Peck talked about the kinship and emotions veterans shared, regardless of what conflict they were involved in. He also spoke of the emotional "roller coaster" that families of servicemen and women ride, remembering the time he told his mother he was going to war. He became emotional himself as he recalled his time in Afghanistan.

The following day, a large crowd turned out for the annual Remembrance Day ceremony at the town cenotaph, which started with the traditional parade down Brock Street, led by the Legion pipes and drums and featuring members of council, the fire department, Scouts, Cadets and veterans.

There was a slight change from previous years: for many, it was the first time to sing *God Save the King*.

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Uxbridge at a Glance

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge
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Uxbridge L9P 1T1
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The Township of Uxbridge

Trail Capital of Canada

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for November, 2022

Monday, November 21, 7:00 p.m.

INAUGURAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Monday, November 28, 10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

Proclamations for November

November 19 - International Men's Day

November 20 - Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20-26 - Anti-bullying Awareness & Prevention Week

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

Clerk's Dept - Deputy Clerk

Closing Date: Friday, November 18, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

Community Services – Trails Coordinator, Part-Time

Closing Date: Thursday, November 24, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Crossing Guards

Resumés 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.

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 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.

From The Tax Department

Now is the time to enroll in our Monthly or Installment Pre-Authorized Payment Plan for the 2023 Interim property taxes.

What are the Benefits?

Taxpayers will no longer have to worry about missed due dates or late payment charges. Monthly payments allow for easier budgeting. Once you enroll, you do not have to reapply unless you have a new property within the Township.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible, your property must be fully assessed, and your tax account must be paid in full (no arrears).

How to apply

The Pre-Authorized Payment form (in pdf format) is available on the Township's website www.uxbridge.ca/en/living-here/property-taxes.aspx or at the Tax Department (51 Toronto St S).

Return the completed and signed PAP form with banking information (Void Cheque or Bank form) to the Tax Department:

- In person at the Municipal Office (51 Toronto St S) during regular business hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday or use the after-hours drop-box in the front parking lot or
- By mail to the Township of Uxbridge PO Box 190, 51 Toronto St S, Uxbridge ON L9P 1T1 or
- By email to tax@uxbridge.ca

The deadline to submit your application is NOVEMBER 30, 2022.

Please direct phone inquiries to the Tax Department at 905-852-9181 Ext. 211 or 216.

Notice of Inaugural Meeting

The Inaugural meeting for the Council of the Township of Uxbridge will be held on Monday, November 21, 2022, beginning at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers located at the Township of Uxbridge Town Hall, 51 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge, as well as streamed virtually at www.uxbridge.ca.

The public are welcome to attend.

The following candidates have been declared elected for the Council term of 2022 to 2026:

Mayor – Dave Barton

Regional Councillor – Bruce Garrod

Councillor Ward 1 – Pamela Beach

Councillor Ward 2 – Gordon Shreeve

Councillor Ward 3 – Zed Pickering

Councillor Ward 4 – Willie Popp

Councillor Ward 5 – Todd Snooks

Debbie Leroux

Director of Legislative Services/Clerk, Township of Uxbridge

Trail Plaques

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2023/2024 BUDGET

Open House

Tues. Nov. 29, 2022
Daytime session: 12:00-1:00pm
Evening Session: 7:00-8:00pm
[Learn more at www.uxbridge.ca](http://www.uxbridge.ca)

Attend virtually or in person

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Winter Parking Reminder

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

November 1st to April 1st

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November 26th, 9:00am-12:00pm
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An era ends with ‘Goodnight, Trinity’

by Roger Varley

With the words "Goodnight, Trinity," Rev. Karen Croxall ended her eulogy to Trinity United Church last Thursday.

The minister gathered with approximately 80 people for a candlelight vigil to say goodbye to the century-old church which was heavily damaged in May's tornado and is slated for destruction in the coming weeks.

Many of those gathered used battery-operated candles because of the

stiff wind that blew, a small reminder of the force that led to the church's destruction.

Croxall said Trinity had a history of "being a light" in the community and listed a litany of events and occasions that have drawn people to the church over the years.

"Thank you, Trinity, for all you have been," she said.

She also thanked the residents of First Avenue for their help and understanding.

For the foreseeable future, the Trin-

ity congregation will be holding Sunday services at the Seniors Centre two blocks away.

In a final tribute, the crowd shone flashlights across the facade of the church and spontaneously broke into the singing of "To God Be The Glory."



Dozens of people gathered on First Ave. last Thursday evening to say goodbye to Trinity United Church. The church was heavily damaged during the May 21 tornado; demolition began this week to clear away the unsalvagable century-old building and make way for a new church, community hub and housing.

Photo by John Covers



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Our two cents

Guess who's coming to town...

Balmy temperatures and green (brown?) lawns belie the fact that The Season is yet again upon us. A light dusting of snow on the ground earlier in the week was more in keeping with this time of year, but if you missed the snow, then shop windows, certain radio stations (yup, all Christmas all the time, started on Monday) and all the Christmas markets will ensure that you know it's the most wonderful time of the year.

The most emphatic clue will come to town this weekend (we're not talking about clues in OnStage Uxbridge's production of "The Mousetrap" - you're not supposed to talk about those!) when the jolly ol' elf himself comes to Uxbridge. The Santa Claus parade is set to roll down Brock Street this Saturday, Nov. 19, beginning at 11 a.m. Some little elves have told us that this year's parade promises to be one of the biggest and bestest Uxbridge has seen in awhile! There will be around 30 floats, including some parade favourites, some bands - yes, live music! - and a few surprises that the elves wouldn't tell us about, but their eyes were all sparkly and mischievous when we were talking about it all, so we're pretty sure those surprises will be worth looking forward to!

This weekend is also the first weekend that exhibitors can move their displays into Elgin Park for the Optimist Club's Fantasy of Lights! The park will begin lighting up on Dec. 3, and, although it's difficult to imagine how it could be any better, the Optimists say it's shaping up to be bigger and better than ever. The Fantasy of Lights has been featured in a Reader's Digest Best Ten list - it's sure to make it again this year!

We imagine that there will be a lot of belts tightened this year, the economic situation being what it is. But really, the season isn't about what you are able to buy and wrap and put under a tree. It's about spending time, and there is nothing like a parade or a trip through a brightly lit winter wonderland to bring smiles to the faces of friends and family. If you *do* happen to embark on a little shopping, though, see if you can't find everything you need right here in Uxbridge. Santa says he shops here, so why shouldn't you? Enjoy the parade!



Letters to the Editor

Re: "The (old) New Animal Shelter", Nov 10 edition

Thank you, Conrad Boyce, for bringing us fully up to date on the status of the new animal shelter. But, based on our acclaimed mayor's recently published wish list for his directives over this coming term (which had no mention of the shelter), I suspect your article can be simply reprinted verbatim over the next several years.

**Gary Supp
Uxbridge**

Remembrance Day, 2022

November 11, 2022. The sky was a somber grey, and a slight wind blew. We were reminded at the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month, of the sacrifices that so many made so that we could freely attend the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

Uxbridge has a very rich military history. Remember them each and every day.

Thank you to all who attended in person, online and in your hearts. Lest we forget.

**Gloria Eng
Poppy Chair/1st Vice
Uxbridge Legion Br. 170**

Christina Curry's four year 'reign of BIA terror' ends

Yes, the time has come. I am officially announcing my retirement as BIA chair, a four-year term that ended at midnight on Nov. 14, hereafter known as my own personal independence day.

I can honestly, and with a lot of pride, say this experience has been one of the best of my life. My personal life has suffered, my business has suffered and my therapist has made a lot of money. But the lessons that I have learned in the last four years are nothing short of priceless.

The last four years have been incredibly eventful, not only globally but also for the 250 members of the Uxbridge BIA and their BIA board of directors. We started late in 2018, full of vim and vigour to make change, tackle the large culvert construction project and to realign this committee of council in to the greatest of all time. But we were blindsided by a global pandemic, chased by a tornado and suffered through a tragic, avoidable fire. Is there a more powerful word than discouraged?

I didn't accomplish even half of what I set out to do and that's ok. Instead, we, as a board, along with so many of the BIA members, accomplished so much more. We formed relationships, we laughed, we cried, we picked each other up and dusted each other off, we pivoted, we improved the downtown parkette, and brought the BIA online presence into the 21st century. We navigated unprecedented times as a team, made up of the board and the members. That's what it's all about at the end of the day.

Every single person reading this should take a moment to be grateful and full of pride for this community. These business owners, whether it be a big or small business, a Brock or Toronto or Main

Street business, are an incredible group of people. A group of people who live their dreams, who don't give up, who lean on one another and have a mandate to serve this community.

It hasn't all been rainbows and roses, and it will never be. To my critics, here is your chance. I don't want to hear a single complaint about the BIA without action on your part. Make the effort, even if it's a meeting every now. Even better, join the board, a subcommittee, or offer up some sweat equity. And do it with understanding and kindness, with positivity and the intention that every member is part of the team. It will be time well spent, I guarantee you that!

I'd like to thank all the business members. It has been an honour and joy to be your BIA chair. Remember.

I personally want to thank Valerie Bernier of Holistic Salt Therapy and Cave, Trish Bush of the FIG Kitchen and Market, and Sameer Remtulla of Pharmasave for hanging in with me as directors even when they didn't have a moment for themselves. Debbie Leroux, Kristi Honey, Judy Risebrough, Courtney Clarke, Dave Barton, Bill Rynard, Ben Kester, Ed Johnson, Todd Snooks, Hailey Weatherbee, Janice Munro, James Drake, Alexa McCarthy, Joanne Richter, Stuart Mulcahy, Caitlin Christoff Taillon, Daryl Pike, Julia Shipcott, Brittany Gyivicsan (Sprocket) and Amy Stevenson - thank you all for your contributions, time and efforts.

And lastly, Willie Popp. I cannot

...continued on page 7

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Who was that masked man?

Across the country, hospital CEOs, doctors and front-line health workers are screaming at various governments to wear their masks over their mouths and noses instead of wearing them over their eyes. But governments appear to be happy to use masks as blinkers instead.

Hospitals across Canada are reporting on an almost daily basis that emergency departments are swamped, ICU beds are full and surgeries - even non-elective surgeries - are being delayed because of the surge in cases of COVID-19 and its variants and other respiratory ailments, particularly among children. Ontario's chief medical officer, Dr. Kieren Moore, is "strongly recommending" that people return to wearing masks in indoor settings. Indeed, he suggested recently that parents of school-age children wear masks at home.

But not one provincial government is willing to bring back mask mandates. Despite Moore's warning, which he reiterated as late as Monday, only eight members of the Progressive Conservative caucus bothered to wear masks during Tuesday's sitting of the Ontario legislature, while almost all opposition members covered their lower faces. That alone should tell you that this pandemic is being treated as a political issue, rather than a health issue.

In Alberta, newly appointed premier Danielle Smith, well-known for her anti-vaxxer views, has fired that province's chief medical officer and decided to get COVID-19 advice from an American doctor who appeared on the *Alex Jones Show* to claim COVID-19 vaccines are a bioweapon.

And it's not just COVID-19. Hospitals are losing front-line workers, doctors are in short supply and many Canadians are having difficulty finding a family doctor. That just adds up to the long wait times in hospital ERs. But when the provincial health ministers met with their federal counterpart recently, looking for additional federal health-care spending, they issued a statement declaring the talks were a failure even while the talks were still in progress. That's because the feds wanted to attach strings to any handouts, rather than just let provincial governments use the money

to improve their bottom lines. It's all politics.

In Uxbridge, our local council frequently receives reports, advice and recommendations from various experts, whether they be engineering firms or planning consultants like Elizabeth Howson. If the councillors chose to ignore the advice and recommendations of the experts, one would understandably ask why they sought - and paid for - that advice in the first place. But on the provincial stage, the Ford government chooses to ignore the advice of its senior - and well-paid - medical advisor. If they are going to ignore his recommendations, why is he still in the job? In fact, why does the position even exist if the government isn't going to listen?

If I have a leaky faucet, I don't call a politician: I call a plumber. If my car is giving me trouble, I don't call a politician: I call an auto mechanic. If there is a crisis in our health-care system, I don't want to listen to the politicians: I want to hear from the medical experts. And if my doctor gives me a prescription for medication and then says "I recommend you take the medicine, but it's your call," I'd find myself questioning the efficacy of the medicine. But that is exactly what Ford did when he came out this week and advised people to wear masks but added, in effect, "it's your call."

It has been over two-and-a-half years since COVID-19 hit us and by now, for many of us, wearing a mask in indoor settings is almost as normal as putting on our coats. It is not a hardship, no matter how loudly the anti-maskers might yell. After all, winter is now upon us and how many of the anti-maskers will be wearing scarves around their lower faces to ward off the icy sting? How many of them will wear ski masks on the snowy slopes? Nobody has to order them to do it: it's just the sensible thing to do.

It seems to me that our provincial government should do the sensible thing and bring back the mask mandate and just maybe this time we can get on top of this damned pandemic. Of course, asking a government to do the sensible thing is an exercise in futility.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

A true victim of our times

My friend and I arrived at the hotel restaurant last Saturday morning at the same time as a large family did. The waitress - who was doubling as the hostess - asked how many in the family party. And one of the women in the group began counting out loud the people they expected to join the group for breakfast. First it was six, then eight, and finally a dozen people. I watched the waitress's eyes roll. She wasn't happy.

"I'd have thought the waitress would be delighted having to serve a large group," I mentioned to my breakfast partner, and I added, "Bigger tip." When the waitress came back to seat my friend and me in another booth, I mentioned that to her. "Doesn't serving a bigger group make you happy?"

"Not when I'm the only one serving the entire restaurant," she said. "They just can't find people to fill service jobs."

Our waitress had hit the nail on the head. When I did a little research over breakfast, I discovered that while the pandemic has receded for most of the world, a spinoff sickness has devastated the service world. The National Restaurant Association in the U.S. says that the restaurant industry in particular is still short a million workers; its service ranks are roughly down 6 per cent from pre-pandemic times. That may not seem like much, but even that small a shortfall has left customers in the restaurant sector very dissatisfied - waiting longer to be seated, offered fewer options on menus, receiving less satisfying meal options, or facing earlier closing times.

I've noticed the same gaps in the airline sector. With a pent-up desire among North Americans to travel again and the airlines busy processing all those eager travellers, I'd have thought that service workers would be cheek-by-jowl in the airline industry. They're not. The passenger airline industry can't find enough qualified pilots, ticket agents, flight attendants, baggage handlers or even air traffic controllers. The president of the Canadian Air Traffic Control Association told a parliamentary committee last month that the shortage of controllers has reached historic proportions.

"Short-staffing has meant that the system (is relying) on controller overtime to function," Nick von Schoenberg told CTV in October. "This results in unacceptable demands on workers expected to work longer days."

Coincidentally, on my way to a flight

through Pearson this past week, I happened to sit down on a shuttle bus across from a man and his family. They looked as if they were headed south to holiday. He said he was an air traffic controller. "Shouldn't you be up there in that tower at work?" I jested, pointing to the airport control tower. "It's my first holiday in several years," he said. "Staff is exhausted."

Wherever one travels these days, one sees signs of the times: "Help wanted!" Not just in the hospitality and airlines businesses, but everywhere. Recently, on a drive between Winnipeg and Brandon, along the Trans-Canada Highway - one of the busiest trucking corridors in the country - I counted more than 50 semis with signs tacked on their trailers, "Now hiring." Further research told me that just about every trucking sub-industry desperately needs drivers: dry van drivers, flat-bed drivers, tanker drivers, refrigerated freight drivers and freight haulers. And on average truck drivers make nearly \$25 an hour, which translates to about \$80,000 per year. That may appear to be a respectable wage, but when one weighs truckers' costs - licences, highway tolls, vehicle maintenance and (with skyrocketing energy costs) diesel fuel - truck driving requires incredible skill, patience and deep pockets to make it pay.

I think it's fair to say that the pandemic has taken away jobs the system cannot restore nearly as quickly. I think our focus at colleges and universities on streaming students to high-tech and marine archaeology, and not service jobs and the professional trades is also to blame.

Speaking of Winnipeg, the other night, after making several appearances in Manitoba, fellow historian David O'Keefe and I eventually made our way to Winnipeg airport for a flight back East. It happened to be the night of the CFL Western Final between the Blue Bombers and B.C. Lions. We figured, once we'd made our way through airline processing, security checks and to the gate, that we'd settle into a bar for refreshment. At the very least, O'Keefe said, we could watch the game over a beer. Well, it appeared the dearth of service staff loomed once again. It wasn't even 7 o'clock, and the only staff in the lounge was cleaning and closing up.

"Sorry," the cleaning worker said, "the lounge just closed. No staff."

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Rally to shine light on housing crisis

A rally will be held in front of the township offices on Tuesday to bring awareness to the housing crisis in Canada. Rev. Mark Kinghan of St. Paul's Anglican Church said the rally is sponsored by the Uxbridge Coalition Against Poverty. He emphasized that it is a rally, not a protest.

"We don't want it to be confrontational," he said. "This is not meant to be adversarial: it's about coming together."

The rally will run from 10 a.m. to noon and is part of National Housing Week, which will be observed across the country. Kinghan said anyone who has an interest in housing is invited to attend.

"It's about standing together and raising awareness," he said.

Asked about homelessness in Uxbridge, Kinghan said he preferred the term "precarious housing." He said there are a number of people in town who are couch-surfing, sleeping in tents and in the parks.

"It's definitely on the increase," he said. "There are no easy answers, but we have to be attentive."

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- In memory of G.F Nixon	Yvette Dalrymple
Province of Ontario	- In memory of Betty Dalrymple
Quaker Village Public School	Zeredatha Masonic Lodge # 220

Letters, from page 4


thank Willie enough for his enthusiasm, advice, voice of reason, en-

couragement, teaching and friendship. Without Willie there would be no BIA and I am forever indebted to him.

I now need to focus on my store, my 51 rescue animals and the next


four years as a member of the BIA team.

Christina Curry
Owner, Keith's Flowers & Gifts




70

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
The Mousetrap




Uxbridge Music Hall
November 2022
17, 18, 19, 24, 25 & 26 @ 7:30pm
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Bruins take two overtime wins, maintain second place standing

by Roger Varley

Two overtime wins last week kept

the Uxbridge Bruins in second place in the seven-team PJHL Orr Division and the near future offers

an opportunity to solidify that ranking. Last Tuesday, in the tiny Lakefield arena, the Bruins defeated the Chiefs 5-4 in overtime. On Friday, they returned home to take down the Little Britain Merchants 2-1. The Bruins' next four games will see them face off against the Chiefs and the Port Perry LumberJacks twice. Both teams are struggling in the Orr cellar. In Lakefield, three of the Bruins goals came on the power play and one was a short-handed effort. The Chiefs opened with the only goal of the first period, a power-play marker. The Bruins came back with two in the second, first Peter Kerr's short-handed goal, assisted by Stellucio Basile, followed by Basile's goal, assisted by Noah Button and Alex Hyde. However, Lakefield tied the game late in the period. In the third, the Bruins moved

ahead again with two more power-play goals. Declan Meek notched the first, with assists going to Mark McGean and Kerr, with Quinn Meek adding to the score, assisted by Kerr and Andrew Swan. But the Chiefs refused to go down easily, scoring two late in the period to send the game to overtime. Calen MacLeish, assisted by Button, notched the winner. Back in the arena on Friday, facing the third-place Little Britain Merchants, both teams played an excellent but scoreless first period. Midway through the second, the Merchants scored the only goal of the period. Goalie Kyle Groff made two initial stops before the puck went in. Early in the third, the Bruins took advantage of a power play to even the score, with credit going to Quinn Meek, assisted by Swan. In overtime, Meek picked up the puck near the centre ice line, deked around two Little Britain defenders and fired the puck for the winner. The *Cosmos* selected Groff as player of the game for the Bruins, while giving the nod to Alex Dillon for the Merchants. The Bruins return to the arena tomorrow (Friday) night at 7:45 p.m. to face the Chiefs again, followed by a Sunday afternoon visit to the Scugog arena.


Thank you residents of Ward 2 for choosing me to represent you on Uxbridge Council!

Thank you to everyone who offered great ideas and encouragement; who expressed practical concerns and opinions. I am looking forward to serving each of you during the next four years!

With my gratitude and appreciation for your support,
Gordon Shreeve
Councillor-Elect
Ward 2



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A BELOVED TRADITION RETURNS
so hold one of these dates . . . Dec. 19 or 20

Every two years for the past 45 years, there's been a performance of Handel's *Messiah* in Uxbridge - with full orchestra and 100+ voice choir - except 2020, when Covid forced cancellation.
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OnStage season brings big titles to Music Hall

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Live theatre is coming back to Uxbridge, and OnStage Uxbridge's line-up for the 2022-2023 season has something for everyone.

First up on the playbill is Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. This popular play celebrates its 70th anniversary as the world's most successful and longest-running play. Since opening in London's West End in 1952, this classic murder mystery has had millions of theatregoers on the edge of their seats.

"I wanted to direct *The Mousetrap* because my first OnStage performance as an actress was a murder mystery, so it holds a special place in my heart," says director Joanna Thornton.

For those unfamiliar with this part drawing room comedy, part murder mystery, it can be summarized as follows: News spreads of a murder in London, and a group of seven strangers find themselves snowed in at a remote countryside guesthouse. When a police sergeant arrives, the guests discover, to their horror, that a killer is in their midst! One by one, the suspicious characters reveal their sordid pasts. Which one is the murderer? Who will be the next victim? Can you solve this world-famous mystery for yourself?

Once solved, the audience is traditionally asked not to reveal after leaving the theatre, so those attending the performances at the Uxbridge Music Hall from Nov. 17 - 16 will have to keep their lips sealed!

Next on the playbill is *Rent*, a rock musical by Jonathan Larson that is loosely based on Giacomo Puccini's 1896 opera *La Bohème*. It's the story of a group of impoverished young artists struggling to survive and create a life in Lower Manhattan's East Village in the thriving days of bohemian Alphabet City, under the shadow of HIV/AIDS. On Broadway, *Rent* gained critical acclaim and won several awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Musical.

Tanner Ferris is directing the OnStage Uxbridge production of *Rent*, which hits the stage in the new year, on Jan. 12, 2023, running through to Jan. 21.

Next up is another big show title - *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. One of Andrew Lloyd Webber's most popular shows, with lyrics by Tim Rice, *Joseph* is a sung-through musical that is based on the character of Joseph from the Bible's Book of Genesis. The multi award-winning show has been performed

in over 80 countries worldwide and has become one of the world's most beloved family musicals. The show features songs that have gone on to become pop and musical theatre classics, including *Any Dream Will Do*, *Close Every Door To Me*, *There's One More Angel In Heaven* and *Go, Go, Go Joseph*.

Krystyne Elliot is making her directorial debut with *Joseph*. "The story of Joseph and his coat of many

colours has always been a favourite, ever since I was a little girl. Directing *Joseph* may be a lot of work, but I am going to thoroughly enjoy it!

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat will be on the Uxbridge Music Hall stage beginning March 23, 2023, and running through until April 1.

Tickets for all shows are available for \$25 each at starticketing.com



WHODUNNIT? One of the theatre world's longest running and most popular plays, Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*, opens this weekend at the Uxbridge Music Hall. Pictured here: William Kennedy as Christopher, and Rosemarie Dawson-Hill as Mrs. Boyle.

Photo by John Covers

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- Across**

 - 1 Jackman or Grant
 - 5 ___imatum
 - 8 Fourposter, e.g.
 - 11 Stew cooker
 - 12 Animal park
 - 13 Military group
 - 14 Flip out
 - 15 Ruffle
 - 16 Give the slip to
 - 17 The Bucs stop here
 - 19 Amphibian creature
 - 21 Age
 - 23 India's first P.M.
 - 26 In an off the wall manner
 - 30 Ill-mannered individual
 - 31 Quirk
 - 32 Green color
 - 34 Before now
 - 36 Clarified butter of India
 - 39 Slight
 - 42 Pitch
 - 44 Thai language
 - 45 Techie
 - 47 Despicable fellow
 - 51 Basilica part
 - 54 Big Vegas poker hotel
 - 56 Flyers' org. abbr.
 - 57 Efficient person
 - 58 Lodging
 - 59 Queen Elizabeth 2, e.g.
 - 60 End letter
 - 61 Squeeze (out)
 - 62 A long, long time
- Down**

 - 1 Emcee
 - 2 Elbow bone
 - 3 Motley Crue's genre, with rock
 - 4 Come to pass
 - 5 Submachine gun
 - 6 Desolate
 - 7 Arcade coin
 - 8 Buddy (sl.)
 - 9 Medical emergency teams, abbr.
 - 10 One way to change color
 - 13 Even if, briefly
 - 18 Breathe
 - 20 "Charlotte's ___" book
 - 22 Matterhorn, e.g.
 - 24 The Long and Winding ___
 - 25 Impulse
 - 26 Very popular person
 - 27 Approaching
 - 28 Yearn for
 - 29 Survey choice
 - 33 Pledge of Allegiance ender
 - 35 French for gold
 - 37 In wait
 - 38 Holiday lead-in
 - 40 Frequent a restaurant
 - 41 In no way
 - 43 Spooky
 - 46 Hose problem
 - 48 Sound comeback
 - 49 Shower
 - 50 Daddy-o
 - 51 Woodworker's tool
 - 52 "The Raven" writer
 - 53 Notice
 - 55 Air Force ___



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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: 2 Campbell Dr., Ste. 201. Email Gail: ghorner550@gmail.com

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Friday, November 18
Against Lakefield
at the Uxbridge Arena, 7:45 p.m.

Sunday, November 20
Against Port Perry
at the Scugog Arena, 2:25 p.m.

The Uxbridge Bruins will be collecting non-perishable food items for the local food bank and toys for the Uxbridge Christmas Toy Drive at this year's Santa Claus Parade, November 19!



U3C - 'Big changes to planning, development coming our way'

Submitted by the Uxbridge Climate Change Committee

What do the Ontario government and Mark Zuckerberg have in common? 'Move fast and break things' was famously the motto of a young Mark Zuckerberg as he built his Facebook empire, which made him obscenely wealthy. The Ontario government seems to have adopted the same approach by introducing an act that makes large changes to not one but nine existing acts of provincial legislation, and they are moving at a fast pace. Regional and municipal councils across the province are scrambling to understand the implications of this huge piece of legislation. So what does this mean for us?

Bill 23, or the "More Homes Built Faster" Act, is an omnibus bill in which many changes are being proposed all at once. We wonder why the provincial government introduced a bill that severely affects municipal governments just days after municipal elections, and are holding the very short public consultations during a period when many councils are not yet sworn in? Could it be they do not want to hear from us or our councils?

The stated aim of Bill 23 is contained in the act's title - "More Homes Built Faster". Housing demand, real and imagined, is being used as a justification for reducing the role of the 36 provincial conservation authorities that monitor the health of our watersheds. This will limit their ability to provide municipalities with the environmental information they need to make planning decisions. The act also reduces municipal development charges which help pay for infrastructure costs associated with development. The act will build a precedent for making unequal land swaps to remove protections from desirable portions of the Greenbelt, it will impose sprawl on communities that voted for smart growth, and it will reduce checks and balances on planning decisions.

It is true that there is a housing crisis in Ontario, and there are many ways to approach the problem. For starters, there is a significant amount of land already designated for housing in Ontario building plans that has not yet been developed (35 square kilometres in total, enough for many thousands of dwellings). The problem is not lack of building plots. Low density planning decisions have also led to "sprawl," which costs municipalities a lot in extended infrastructures, and costs residents driving time getting to schools, shops and work from a distance. And

though some high density policies are included in this act (triplexes could be coming to a house near you), much more could be done to encourage high density, walkable communities. Perhaps the most dire aspect of the housing crisis is affordability, and there is little in this act to address that problem.

So what might be going on here? Could it be that developers are looking for more land to build on? And under the guise of a housing crisis, the government is shredding a series of protections to give developers what they want, rather than address the needs of the people that elected them?

Many groups, from the province-wide Association of Municipalities of Ontario, to local conservation groups such as our own Green Durham, are working very hard and urgently, parsing the publication from the government and trying to digest large chunks of information, to understand the massive implications of this bill.

Uxbridge Mayor Dave Barton, also in the early stages of understanding how this bill will affect us all, says, "I believe that the job of the mayor and local council is to make the best of what ever situation we are in. This is fairly complex legislation that will change how we do business in Uxbridge. We have asked for a staff report to identify the complete impact to our municipality but there are definitely parts of this legislation that will make our jobs much more challenging."

Ford's government is moving very fast, but is it fair to say that they are breaking things? After speaking with Green Durham Association's spokesperson Elizabeth Calvin, it is clear that many conservation groups are extremely concerned about the big reduction of the role of Ontario's unique and admired system of conservation authorities. These bodies

were established in the face of environmental degradation from deforesting land throughout the 1900s, and reforestation policies were implemented to stop the resulting erosion (Durham Forest resulted from such bold replanting policies). Their remit was increased in 1954 after Hurricane Hazel showed how bad planning could result in devastating loss of life and property due to flooding and building in flood plains.

It has taken decades to build a system where competing demands on the lands and waters of Ontario can be balanced, and important environments protected. The Ford government's own

Flood Advisors Report from 2019 stated: "The development of the modern floodplain policy in Ontario, the watershed approach, the conservation authority model, and the flood standards have been extremely effective at reducing flood risks, especially in new greenfield development areas." Why break the ef-

fectiveness of these authorities?

That is just one of the nine schedules of this act. More information is available through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Nature, and Environmental Defence, to name but a few concerned groups.

While form letters and e-petitions are being circulated, they are not as effective as more traditional tools.

Call or email MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy to talk about Bill 23, and make a written submission to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy.

The Uxbridge Climate Adaptation and Transition Committee is holding an information session on Monday, Nov. 28. Email uxbridgeclimatechange@gmail.com to receive a link.

"We must reform these processes at the provincial and municipal levels to ensure everyone can find a home that meets their needs and their budgets."

MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy



O'Beirn, Edward S.

It is with deep sadness that the O'Beirn family announces the passing of Ed O'Beirn, at Uxbridge Hospital on Saturday, November 12, 2022, in his 86th year.

Predeceased by parents Thomas and Mary, brother Daniel, and sisters Joan and Sharon. Cherished brother to Eugene (Valerie), Mary Ann (late Alfred), Alice (Cam), Margaret (Lorne), Paul, Patricia (Tom), Frances (Frank), Cecilia (Don), Denise (Bill) and Shawn (Jackie). Wonderful uncle and great-uncle to many nephews and nieces. He will be missed by his many cousins, golfing and curling friends, former colleagues at Glitsch, and parishioners at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Born in Capreol, a small town north of Sudbury, Ed lived his whole life in Uxbridge, with many of those years on the family farm, Bascom Street, and his final years at Douglas Crossing Retirement Home. With a razor-sharp wit and always ready with a good joke, Ed will be remembered as a humble, kind, and gentle man.

Thank you to all the caring staff at Douglas Crossing and Uxbridge Hospital.

Visitation will be held at the Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Uxbridge, L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073) on Thursday, November 17, 2022, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. A Funeral Mass will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Friday, November 18, at 11:00 a.m., followed by interment at the Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery. A reception will follow at the church hall.

If desired, a donation to a charity of your choice would be appreciated. Online condolences can be made at www.lowandlow.ca



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 <p>COLDWELL BANKER R.M.R. REAL ESTATE, BROKERAGE Each Office Independently Owned and Operated www.ColdwellBankerUxbridge.ca 75 Brock St. W., Uxbridge 905-852-4338 • Toll Free 1-866-666-2696</p>  <p>COLDWELL BANKER R.M.R. REAL ESTATE, BROKERAGE www.ColdwellBankerLuxury.com The Global Luxury Difference</p>		<p>SCUGOG POINT WATERFRONT Vintage 1920's 4 bedroom home overlooking 100-ft. of prime sand-bottom lakefront, with original pine floors and a cozy fieldstone fireplace eagerly awaiting your TLC. Asking \$875,000</p> <p>Gwen Layton, Realtor® www.GwenLayton.ca Cell: 647-991-3276</p>	<p>1159 STEWART LINE, CAVAN Under construction. 2-storey custom built, 4 beds, 6 baths home on a private 100 acre lot. Finished walkout basement with a separate shop below the 3 car garage. \$3,200,000.</p> <p>Chris Larmer, Realtor® www.powerofbluex2.ca Cell: 416-500-6377</p>	<p>488 HUNTER ST W, PETERBOROUGH 2.5 storey, 4 bedroom, 7 bathroom estate home in the old west end. Updated kitchen and bathrooms. Landscaped yard with pool. Detached garage with carport. \$2,195,000.</p> <p>Shane Coxworth, Realtor® www.powerofbluex2.ca Cell: 905-903-7965</p>



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