

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 18 No. 46

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, November 24, 2022

Which way does the water flow • A *Frightenstein*-ing story • Lifting voices once again

'KILL BILL 23' - So says one of the many signs and placards that were carried by at least 200 people who gathered outside MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy's Pickering office on Saturday. The group was protesting the Ontario government's proposed Bill 23, an omnibus bill which includes a plan to open up large portions of the Greenbelt in an effort to create more housing. The 'More Homes Built Faster Act' would also limit municipal input on proposed developments. For more, see story on page 3.

Photo submitted by Stop Sprawl Durham

New township council sworn in Monday evening

by Roger Varley

With a touch of pomp and ceremony and a helping of humorous doggerel, Uxbridge's new municipal council was sworn into office on Monday.

There were only three new faces on the bench: Zed Pickering, elected as Ward 3 councillor, Gordon Shreeve, taking his seat as Ward 2 councillor, and Tobi Lee, attending her first council meeting as acting treasurer.

The evening began with the new council being led into the council chambers by a piper, followed by a declaration from town crier Bill McKee, who read a funny poem naming each member of council. Then McKee, calling on his operatic training, led the assembly in O

Canada.

Clerk Debbie Leroux called the meeting to order and administered the oath of office to all members of council, one at a time. One amusing moment came when Ward 5 councillor Todd Snooks, who is not reticent about expressing the role Christian faith plays in his life, began reciting the oath but had to be reminded by Leroux to place his hand on the Bible.

After Shreeve read the invocation, each councillor was called on to make remarks. Then they turned to their first official order of business: passing resolutions naming various people to specific jobs. Deputy mayor Willie Popp, who also represents Ward 4, was named chair of the Finance committee, while former Finance committee chair Bruce Garrod, now regional coun-

cillor, was given chairmanship of Public Works. Shreeve takes over Environment and Sustainability.

There were a few tweaks to other portfolios. The Planning committee went to Snooks, but now also includes Economic Development, which was formerly part of Administration and Emergency Services. Pickering was given Parks, Facilities and Tourism: under the last council, tourism was part of the Tourism, Heritage and Community Programs portfolio. That portfolio now is Heritage, Arts and Community Programs and will be chaired by Ward 1 councillor Beach. Mayor Dave Barton retained Administration and Emergency Services.

The new council's first working session is scheduled for Dec. 5.

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for November and December, 2022

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

Monday, December 5, 10:00 a.m.
GENERAL PURPOSE AND
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

CANCELLED - Tuesday, December 6,
1:00 p.m., FINANCE COMMITTEE

CANCELLED - Thursday, December 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 - Wednesday, December 21,
7:00 p.m., COMMITTEE OF
ADJUSTMENT

Proclamations for November

November 20 – 26th - Anti-bullying
Awareness & Prevention Week
2022 – Year of the Garden

Bids & Tenders

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

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.*

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.



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

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.

Employment Opportunities

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

Current Opportunities

Community Services – Trails Coordinator, Part-Time

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

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
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Winter Parking Reminder

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November 1st to April 1st

**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



Attention All Pet Owners!

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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!

Volunteers needed for the Scots Pine Thinning in the Countryside Preserve

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9:00am-12:00pm**
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phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209

Protesters decry Ford's Greenbelt plan

by Roger Varley

Around 200 people gathered Saturday on Kingston Road in front of Pickering-Uxbridge MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy's office to protest the Ford government's plan to allow development on parts of the Greenbelt.

Although many of the protesters were ordinary citizens, several environmental groups were represented, including those fighting to preserve the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve. Though not actually a part of the Greenbelt, the DRAP is an area of farmland in the southwest corner of Pickering that was set aside "in perpetuity" for agricultural purposes in legislation passed by the Ontario government in 2005. The current Ontario government recently introduced a bill to repeal that legislation and make the land available for development.

Most of the signs and placards carried by the protesters called on the government to "Save the Greenbelt" and "Stop Bill 23." One sign, carried by two people wearing black shrouds, read "Bill 23 is the death of democracy."

For Mary Delaney, a prominent member of the Land Over Landings group, which has fought for years to save the agricultural land that was taken over by the federal government decades ago for the construction of an international airport, those signs didn't reflect what she was feeling. Her homemade sign read: "I can't believe I still have to protest this s***."

However, despite the size of the crowd, there was little excitement. Cars honked their horns as they went past and there were a few half-hearted chants led by people with megaphones, but overall there was an aura of politeness and decorum around the protest. After a couple of hours, everyone went home.



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Our two cents

One man, one vote

That mantra - (or, to be more inclusive, "one person, one vote") - has been the basis of democratic elections for years. Not any more! Now, it seems, Premier Doug Ford's vote is much more important than yours.

On Monday evening, Uxbridge's new council was sworn in for the 2022-26 term. Democracy in action, right? Normally, we would say yes. But recent announcements coming out of the premier's office show that democracy is a fragile concept that can be - and is being - overturned by one man's whims.

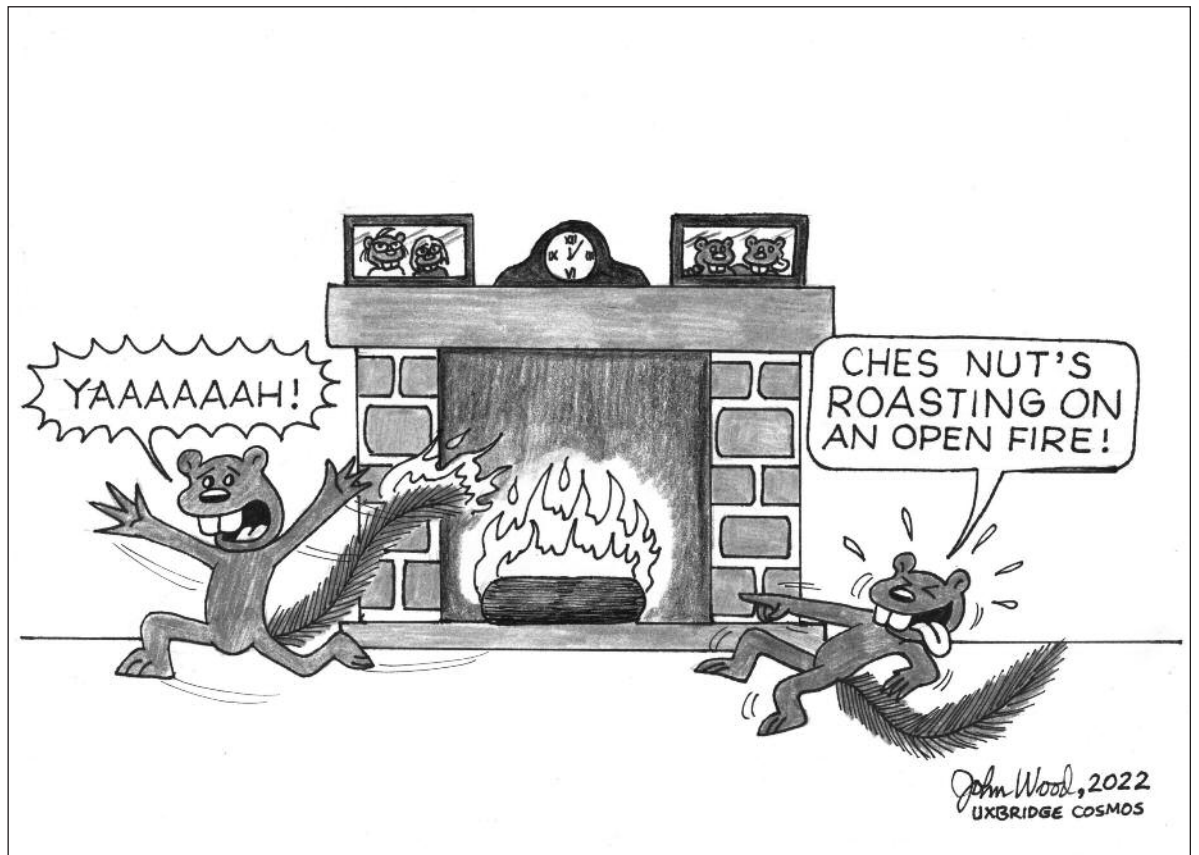
The Ford government has determined that it will curtail the power of municipal councils when it comes to approving or rejecting development proposals. The government has decided it will overturn municipal zoning bylaws, slash development charges, run roughshod over environmental concerns and severely curtail citizens' rights to attend public meetings on development proposals. In other words, you voted for your council, but Ford will tell them what to do.

On Nov. 30, the Durham regional council will be sworn in for a new term. Luckily for us, John Henry will be sworn in as chair after winning a healthy majority in the recent election. Currently, regional chairs are either elected by voters at large, as in Durham, or are chosen from among their ranks by the regional councillors. But that could change in the future because Ford has recently ruled that he will decide who becomes chair of regional councils. He has already named the chairs of York, Peel and Niagara regions.

Ford's disdain for municipal politics and politicians - and, by extension, for voters - has been obvious for years. He and his brother, Rob, turned Toronto city council into a clown show then, after becoming premier, he cut Toronto council in half in the middle of a municipal election. Now he has decided to give "strong" powers to the mayors of Toronto and Ottawa and is considering bestowing those same powers on other mayors down the road. Not only that, these mayors can pass legislation with only one-third of council giving support. So much for majority rule.

The turnout for elections, especially municipal and provincial, in the past few years has been abysmal. This newspaper has constantly urged people to exercise their right to vote, but we're beginning to wonder if we should bother anymore. We fully understand that the provincial government has the right to govern how municipal councils operate, but that governance must be applied in a democratic fashion. That has not been the case with the current Ontario government. With them, it's "my way or the highway," although today that translates as "my way AND the highway."

On Saturday, about 200 people gathered outside MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy's office in Pickering to protest Ford's plan to open up the Greenbelt to development. Again, democracy in action. Except, the demonstrations and protests will fall on deaf ears. With a majority in Queen's Park and an almost invisible opposition, the Ford government will ram through any legislation they want to help their developer friends and benefactors, protests and environment be damned. All in the name of building 1.5 million new housing units as quickly as possible. One problem with that: if developers are going to build as quickly as possible, just what kind of slipshod construction can we expect?



Letters to the Editor

Re: 'A true victim of our times,' *The Barris Beat*, Nov. 17 edition

After reading Ted Barris's column about employment, I thought I would write.

After 22 years as a commission-only sales rep for Sinclair Dental, I was unceremoniously terminated. I've decided I don't really want to drive too far from home, so I'm not looking for a similar position. However, I have applied for a few differ-

ent jobs: rural postal delivery person, bartender, seasonal at the LCBO - so far, no one wants me. Maybe they don't need me?

My best friend keeps encouraging me to get my DZ license. Maybe go back to school. And in these times of gig economy and minimum wage employment (seasonal), on call-type jobs, no benefits, etc., it's very difficult for a 62-year-old to find meaningful employment.

I'm going to take up sharpening

chainsaw chains and try to find some things so I have some income coming in. Yes, I know I could collect CPP, but I desire a bit of employment, for routine and extra income.

I guess the point I'm trying to make is, there are jobs out there, but do we really want to do them? You shouldn't assume people will just get by on tips - not everyone tips, I know that for a fact. How desperate do we have to be?

If you've ever watched the movies by filmmaker Ken Loach (British), he casts a light on the reality of lower income, even middle income families and how difficult it is. Delivery person for Amazon, health-care provider, and carpenter, are some of the jobs and the people he features. Regular folk with regular jobs.

I'm looking at the next part of my life as an opportunity. I'll be OK, but there are others out there who have way more trouble making ends meet, with cars breaking down, rent breaking them down, the cost of housing, health care, dental care, heat for our homes - all of these things that more affluent people don't even think about because they can afford them, more easily. I don't like to compare, I think we're all created equal. But that gap between the rich and the not-so-rich, is getting wider.

Tell me, 'am I wrong?'

Frank Mroz
Uxbridge

Your Universe

The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Canada



A Blonde Moment

column by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Brownie power

I heard some news last Thursday that knocked me right off the seat. Last Tuesday, Girl Guides of Canada announced that it was changing the name of its branch that caters to seven and eight-year-old girls. The branch formerly known as Brownies.

Are you friggin' kidding me!

Says the Girl Guides' website: "This change is being made because of how this name makes girls and women feel. We heard from racialized girls that they didn't like being called a Brownie. This was a name that made them feel extremely uncomfortable, prompted teasing and racist comments and was a barrier to feeling that they belong at Girl Guides. Continuing to use a name that we have been directly told by girls has caused them harm would go against everything that we stand for as an organization."

There are so many things wrong in this statement, I barely know where to begin. And before anyone gets their back up on me, I realize completely that I'm a white, middle-aged female writing about a reaction to an experience that I will never, ever have. But an experience I *did* have when I was young was participating in Brownies, and it was one of the best experiences of my life. Being a part of Girl Guides for almost 10 years is one of my best memories. Our "Owls" I still love to this very day. The friendships I made have lasted a lifetime. And the skills I learned have served me well.

So why does an institution that began over 100 years ago suddenly feel that a name change is necessary because some idiots out there insist on being racist dolts?

Before we try to answer that rather rhetorical question, let me provide some history. The Girl Guides were first formed as an association in 1910 by Lord Robert Baden-Powell (creator of the Boy Scouts) and his sister, Agnes. The seven and eight-year-old age group was originally called "Rosebuds", but, ironically, girls complained that they didn't like it, and it was changed to "Brownies". The name "Brownies" came from the book "The Brownies", written by one Juliana Horatia Ewing in 1870. The story featured Brownies, which are known in Scottish folklore as being helpful house fairies who come out at night

and perform various chores and farming tasks.

Fast forward more than 100 years, and a name that has been synonymous with a fun, wholesome, adventurous same-sex organization is suddenly cancelled, along with so many other things today.

What really ticks me off is that they, as in the Canadian Guiding powers-that-be, have let pejorative use of the word "brownie" dictate to the organization. They should be better than that, stronger than that. The name "Brownies" cannot *make* anyone feel a particular way. An individual *chooses* how to feel in reaction to something. And if Girl Guides really is, as the website claims, a "catalyst for girls empowering girls," then Brownie leaders, when confronted with a youngster who may have had the pack's name used against her in vain, should be guiding these young girls to stand up to their bullies and say "Yes, I am a Brownie, and I am proud to be a Brownie" no matter what their skin colour.

By feeling they need to change the branch's name, they have *given* the word "Brownie" the power that those use it in a harmful way *want* it to have. The bullies, the racists, win. But if the branch name is kept and continues to be used to represent all the amazing things that Girl Guiding is, then the pejorative power of the word is removed.

The old saying "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me" seems to have been all but forgotten. Should harmful, disparaging words be used to describe any person or group, ever? Absolutely not. But when an innocently-named organization feels it has to change because a portion of society has applied a negative connotation to said name, something is seriously wrong. The power has been given to those in the wrong, and taken away from those who say they are trying to empower.

The Brownie Promise, as it reads right now, includes the following: "I promise to do my best, To be true to myself, my beliefs and Canada. I will take action for a better world..." Those words have power over the little girl who recites them. Leaders should ensure those little girls *are* true to themselves and their beliefs. *That* is power.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

A Frightenstein who done it

The reporter had asked her final question about my appearance at a regional theatre in Alberta that afternoon. Jana Semeniuk turned off her camera. But she gestured for me to stay put for a second. She had one more question to ask, but wanted to be sure it was OK to ask it on camera. I nodded.

"Have you ever heard of the TV show *The Hilarious House of Frightenstein*?" she asked. I nodded again. "Is it true you wrote that show?"

"Half true," I said. "I co-created it with my writing partner Ross Perigoe. Want to know more? Roll your camera and I'll tell you."

If you missed the 1970s and children's TV from that era, you also missed a quirky kids' show originally produced at CHCH TV in Hamilton, and then syndicated worldwide years afterward. It starred, among others, Vincent Price (as the horror host), Julius Sumner Miller (as the mad professor), the Wolf Man, Billy Van (as Count Frightenstein, the 13th son of Count Dracula) and Fishka Rais (as the Count's incompetent assistant).

If you read the Wikipedia file, producer Rafael (Riff) Markowitz claims that *Frightenstein* was entirely his idea and that he invited "a room full of creative friends to a spaghetti and champagne dinner party (to) brainstorm the idea." That's not the way I remember it. In 1970, my best friend and classmate in Ryerson's Radio and TV Arts course, Ross Perigoe, and I weren't about to wait for graduation from the program to write professionally. We heard that brothers Riff and Mitch Markowitz were looking for writers for a spooky kids' show. So, on a dark and stormy autumn night in 1970 – I'm not making this up – Perigoe and I drove to Toronto's west end, knocked on the door of a sprawling home and were met by a young woman in a bikini. "Oh, you must be the writers," she said and she led us to an attached atrium full of potted palms, ceiling fans, and a swimming pool with deck chairs all around. "Sit anywhere but in that chair," she said pointing to a winged-back cane chair. "That's for Riff."

A few minutes later, Markowitz arrived, wearing a terry towel robe and smoking a cigar. "OK, fellas," he said. "Let's invent a scary kids' show," or words to that effect. And for the next few hours, Perigoe and I spewed ideas about a haunted castle, a cast of zany inept characters, lots of corny jokes all deliv-

ered as a series of independent modules, so that a local host in Timmins, Tallahassee or Timbuktu could appear between segments giving the show a local look and flavour. We even came up with the *Frightenstein* national anthem, conducted by the Count and sung by Igor as he raised the castle flag to the tune of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

"Gory, gory Transylvania! Where wolves and bats will always maim ya. The murky moors will likely claim ya. As we go stumbling through, through, through."

Late into the evening at Markowitz's pool side, Perigoe and I bounced ideas off each other non-stop, while the young woman in the bikini made notes on everything we said like a recording secretary. After several hours of riffing ideas and schtick, Perigoe and I asked if we might take part in the production as the show's writers. "Sure," Riff Markowitz said. "We'll pay you three bucks a joke."

Well, I lasted a few days writing gags and routines for the characters Perigoe and I had invented that night; Perigoe lasted several weeks and probably made a few hundred dollars. We were too naïve to demand professional writing contracts, ACTRA rates or on-screen credits. Others rightly credited for writing and research included (the late) Bob Hackett and Harvey Graff. But none of us freelance creators ever participated in what became the worldwide syndication or mass-market success of 130 episodes of *Frightenstein* video-taped at CHCH over nine months in 1971. Graff, one of the few other originators of *Frightenstein* still around, called me this week; he said that tubi, the internet platform, had just released *Frightenstein* on-line for a new generation who've never seen it.

When TV reporter Jana Semeniuk finished her impromptu interview with me about all this a few years ago, she said that she'd tracked down the Markowitz brothers to verify my story of that brainstorming session by the pool back in 1970. "Didn't happen," they said.

"Since they and I are about the only ones left from that crazy night of TV innovation," I said, "I guess it's a hilarious house of jokes neither of us can verify." And I can't even claim the ridiculous three-bucks-a-joke fee.

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

NEED TO REACH MILLENNIALS?

New survey results show that **nine out of ten** Millennials read newspapers weekly in print or digital formats.

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



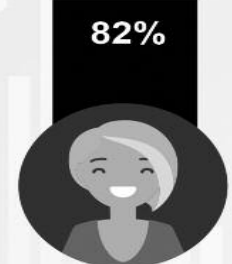
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Adults 18+



Millennials



Boomers



70


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Water: the complete story on how it flows in Uxbridge

by Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In our recent series on taxation, the *Cosmos* reported that the Region of Durham is responsible for water and sewer systems in the Township of Uxbridge. Well, that's only partly true, as readers living outside the urban boundary know all too well. Here, the *Cosmos* gives you the full story of Uxbridge's water: where it comes from, what happens to it after it goes down your various drains, and a few tips from an expert on how better to conserve it in between.

Water Sources

Unlike Scugog, this municipality doesn't have any sizeable bodies of

water. The reason is that the township is on the Oak Ridges Moraine, which as the name suggests, is a ridge where creeks begin their journey south to Lake Ontario, or north to Lake Simcoe. As with anything in its youth, those creeks are tiny, so even if we wanted to, it wouldn't make ecological or financial sense to derive our water from them. Without exception, Uxbridge residents get their water from underground aquifers, by means of wells.

Within the town boundary, 12,000 residents, commercial and industrial businesses all get their water from just three wells, operated by the Region. Two of them are in an unassuming building across from the big ball field in Bonner Park, just north of Reach Street. The third is housed in a tiny brick structure, not much bigger than a backyard shed, beside the paramedic station on Campbell Drive. The

depth of those wells is an average 67 metres, and the water is pumped not only to all townspeople, but also to an underground 2,800 cubic metre reservoir up on Quaker Hill, which is brought into play during peak periods of water use.

Outside the urban boundary, with only three exceptions (each slightly different), every residence, business or farm has its own private well (or series of them), which varies in depth according to that property's own special circumstances. The three exceptions are the Estates of Wyndance, an enclave

of substantial homes at Coppins Corners, which has its own community water and sewer system; the Uxville Industrial Park west of Goodwood, which has a water system operated by the Region (including the township's only water tower), but individual septic fields; and Grange-

...continued on page 11



The water tower in Uxville Industrial Park west of Goodwood.

Photo by Conrad Boyce



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Where the water flows, from page 6

ways, the trailer park on Conc. 3, which also has a community water and sewer system for its 300 units, but is in operation only from May 1 through to Thanksgiving (although the park's owners live on site through the winter).

What the rural and urban wells often have in common is the need to treat the water before it makes its way into taps. Chlorine is used in small quantities to get rid of any pathogens, but as noted earlier, Uxbridge is on a ridge, so those are relatively minor. But the moraine also means the water is rich in minerals (Uxbridge has notoriously "hard" water), so a chemical called sodium silicate is often added to soften it somewhat. There is no fluoridation of Uxbridge water.

Storm Water

An important source of water, of course, is the precipitation which falls from the sky.

In most of the township, storm water seeps directly into the ground, to make its way eventually into the aquifer which supplies your well. But if it falls on the streets, it collects all manner of substances which might prove harmful to fish and other wildlife. If it falls too quickly, it might cause erosion, even flooding. To mitigate these effects, the Township operates a surprisingly large network of storm management ponds, which filter out the harmful bits, collecting the water before releasing it into the environment in manageable amounts. All the hamlets have them, even Siloam, and the town has many. You might be forgiven for not recognizing them as man-made; the Township deliberately "naturalizes" these ponds, planting native vegetation and encouraging the immigration of insects, amphibians, reptiles and waterbirds. A prime example of a naturalized pond is the one on the north end of Herrema Fields in Barton Farms; in only a couple of decades, it has succeeded in blending into the environment quite convincingly.

Wastewater Treatment

Whether it comes from your kitchen sink, bathtub drain, washing machine, dishwasher or toilet, it goes into the same pipe. Back in the day, they called it "black water," now it's called wastewater. In rural Uxbridge, wastewater goes to a septic field or tank. Like clockwork, a "honey wagon" shows up to pump it out, and deliver the contents to a treatment plant somewhere (for this township, it's usually to the Duffin Creek plant in Pickering).

In town, it winds up at the

Uxbridge Brook Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) on Main Street North, where it spends about 16 crucial hours undergoing preliminary, secondary and tertiary treatment as well as disinfection. During preliminary treatment, rags and grit are removed from wastewater for

landfill disposal. Secondary treatment uses bacteria to remove organic solids and nutrients from wastewater. Sand filters from the tertiary treatment remove any remaining solids in the wastewater, leaving a clear liquid. Ultraviolet radiation provides disinfection before the effluent (treated

wastewater) is discharged to Uxbridge Brook. The Brook goes through Wagner's Lake before joining Pefferlaw Brook just north of Udora, in Georgina (part of York Region), to form the Pefferlaw River, a

short but mighty stream that flows through its namesake village before emptying into Lake Simcoe just west of Port Bolster.

...continued on page 15

Our Beloved Blackwater Bugs

About 3,600 cubic metres of wastewater make their way to the Uxbridge Brook WCCP on an average day. The stream largely consists of water containing the three Ps of flushing (paper, poop and pee), soap and whatever it cleaned from your dishes, clothes and body. The chief means of reducing this mess to something that can be safely discharged back into the environment are a hungry group of microorganisms, mostly bacteria (protozoa that are neither plants nor animals, and they're single-celled, so there's a horde of them), that consume "food" (a.k.a. nutrients) with the help of oxygen and convert it to carbon dioxide and water. They come into contact with the nutrients and oxygen in a suspended growth process in aeration tanks, part of the secondary stage of wastewater treatment. This process includes mixing the microbes with the wastewater and adding fine air bubbles into the mixture. Depending on the type of microorganism, they may break down carbon, nitrogen or phosphorous-containing nutrients. Analyzing the wastewater under a microscope helps operators determine the ongoing health of the microbes. Like humans, these bacteria lose their appetites as they age, so they're less useful in the treatment process. On average, 10 per cent of these older bacteria are "retired" each week and sent to the digesters, to be replaced by young, hungry microbes fresh from the lab.



An aeration pond at the Uxbridge Brook Water Pollution Control Plant, the site for secondary wastewater treatment.

Photo by Conrad Boyce

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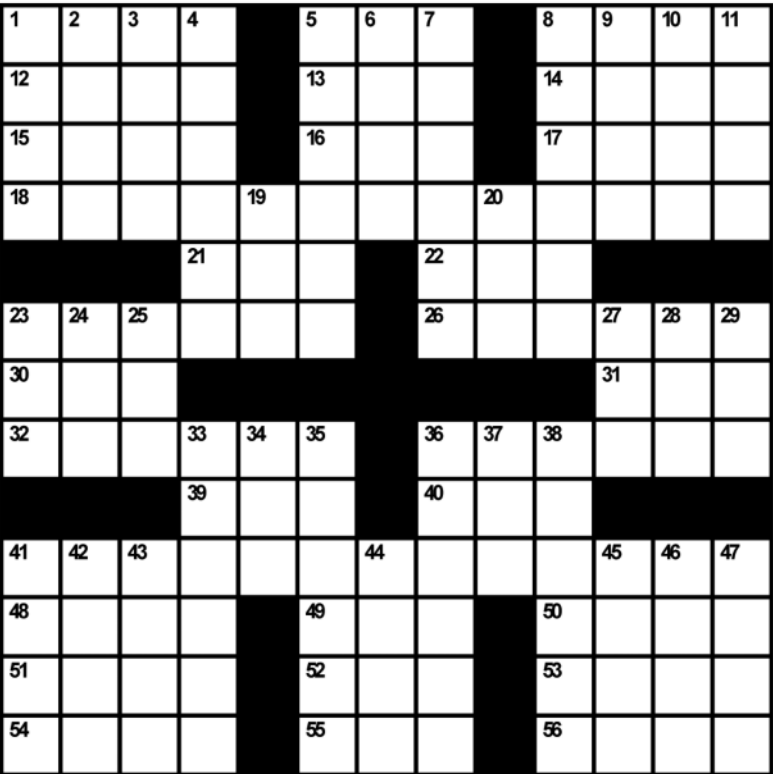
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6 Smell
7 Swirled
8 Move to and fro
9 Type of berry
10 Help, financially ___ on (2 words)
11 Hurdle
19 Gunk
20 Just produced
23 File folder feature
24 Brazilian town
25 Relative of an ostrich
27 Heavy-duty cleanser
28 Journey segment
29 Hang down
33 "Hotel ___" film
34 Squat
35 Sign up
36 A bell tower
37 In times past
38 Chased
41 Hair curler
42 Sheltered
43 "Darn it all!"
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45 Part
46 Pr____, Czech Republic city
47 Influence greatly



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Bruins were rocky, now they're on a roll

by Roger Varley

After a slightly rocky start to the season, the Uxbridge Bruins now are on a roll, having won their last 10 games, including two victories on the weekend: a 4-1 win over the Lakefield Chiefs and a 7-5 squeaker over the Port Perry LumberJacks.

At the arena last Friday, the Bruins allowed the Chiefs to take a 1-0 lead with less than a minute remaining in the first period. But Anthony

Lamanna responded 30 seconds into the second period with an unassisted marker. Midway through the period, Stellucio Basile scored what proved to be the game winner, with assists going to Matt Gordon and Noah Button, who had intercepted a bad Lakefield pass. As the period wound down, Quinn Meek combined with Lamanna and Alex Hyde to give the Bruins a two-goal lead.

Blake Edgerton rounded out the scoring in the third with a blast from

the blue line, assisted by Meek and Lamanna.

Basile was named player of the game for the Bruins and Coleman Radke received the nod for the Chiefs.

On Sunday, the Bruins travelled down Reach Street to face their arch rivals, the LumberJacks, at the Scugog arena.

The Bruins opened the scoring after just 19 seconds, with Gordon assisted by Basile and Button. They went two up with Basile's power-play goal, assisted by Hyde and Button. But the LumberJacks came back with two of their own before the period ended.

In the second, the Bruins exploded for three unanswered goals. Lamanna scored first, assisted by Meek and his brother Declan. Basile notched his third point of the game, assisted by Hyde and Nic Colangelo, and then Travis Winder scored, with assists going to Cole Harris and Sam Davis.

In the third, Port Perry showed they were not down yet, scoring an early power-play marker. Colangelo responded, assisted by Gordon and Davis, but the LumberJacks roared back with two more to cut the Bruins' lead to one. However, their attempt to tie the game ended when Quinn Meek scored an empty-netter.

The Bruins currently share first place in the seven-team PJHL Orr Division with the Clarington Eagles. However, the Eagles have three games in hand. The Bruins can solidify their standing this weekend as they face the LumberJacks at the arena tomorrow (Friday) night at 7:45 p.m. and take on the Chiefs in Lakefield on Saturday night. So far, the Bruins have a 3-1 record against both Port Perry and Lakefield.



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“Our last concert was in December

of 2019, and when we were able to re-assemble last spring, you’ve never seen a happier crew!” says choir member Chuck Heroux.

Heroux says that One Voice is “thrilled to announce” its 2022 Christmas concert, *Candles are Dancing*, which will be presented Friday, Dec. 9, at St. Paul’s Anglican

Church, at 7.30 p.m.

“When we started, we all felt a little rusty in the pipes, but Charles White has been working us very hard, and we hope to offer you a memorable way to trigger the Christmas season. As usual, the concert will be a mix of traditional and contemporary music. Practicing this music has been a labour of love for all of us,” says Heroux.

Tickets for this One Voice Christmas concert are \$20 (with no charge for children under 10) and can be purchased from any choir member, or at the door. Masks are recommended but not mandatory.

Another choral group that is happy to announce a seasonal offering is the Monday Morning Singers.

Choir director Anne Mizen, accompanied by Elaine Brandon, have worked with the Monday Morning Singers to bring esteemed composer Benjamin Britten’s *A Ceremony of Carols* to the stage. *A Ceremony of Carols* is an extended choral composition for treble choir, soloists, and harp. There are 11 movements framed by a processional and recessional which include harp solos, two soprano soloists, and choral pieces sung in Latin, Middle English, and modern English. The piece was writ-

ten in 1942, and has been beloved choral music for Christmas ever since.

Canadian harpist Sharlene Wallace, who has played concert harp and solos all across the country, joins the Monday Morning Singers for this performance.

The choir will also present shorter Christmas pieces from several cultures, and as always, the audience is invited to join in singing their favourite carols.

This performance will take place Friday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m., also at St. Paul’s Anglican Church in Uxbridge.



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SANTA CLAUS HAS COME TO TOWN! The Christmas season officially began in Uxbridge on Saturday with the annual Santa Claus Parade. For more photos of the parade, visit thecosmos.ca
Photos by John Cavers

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Where the water flows, from
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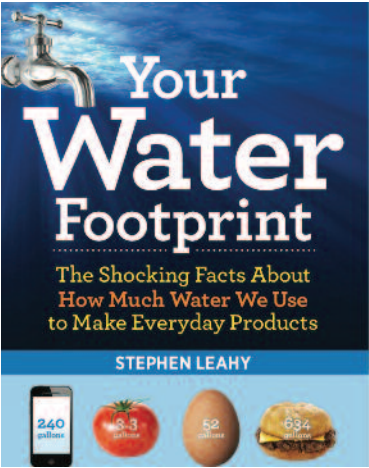
How You Can Conserve
Water

In his book “Your Water Footprint” (Firefly Books, 2014), Uxbridge-based environmental journalist Stephen Leahy makes a powerful case for conserving water, bit by bit, day by day, even in water-rich Canada. And it costs less! Here are ten simple ways you can do your part...

1. Take shorter showers.
2. Replace old toilets with newer models that use only six litres per flush. The initial expense will be recouped in lower water bills.
3. Don't use your dishwasher until it's fully loaded. Avoid pre-

rinsing as much as possible.

4. Compost organic waste instead of using kitchen garbage disposals, which waste water and



put a strain on septic systems.

5. When washing clothes, avoid permanent press, which uses 20

litres of water for the extra rinse.

6. Attach a rain barrel to your downspouts, using the runoff to water your garden.
7. Plant drought-resistant lawns, shrubs and plants.
8. Use a commercial drive-through car wash, rather than using gallons of water to do it by hand. The drive-through uses recycled water.
9. Drive green. In addition to their other harmful effects, fossil fuels take a great deal of water to produce, water which often is too polluted to return to its source.
10. Don't purchase toys, big or small, that require a constant stream of water.

The book is a fascinating read. Pick up a copy, or order one, at Blue Heron Books on Brock.





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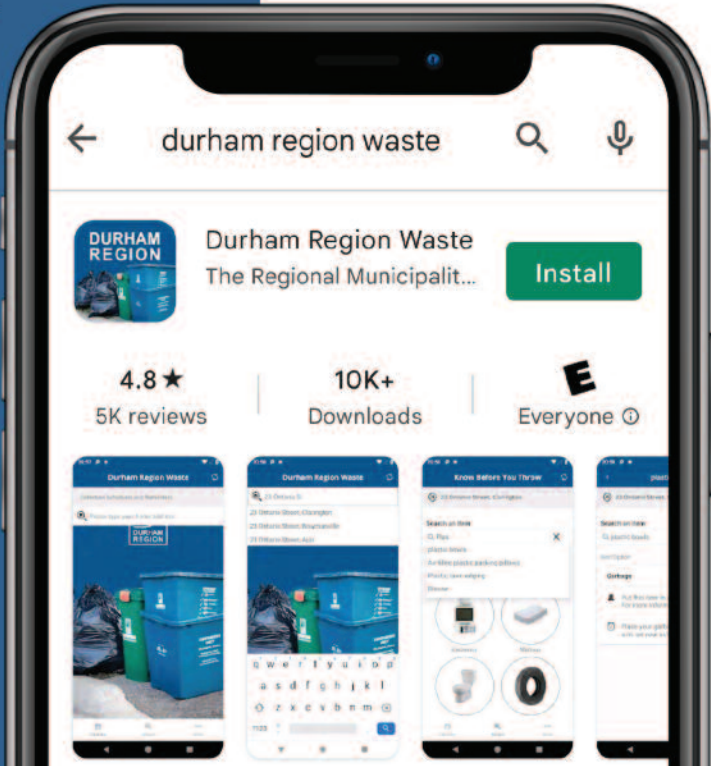
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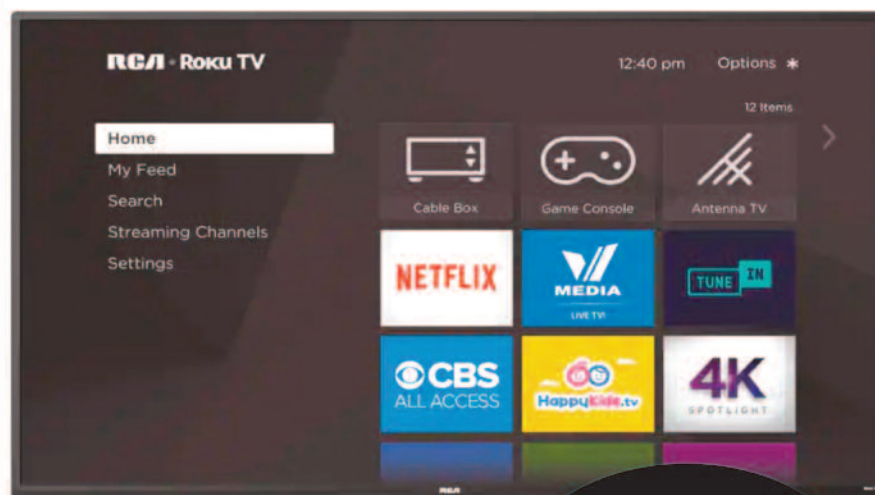
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