

# The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 18 No. 43

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Post-fire arrest made • Doggy donations • A mayoral top 10 list



**Patrick Bryant**  
Broker of Record

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**POPPY CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF** - Gloria Eng, chair of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 170 Poppy Campaign, pins a poppy on Mayor Dave Barton, signalling the start of this year's campaign. Poppies can be obtained at many local offices and business for a small donation, which goes to the Royal Canadian Legion.

Photo by Colleen Baskin

## Demolition of historic church begins next week

by Conrad Boyce,  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It has taken more than five months for the congregation of Trinity United Church to assess the damage done by the May 21 tornado, to reach the difficult decision that restoration of the building was not a viable option, and over the last few weeks, to go in and salvage whatever could be saved. Now, beginning Nov. 7, will come the most heart-breaking part of the process: watching its treasured home, the oldest parts of which date to 1888, slowly but steadily be disassembled.

According to Ted Meyers, chair of Trinity's board of trustees, the demolition of the church and adjoining additions will be substantially

complete by the end of November, hopefully before the snow is on the ground. Then it will be a matter of sorting through the debris, to recycle as much as possible, including as many as 3,000 bricks which the congregation hopes to use for fundraising.


In the past month, many of the pews have been purchased and removed by local residents or businesses (those remaining will be among the items auctioned off later this month by Gary Hill Auctions). The balcony railings have been taken down and donated to the Township, which will use some to refurbish similar railings at the Music Hall. The music from the choir room has been rescued and will be catalogued for future use by other choirs in other places (the choir robes will be auctioned). The

bell from the tower will be saved to ring again. A large variety of other items, including furniture, dishes and appliances will also go to auction.

Fifty of the stained glass windows have been salvaged, either for auction or for use in the new building. What could not be saved, however, is the large round window in the church's First Avenue facade. The demolition company's estimate for trying to remove that window was about \$250,000, with no guarantee it would emerge in any usable condition; the trustees decided they could not afford that risk.

Even while the salvage operation has been ongoing, the process has already begun to design a new building for the site, one that would

...continued on page 3



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## Council & Committee Meetings

All regularly scheduled

Council/Committee Meetings are in recess.

### Meeting Schedule for November, 2022

Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 p.m.  
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

Monday, November 21, 7:00 p.m.  
INAUGURAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

### Proclamations for November

November 1-7: Carbon Monoxide  
Awareness Week

November 8: Indigenous Remembrance Day

November 11: Remembrance Day

November 15-21: Anti-bullying Awareness  
and Prevention Week

November 19: International Men's Day

November 20: Transgender Day of  
Remembrance

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

Community Services - Coordinator,  
Full-Time

Closing Date: Wed., Nov. 9, 2022, 2:00 pm

Clerk's Dept - Deputy Clerk

Closing Date: Fri., Nov. 18, 2022, 4:30 pm

### Crossing Guards

Resumés accepted on an ongoing basis

Board and Committee Appointment  
Opportunities

2022 Santa Claus Parade Committee -

Closing Date Extended

*The Township of Uxbridge is an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The Township of Uxbridge will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process to applicants with disabilities and/or needs related to the OHRC. Personal information provided is collected under the authority of The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*

# 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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.

Road Closures: visit  
**[Uxbridge.ca/roads](http://Uxbridge.ca/roads)**  
for up-to-date notices.



Township of Uxbridge documents are available in alternate formats upon request.  
Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at [uxbridge.ca/accessibility](http://uxbridge.ca/accessibility)

email: [accessibility@uxbridge.ca](mailto:accessibility@uxbridge.ca)  
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209



# Police appeal for witnesses in shooting in Uxbridge

Durham Regional Police are investigating after a man was located suffering from a gunshot wound in Uxbridge.

On Friday, Oct. 28, at approximately 3 p.m., members from North Division were dispatched to an unknown trouble call in the area of Davis Drive and Lake Ridge Road. Officers arrived on scene and located a man suffering from a gunshot wound. The man, whose name was

not released, was taken to a Toronto-area trauma centre with serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

Police say they believe the unknown suspect(s) fled the area in a vehicle and were last seen westbound on Davis Dr. toward Main St.

Police are looking for any witnesses or anyone with cellphone, house surveillance video or dashcam video to come forward.

Anyone with information about

this incident is asked to contact D/Cst. Beukeboom of the North Division Criminal Investigations Bureau at 1-888-579-1520 ext. 2696.

Anonymous information can be sent to Durham Regional Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at [durhamregional-crimestoppers.ca](http://durhamregional-crimestoppers.ca) and tipsters may be eligible for a \$2,000 cash reward.

# Man arrested for aggravated assault in Uxbridge

A 28-year-old male has been charged following the fire that occurred on Sept. 21 in downtown Uxbridge.

The Durham Regional Police's North Division Criminal Investigations Bureau commenced an investigation immediately following the fire, which destroyed an apartment complex and two businesses on the

ground level. It was determined the fire was set intentionally.

Tylor Bain, 28, of Uxbridge, was charged with Arson with Disregard for Human Life. He was released on an Undertaking.

If you have new information regarding this investigation, please contact D/Cst. Burns of the North Division Criminal Investigations

Bureau at 1-888-579-1520 ext. 2676.

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

## Demolition of history, from page 1

combine a smaller worship centre with offices, community spaces and several dozen affordable housing units. This work is being led by Kindred Works, the development arm of the United Church of Canada. The aim is to bring a preliminary design to the congregation, the municipality and the wider community by the end of this year. By next summer, it is hoped that construction can begin, with a target date for completion of the summer of 2025, the centennial of the United Church. The new building will encompass the church's property on Main Street North, meaning that three small buildings there will need to be vacated and demolished by late summer of 2023.

"By the end of this year," says Meyers, "the most difficult part of this will be over, having to oversee the slow disappearance of a building that has meant so much to us all. But we're looking forward to the creation

of a new place that will serve the congregation, and the entire community, just as well."



## Royal Canadian Legion Branch 170, Uxbridge

# LEGION LITERARY AND POSTER CONTESTS

For over 50 years, the Royal Canadian Legion has sponsored annual Poster and Literary contests open to all Canadian schoolchildren in the Canadian school system. Youth who participate in the contests assist the Legion in one of its primary goals - fostering the tradition of Remembrance amongst Canadians. Royal Canadian Legion Branch 170 Uxbridge is pleased to announce that the annual Poster and Literary contest is now accepting submissions.

### WHO?

- Students in grades 1-12

### WHAT?

- Students can enter submissions in the Literary (Essay and Poetry) and Poster (Black & White and Colour) contests

### WHEN?

- Deadline to submit entries is Thursday November 17, 2022

### WHERE?

- Please submit entries to your school office, or to RCL Branch 170, Uxbridge.

### HOW?

- READ the Youth Education Programs Booklet for contest details. [https://www.on.legion.ca/docs/default-source/pdf/youth/poster-contest/youth-education-program-booklet.pdf?sfvrsn=db28973f\\_12](https://www.on.legion.ca/docs/default-source/pdf/youth/poster-contest/youth-education-program-booklet.pdf?sfvrsn=db28973f_12)
- READ the Poster and Literary Contest Rules and Regulations [https://www.on.legion.ca/docs/default-source/pdf/youth/poster-contest/category-awards.pdf?sfvrsn=9d2d973f\\_18](https://www.on.legion.ca/docs/default-source/pdf/youth/poster-contest/category-awards.pdf?sfvrsn=9d2d973f_18)
- COMPLETE AND SUBMIT a signed entry form and your entry to your school office by the above deadline [https://www.on.legion.ca/docs/default-source/pdf/youth/poster-contest/contest-entry-form.pdf?sfvrsn=dcc0993f\\_20](https://www.on.legion.ca/docs/default-source/pdf/youth/poster-contest/contest-entry-form.pdf?sfvrsn=dcc0993f_20)

### QUESTIONS?

- If you have questions, please email Tish MacDonald at [honourthemwell@gmail.com](mailto:honourthemwell@gmail.com)

# Our two cents

## We have no rights

When a government can unilaterally strip away one of the rights guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, there is only one conclusion we can reach: we have no rights.

The Doug Ford government has shown us twice in the last seven days that we have no rights. On Tuesday, it stripped away the right of public unions in the province to engage in a legal strike by invoking the "notwithstanding" clause. Last Tuesday, the day after province-wide municipal elections, it stripped away the right of municipal councils to have any meaningful say in development proposals and the right of conservation authorities to protect sensitive wetlands.

However, when it comes to its *own* "rights," it's a different story. The Ford government is currently in court fighting to preserve Ford's "right" not to testify at the Emergency Act investigation in Ottawa, citing "parliamentary privilege." Ford has also been fighting for a long time to keep secret the mandate letters sent to all his cabinet ministers, claiming it is his "right."

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) followed all the rules in its negotiations with the Ford government on behalf of education workers such as early childhood educators, education assistants, janitors, etc. When it became apparent to CUPE that the negotiations were going nowhere, the union gave the government five-day's notice of its intention to go on strike, as required by labour law. The government's reaction? "Sorry, we just suspended your right to strike."

Oh, and to make it a little sweeter, the government will fine anyone who does go on strike \$4,000 for every day they engage in such action.

Whether one agrees with the union's contract demands or not is not the issue. What *is* at issue is whether the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is worth the paper it's written on, given the notwithstanding clause. According to the *Canadian Encyclopedia*, the Charter took effect as part of the Constitution Act, 1982. Section 1 of the Charter gives governments the power to limit rights and freedoms if such limits can be "demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society." This is the third time Ford has invoked the clause.

The Ford government has done nothing to explain how its move to suspend CUPE's right to strike is "demonstrably justified." One could surmise, sarcastically, that it is justified because Education Minister Stephen Lecce had those "Keep Students in Class" signs made and it would be money wasted if students were not in class because of a strike. Other than that, what possible justification could there be? Lecce claims the province can't afford to give the CUPE workers more than the meagre raises the government has offered. Yet the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario said in a recent report that the province recorded a \$2.1 billion budget surplus in 2021-22 and will continue to post surpluses in the next six years, leading to an \$8.5 billion surplus in 2027-28.

CUPE has said it will go on strike Friday (tomorrow), the notwithstanding clause notwithstanding. Numerous other union types have responded to Ford's action by calling for a province-wide general strike. If this gets nasty, don't blame the janitors and the EAs: they just want what is right.



## Letters to the Editor

I want to thank Community Living for its team work with Salvation Army for the homeless in Uxbridge, as we have managed to house three individuals in local homes.

If you have a spare room or an apartment that you would like to rent out please call Salvation Army at 905-852-0090.

Salvation Army will be putting together its Christmas hampers for children in families that need a little help to experience the magic on Christmas morning.

We are also booking volunteers for the Kettles at Zehrs and LCBO; our one and only fundraiser each year to be able to help those less fortunate within our community.

Thank you to everyone for your support.

**Beverly Northeast (volunteer)**  
**Chair of Salvation Army,**  
**Uxbridge Unit**

**Re: S. Lauriault letter, Oct. 27 edition**

I'd like to thank this community member for bringing up some very important points around COVID. My comments were not intended to minimize the importance of managing COVID. Rather, I wanted to emphasize the role of other viruses in burdening the healthcare system (especially given COVID fatigue and the sentiment that "I've been boosted, I'm fine and don't need to worry").

There is good evidence that COVID does suppress the immune response for several months post-infection, and perhaps this why we're seeing such severity of other

viral diseases at this time.

I also agree that COVID (along with many other viruses) can be spread through droplets and air. As such, clean air is part of the solution. This means better ventilation, and masking will help manage not just COVID but also influenza, croup, RSV, human meta pneumonia virus and more.

If we don't get this surge under control, we will see hallway medicine in Uxbridge and it will affect our kids. In truth, it already has, and I really feel for the little ones with their parents who struggle to get into walk-in or wait hours to be seen our ER).

**Dr. Carlye Jensen**  
**Chief of Staff, Uxbridge Hospital**

I would like to thank everyone involved in the recent election. From the people at the door to those who called me, to everyone at the town office, to the *Cosmos* for the debate and help with ads. I wish nothing but the best for the new council and hope they all succeed in doing what is best for all of us.

I would also like to thank those who helped me along the way. Andrew for the sign genius; Allan for the verbiage genius; Richie for your design genius; and to all my unofficial mentors (you know who you are).

More importantly people are those who I met at the doors. You talked to me about what your concerns were. You called me with some very solid ideas about how to address those concerns. Don't be shy about sending those on to the new council.

And last but not least at all, my family. Your support, help and advice made it a very easy campaign.

**Dominic Morrissey**  
**Uxbridge**

I'm getting "right pissed-off" at tailgaters. The new lower speed limits, which are posted in the central part of town, are now being enforced so I've been paying closer attention to my speedometer. I confess that before it became a 40 km/hr zone, I may have, occasionally, slightly exceeded the posted speed limit.

The new signs are obvious, the police will ticket, and have promised enforcement. So, to the buddy-behind-me who is SO freaking close I can no longer see your licence plate in my rear-view mirror, here's my message: BACK THE FUDGE OFF! Tailgating my vehicle will make me drive slower, not faster.

DRPS, please note that Main St. S. by the gates to Elgin Park, and Elgin Park Dr. east of Wooden Sticks are excellent locations to set up speed traps. You could also charge those "speedsters" with following too closely, aggressive driving, passing on the solid line, failure to stop at the intersection at the bottom of the hill - I could go on!

Folks, the speed limits are lower to make you drive slower. Plan your travels - it's going to take a couple more minutes. Get over your need for speed. Save that for the open road, not the town streets we all use to go about our daily lives.

Like the cop said in *Come From Away*, "Slow the f...down!"

**Nancy Melcher**  
**Uxbridge**

Your Universe

# The Uxbridge Cosmos

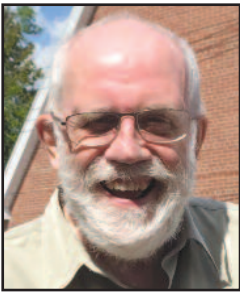
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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday to 4 p.m.

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## Wandering the Cosmos

column by Conrad Boyce

### Leah's Nana

This story begins only a few weeks after I first arrived in Ontario from the Yukon in the fall of 1995. Responding to an ad in the program for the Fall Fair, I wound up as a member of the Uxbridge Chamber Choir. And soon after that, Donna Van Veghel persuaded me to step in for a season as conductor of her famed youth choir.

Thus it was that in late September, I held placement auditions for kids interested in joining the group. A seven-year-old pixie from Scott Central got up, sang "Colours of the Wind" from "Pocahontas", and my jaw dropped. I had never heard someone so young sing with such strength, such confidence. Leah Speers (whom you might know as Leah Daniels) sang for me for many years after that, in various choirs and plays, and I never thought to ask her where that confidence, that power, came from. Now I know. It's in her blood.

This past Sunday, my wife Lisa and I were happy to attend, at the Goodwood community hall, a celebration of life for an 89-year-old woman named Rosemarie Herrell. And what a celebration it was. There were friends and neighbours, and all of them, including her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, considered themselves to be part of Rosemarie's extended family. Her loving arms were that big.

I'm not sure I ever even knew Rosemarie's real name. To us she was just Leah's Nana, her beaming smile a constant presence whenever a concert or a play was happening. It didn't even have to include Leah! She was one of OnStage Uxbridge's biggest supporters, so when we heard she'd passed away, we had to be there. And we learned a lot about a woman whose abundant and busy life had only intersected with ours in the narrowest of ways.

Rosemarie Herrell, as speaker after speaker testified, was a dynamo. Born and raised in Toronto, she spent her youth roller-skating down Yonge Street or playing on apartment rooftops. A big-city girl. So her family and friends were astounded when she and her husband Edgar announced they were moving to a ten-acre spread less than an hour north of her childhood home.

The eulogists at Sunday's celebration referred to the Herrell place on Conc. 2 simply as The Farm, and to friends and family, it was

a place of almost mythic attraction. One woman recalled that when her family made a trip to The Farm on a holiday Saturday, the kids would count the number of hills remaining till they arrived at the Herrell's gate, and the car would barely roll to a stop before the doors flew open and the fun began. There would be games outdoor and indoor, perhaps a scavenger hunt (a frequent occurrence at The Farm), walks in the woods, great food, and always music. And Rosemarie, or Rose as many called her, was at the centre of it all.

Though born in 1932, Rose was definitely a child of the '60s. At the celebration, two of her nephews sang one of her favourite songs, the anti-war folk anthem "Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream". It seems that whatever time she didn't dedicate to her family, Mrs. Herrell spent on the picket line, protesting against apartheid, raising her voice for gay rights, or Indigenous rights. And it wasn't a token voice, she did her research and passionately believed in the cause. It was a crucial part of who she was, wanting to make her world a better place.

Closest to home, Rosemarie was one of the founding members of People or Planes, formed in 1972 to protest the expropriation of farm land by the federal government to make way for a proposed Pickering Airport. The organization is now called Land Over Landings, and that airport is no closer to being built today, a half century later, than it was back when it first got Rosemarie riled up.

Rose was an inspiration, in so many ways. Even after her death. One of her daughters told a recent story of being asked by her granddaughter to attend an art class.

"I do stick people," she said, "but I went along. Then I thought of my mom, and I did this." There was an audible gasp through the hall as her husband showed us all a beautiful portrait of Rose, featuring that radiant smile.

Rosemarie Herrell was that kind of woman. A force for everything good, and warm, and nourishing. One of her neighbours said he was proud to have lived in her world. Everyone around me nodded in agreement, and I realized in that moment where Leah the seven-year-old singing prodigy came from. And why "Colours in the Wind", a song about making the world a better place, was always a tribute to her Nana.



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Off-leash going a bit off base

I generally arrive there about sunrise and make a second trip there about sundown. As usual, I have to restrain my four-legged pal each time I get there; my English springer spaniel knows we're going to the off-leash park. With varying levels of success, I try to keep my dog Jazz leashed and at the heel until we get inside the entry area. Then, when he's relatively still, I open the main gate and give him his release command.

"Go free," I tell him. And away he runs and runs. Almost without exception, it's only a matter of moments before he defecates. And even in the gloom of the dawn or the dusk, I make sure that I follow him closely, so that when he crouches I'm there to stoop and scoop.

A couple of weeks ago, I arrived at our Uxbridge off-leash park on Conc. 6, next to the museum, gave Jazz his "go free" command and almost immediately picked up his first deposit, then another. By that time, we'd arrived at the far south end of the park for some play; I heaved his favourite rubber ball into the distance, and he pounded across the turf to retrieve it. Not long after that, Jazz and I were joined in the park by several of his pals – Shelby, Blue, Morris, Lokey, Poppy, Fred – and of course by their owners. As the sky brightened that morning, we dog owners beheld a most disconcerting sight – an unusual number of piles of poop and discarded collection bags scattered across the park surface. I picked up half a dozen bags and another half-dozen neglected piles.

"Do people think this stuff will magically disappear?" I said out loud in disgust.

"Probably," remarked Shelby's and Blue's owner, "since you're picking it all up."

Since I was 10 years old, I've almost always had the good fortune to have a canine companion in my life. When our own children filled our lives with activity and play, dogs doubled the pleasure. When the pandemic hit in 2020, keeping us housebound and isolated, within a year my wife and I had joined thousands of baby boomers and their millennial children, queuing up to buy a puppy. The trend became known as the "pandemic puppy phenomenon." We somehow knew we'd have the time and certainly the gap in our lives to fill with a dog. Enter our high-energy, high-maintenance English springer spaniel. Not

long after we acquired Jazz, I introduced him to our off-leash park. We both loved it.

And with the puppy-buying explosion, we've seen a dog-park explosion. The first official dog park appeared in Berkeley, California, in 1979. According the U.S. Recreation and Park Association, the number of dog parks and off-leash spaces in American cities doubled between 2005 and 2010, with cities in Nevada, Oregon and Wisconsin leading the way. The city of Calgary features the most dog parks per capita in Canada, with 152 off-leash areas. In some parts of North America, off-leash parks have sparked unexpected development. Especially when cities and towns have handed over vacant spaces to dog-park organizers, their creation has sparked crowd sourcing, corporate investment and development of public space, river walks, public art and community gardens.

"Off-leash dog parks have boomed because people benefit directly from them," says Dave Alexander, who studies dog and human behaviour in the U.S. "Dogs lower social barriers for themselves and their owners. They get people talking and relating again."

Which may be why Uxbridge's off-leash park is fraying around the edges. Sometimes when I bring Jazz to the park, I can hardly get by the gathering of people at the shelter just inside the gate. With good intention, the park has become an attractive people hub, with plenty of conversation, companionship, and camaraderie among dog owners. However, with all that socializing among the owners, I fear we've let our guard down on the behaviour of our dogs and consequently the maintenance of our park.

In recent months, I think a lot of us dog owners have neglected what I call the three S's of dog-park etiquette – socializing, supervising and scooping. With the community con-fab at the gate, we're not paying attention to restraining aggressive tendencies in our dogs; we're not fine-tuning our dogs' response to basic obedience commands; and as I discovered the other day, we're not keeping an eye on where our dogs dump. Like so many community initiatives, at our off-leash park it's responsible behaviour of human citizens that ensures healthy behaviour of canine citizens.

**For more Barris Beat columns, go to [www.tedbarris.com](http://www.tedbarris.com)**

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## MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

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

**The ‘Samana Seashore’ trip**, won by Lynn Turner.  
Ticket #189, sold by Mike Banh.


**2nd place winner of \$150**, won by Paul Jackson,  
ticket #337, sold by Connie Gerrow.

**3rd place winner of \$100**, won by Carl Cornell,  
ticket #365, sold by Steve Snoddon.

Congratulations to our October winners, and best of luck for the November draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge Trip of the Month Club for a ‘Château Montebello Christmas’ package! This includes deluxe motor coach transportation to Old Montréal/Montebello, 3 nights’ accommodation in the 1st class Fairmont Le Château Montebello - the world’s largest log cabin - and a guided tour of Montebello. Additional features include a lunch at Sucrerie de la Montagne and a full day at Atwater Market’s Christmas Village in Montréal.

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

**Rotary**  
Club of Uxbridge



# Dog park regular leaves legacy in toys

*by Justyne Edgell*

After the passing of her furry companion, Caitlyn Atkinson knew she wanted to find a way to memorialize her 13-year-old Shitzu, Tucker, at one of his favourite places, the Uxbridge Dog Park.

While Atkinson is actually a resident of Port Perry, she says the Uxbridge Dog Park is a place she loves to visit, not only because the park itself is clean and has lots of open space, but also because of the people.

“The dog park is like a community,” says Atkinson. “It’s unbelievably like a family. No matter what, you feel accepted there, with no judgment.”

On her first trip back to the park without her beloved Tucker, Atkinson brought along a bin full of an assortment of Tucker’s favourite toys, with a note encouraging other dog owners to take a toy in Tucker’s memory.

“I felt I needed to do something, not only for me, but for them, to remember Tucker.”

Earlier this week, visitors to the off-leash park would have seen a field full of dogs and brightly coloured toys, including squeaky bones, fluffy stuffies, oinking pigs and more. Dogs and owners alike appeared to be thrilled to be greeted by a little extra fun in loving memory of a dog they grew to know.

“It was almost a grieving process for me,” says Atkinson. “Being able to see all the dogs playing with the toys, having a great old time, helped me to know that no matter what, Tucker made an impact.”

Atkinson shared that Tucker was originally going to be trained as her service dog but was considered too old, “so he ended up being a great therapy and comfort dog instead.”

Dogs at the park can take a toy on the way in and return it to the “Tucker bin” as they leave, to be enjoyed by the next dogs who visit.




“Tucker”, a 13-year-old Shitzu who recently passed on, has donated his favourite toys to Uxbridge’s off-leash dog park. Submitted photo


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# Bruins hang on to third place

by Roger Varley

Neither team knew it at the time, but the Uxbridge Bruins won last Friday night's game against the Georgina Ice in the first five minutes.

Playing in Keswick instead of their home base at the arena, thanks to a scheduling quirk, the Bruins scored two goals in the first five minutes, leading to an eventual 6-1 win. The victory kept the Bruins in third place in the seven-team PJHL Orr Division, one point behind second-place Little Britain Merchants.

Peter Kerr opened the scoring early, assisted by Sam Davis, followed quickly by Jack Davis' goal a minute later, assisted by Caleb MacLeish and Sam Davis. The Ice scored their lone goal as the period wound down.

The Bruins exploded for four unanswered goals in the second: Nick Colangelo opened the mini-blitz, assisted by Travis Winder and Jack Davis, followed by two goals from Quinn Meek, including a power-

play marker. Anthony Lamanna and Kerr assisted on both goals. Cohen Mackie put the game away, with the lone assist being credited to goalie Kyle Gross.

There was no scoring in the final period.

The Bruins will be back home tomorrow (Friday) at 7:45 p.m. when they once again play the Ice. On Saturday, they travel north to face the North Kawartha Knights in Apsley and on Tuesday they make a trip to Lakefield to take on the Chiefs.

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# Rotary Christmas Market promises ‘an experience’

Submitted by *Shelagh Fitz,*  
*Rotary Club of Uxbridge*

Inspiration for holiday decorating has for many years been sparked by the annual Uxbridge Rotary Christ-

mas Home Tour. This year, the same team of design professionals and Rotarians responsible for this popular tradition have come together to host a special Christmas Market at the Uxbridge Historical Centre.

The Uxbridge Rotary Christmas Market takes place Nov. 12 and 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. As with the Uxbridge Rotary Christmas Home Tour, attendees will experience all the magic and wonder they have come to expect from this group of talented individuals as they witness the themed transformation of historic buildings into awe-inspiring vignettes of silver and gold sparkle and sheen, alongside contemporary takes on the traditional red and green!

The Uxbridge Rotary Christmas Market will not only be a feast for the eyes, but for the other senses too! Delight in the musical gifts of

a full slate of local talent who once again will fill the air with joyful carols and Christmas classics throughout the various buildings of the museum. Take a break and relax around one of the cozy fire pits dotting the property and enjoy complementary hot chocolate, coffee and sweets. In addition, a select few vendors will be on hand to supplement your experience with Christmas-inspired items to jumpstart your own holiday shopping.

Christmas markets are a mainstay in many European cities. Usually set in or around historic market squares, people come from far and wide to experience seasonal cheer, find inspiration and enjoy the sights and sounds of the season. Lacking a proper market square, it seems apropos (and perhaps more weather appropriate) to host this event amidst the township’s most treasured his-

toric buildings, on a property that offers a spectacular vista of the little town in the valley. Once viewed, some might want to visit the shops of Uxbridge. The Town Trolley will be offering free shuttles from the museum grounds to the historic downtown, where visitors can enjoy award-winning shops and a relaxing lunch at one of our wonderful local restaurants, as well as a wander through the Christmas Craft Show (Saturday) or the Holiday Market being hosted by the Uxbridge Farmers’ Market (Sunday).

How many times did you wish you could take home one of the displays from the Uxbridge Rotary Christmas Home Tour? This year, attendees of the Uxbridge Rotary Christmas Market will have the opportunity to win one of the exhibits to enjoy in their own home. Raffle tickets for the displays and outdoor planters are only available for purchase at the event. With tickets in hand, guests may place their tickets in the specific box for the displays and planters of their choice and keep their fingers crossed until the afternoon of Nov. 13, when the draws will take place.

Grab a friend and make a day of it! Tickets are \$25 (includes Christmas Market, refreshments and Town Trolley transportation), with all proceeds going to support Rotary service projects both locally and globally.

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# Mayor Barton’s next term wish list

by Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Because no one chose to run against him in last month’s municipal election, incumbent Uxbridge mayor Dave Barton didn’t really get an opportunity to articulate any kind of vision during the campaign. So the *Cosmos* thought it would offer him that chance, to talk about “Ten Things I Would Like to See For the Township During This Term”. They could be big vision-type things, or just little things, small improvements to buildings or parks or trails. Ten things that, when he looks back in October 2026, he’d be able to say “I’m happy this happened, because the township is a better place for it.”

Here are Mayor Barton’s 10 things, in his own words:

significant progress on downtown revitalization. It’s the key to increasing the availability and affordability of housing, improving tourism opportunities, supporting the local economy and much more.



Mayor Dave Barton of Uxbridge presents 10 things he’d like to see occur in the next four years. Submitted photo

1. I want to see the new council really work together as a team. The new members bring some fresh new perspectives. I hope all of us bring some great new ideas from all those conversations on the doorstep during the campaign. And I don’t want to forget those candidates who weren’t elected. They wanted to contribute, and I’d like to see them get that opportunity.
2. The next few things are about projects carried over from the last term. The biggest one is supporting the hospital as they build the new healthcare campus at the Cottage Uxbridge Hospital site, including a new long term care
3. Completing the Brock Street culvert project allows us to change our downtown. We are poised to make

4. We are positioned to complete major upgrades in our parks, both urban and rural: completing the accessible playground in Elgin Park, making improvements at the Fields of Uxbridge, refurbishing the parks in the hamlets.
5. We need to continue to upgrade vital infrastructure in the township. There are bridges and culverts to repair, and another eight kilometres of gravel roads to pave by the end of this term.
6. Internet service needs to continue to improve, and we will continue to advocate for this. Our efforts so far mean that we should have high-

- speed to the the rest of rural Uxbridge in the very near future.
7. The modernization digitization of service delivery at town hall has made good progress, but we need to complete that work, to ensure that our services are efficient and totally accessible, 24/7.
  8. I’m a heavy user of our great trails, so my last three items are really from a wish list I’ve put together as I use them through the seasons. The first is that I’d love to see a portion of one of our wilderness trails as an off-leash dog-walking site. The park up at the museum is great, but you can’t really give your dog a proper walk there. I know some of our residents let their dogs off leash on our trails now; they need a trail where they can legally do that.
  9. I’d like to see improvements in infrastructure on most of our wilderness trails, things like benches and particularly washrooms.
  10. Last is a winter wish: a few groomed cross-country ski trails, so more of our residents can use them year-round.

I am only one voice on council, of course. I look forward to hearing what my colleagues bring forward for discussion as well.

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  - 15 "Excuse me ..."
  - 16 Amusement sound
  - 17 Genealogist's work
  - 18 Well built and curvy
  - 20 Presage
  - 22 Baglike structure
  - 24 Money spent
  - 27 Without equal
  - 31 Salty Chinese sauce
  - 32 Collar
  - 33 Tennis ball hit
  - 35 Branch of math
  - 40 Mysterious
  - 41 "Silent Night" adjective
  - 42 Shield
  - 44 Atlantic, for one
  - 48 "Carmina Burana" composer
  - 51 Cry loudly
  - 53 Dais
  - 54 Superman to Lois Lane
  - 55 Furthermore
  - 56 Small units of length, abbr.
  - 57 Tennyson work
  - 58 Messy place
  - 59 Hunted animal
- Down**
  - 1 Spill the beans
  - 2 Waikiki beach island
  - 3 Card type
  - 4 Small turnover
  - 5 "What a relief!"
  - 6 Not very bright
  - 7 Fourth-grader
  - 8 "Fiddler on the Roof" setting
  - 9 Crew need
  - 10 To \_\_ for
  - 11 Drink in a mug
  - 19 Blemish
  - 21 Owing
  - 23 Paddlers
  - 25 Moolah
  - 26 Scent
  - 27 You and me
  - 28 Loan document
  - 29 Combustible heap
  - 30 Office computer link
  - 34 One \_\_ one
  - 36 Angry
  - 37 Engagement
  - 38 Farm noise
  - 39 Bivouac
  - 43 Black powder
  - 45 Mideast ruler
  - 46 Proficient
  - 47 Snoopy
  - 48 Japanese sash
  - 49 "The Hunt for \_\_ October"
  - 50 Wray of "King Kong"
  - 52 Lad

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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 Blue Heron Studio. Email Gail: ghorner550@gmail.com

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

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# The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

## Avian cleanup crew

What’s that big dark bird overhead? Why does it have a bald head? Does it just soar around and around? Why does it wobble? Will it fall out of the sky? Why is its head so small? Ewww, what’s that stinky smell? If these thoughts have crossed your mind recently, perhaps

I can help. You’re likely observing a turkey vulture. Larger than a Canada goose, turkey vultures are big birds of prey. Unlike their hawk, eagle and osprey cousins, they don’t catch their food. Vultures are scavengers, the sanitation disposal squad of the

bird world, and they eat carrion - the flesh of dead animals. Soaring on warm updrafts, they use their keen sense of smell to find ripe carcasses such as roadkill. Often the body has started to rot, so it’s mushy and full of maggots. That may seem gross, but it’s nature’s way. Vultures are not powerful birds and rely on decomposition to break down the flesh of their prey. It can get pretty messy so vultures don’t grow feathers on their heads to keep them clean and maggot-free. That’s also why their heads seem small - no fluffy feathers to make them bigger. They have long wings with two-tone, dark and light grey, colouring

and hold them in a slight V-shape to aid with manoeuvring on the currents of air. The feathers at the tips of their wings are spread out like fingers. They rarely flap, preferring to soar. If the updraft is strong, they’ll often circle around inside the rising air pocket and scan the breezes for the scent of their next meal. Vultures are sometimes featured in western movies. The hero is left out in the desert by the bad guys to be devoured by “buzzards,” their accomplices in evil. Far from this nasty reputation, vultures are actually a vital part of the food chain by taking care of carrion. Without them, dead animal bodies would

pile up and diseases would spread. They’re not the cutest birds in the world, but they are an essential part of a healthy ecosystem. Cool facts:

- Its scientific name, *Cathartes aura*, means “golden purifier” or “purifying breeze.”
- Their stomach acid is very strong. This lets them eat carcasses with rabies and not get sick.
- When it’s hot they may defecate on their feet to cool off - yuck!
- They may vomit as a defense strategy - double yuck!

Nancy Melcher is *The Nature Nut*. Send details of your sightings or questions about the natural world to: [general@melcher.cx](mailto:general@melcher.cx)



A close-up of a turkey vulture’s bald head. Photo from the Audubon Field Guide

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