

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 18 No. 48

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Explore the Holiday Trail this weekend • Bruins tied for first! • New animal shelter - not this Christmas



YOU LIGHT UP OUR LIVES - Optimist Shawn Hermans, volunteer Ngaan Chan, and Bill Knapp, a retired electrician, happily stand at the ready to take donations from visitors to the Optimist Club of Uxbridge's 15th Fantasy of Lights. Along with the drive-thru trail, the walking trail is back this year - dogs are welcome, on a leash. There is limited accessible parking on site, so visitors are asked to park on one of the neighbouring streets, or take the Town Trolley, which is running a continuous route to the park from the parking lot behind Circle K. There is no entrance fee, and all donations support local youth. The Fantasy of Lights runs nightly from 6 - 9:30 p.m., until Jan. 1, 2023.

Photo and text by Justyne Edgell

New pool 'not in the cards' for Uxbridge

by Roger Varley

Uxbridge Township has, to all intents and purposes, abandoned the idea of a new swimming pool to replace the 51-year-old Uxpool.

While discussing a report by aquatic manager Carolyn Clementson regarding needed repairs to Uxpool, regional councillor Bruce Garrod said council has come to the conclusion that "the probability of a new pool is beyond our reach."

A new aquatic centre, scheduled to be located at the Fields of Uxbridge, has been on the books for years. However, Garrod said a three-way split on funding for the new pool failed to materialize and there are no current opportunities to split the cost between three levels of government.

Mayor Dave Barton concurred, saying "it looks like a new pool is not in the cards" unless a funding opportunity arises.

"At the moment, we don't see a path," he said.

Clementson's report said an audit of Uxpool in 2021 showed the facility "was found to be in fair condition with localized areas of concern where repairs or remedial work was recommended."

The report said close to \$140,000 worth of repairs were carried out in 2022. Almost \$220,000 worth of capital projects are recommended for 2023 and a further \$1.75 million in capital projects is projected for 2026-30. It

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for December, 2022

CANCELLED - Thursday, Dec. 8, 1:00 p.m.
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Monday, December 12, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday December 13, 1:00 p.m.
FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 15, 1:00 p.m.
FINANCE COMMITTEE

CANCELLED - Wed., Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

Proclamations for December
December 4 - 10 – Shop in Durham Week

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

Road Closures

Visit uxbridge.ca/roads for up-to-date notices

Employment Opportunities

Complete details and qualifications required for these positions are available at uxbridge.ca/careers

Current Opportunities

Development Services - Planning Technician

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

Crossing Guards - Resumes accepted on an ongoing basis

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

Public Notice

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

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

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

Uxbridge BIA Board of Directors Wanted!



The Uxbridge BIA Board of Directors is a Committee of Council for the Township of Uxbridge that is appointed for the Term of Council. As a result, we are welcoming **NEW DIRECTORS to join our team!**

If you have ideas on how we can improve our BIA area, please consider this opportunity to help shape our business community and make a difference to the vitality of our community. Our mandate is to promote 'shop, savour, unwind, explore Uxbridge'!

BIA Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday evening of each month, at 7:00 p.m., and are held virtually on Microsoft Teams.

Interested candidates who wish to help plan, evaluate and vote on projects to support our BIA member businesses are encouraged to **JOIN OUR BIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

Applications will be accepted until Friday, January 6, 2023, by the undersigned.

Debbie Leroux, dleroux@uxbridge.ca

Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

P.O. Box 190, 51 Toronto Street South

Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1T1

Phone 905-852-9181, ext. 228 Fax 905-852-9674



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Best Service Club
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Best Business Float
Domino's Pizza

Best Workmanship:
Country Casa Montessori

Honourable Mentions:
Uxbridge BIA
Uxbridge Scugog Animal Shelter

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



**Honour someone
this holiday with
a trail plaque!**

Visit www.uxbridge.ca

Winter Parking Reminder

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



November 1st to April 1st



**Uxpool Closed
for maintenance
Dec. 10 - Jan. 15**

Pool desk and squash court remain open



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

email: accessibility@uxbridge.ca
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209

Uxbridge at a Glance

Uxbridge Township Board & Committee Appointments 2023-2026

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge invites applications from members of the public who are qualified electors of the Township of Uxbridge who wish to have their names considered for a four-year appointment (term of Council – expiring November 2026) to one of the various Boards, Committees, etc. **Any** person interested in offering their services, and would accept an appointment (including present members with expired terms), are invited to submit a Volunteer-Committee Member Application Form available on the Township’s Website uxbridge.ca/volunteering along with a letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience to the undersigned by Friday, January 6, 2023. To view the complete list with ease, visit uxbridge.ca and click ‘Board & Committee Appointments’.

Any questions regarding these appointments may be directed to the Clerk.

Debbie Leroux
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
P.O. Box 190, 51 Toronto Street South
Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1T1
Email dleroux@uxbridge.ca
Phone 905-852-9181, ext. 228
Fax 905-852-9674

Accessibility Advisory Committee
This committee will provide advice to Council with respect to the Annual Accessibility Plan and matters relating to accessibility issues within the Community. Legislation requires the majority of the nine (9) voting members of the Committee to be persons with disabilities including visual, hearing, physical, speech, cognitive, perceptual and mental health. The other four (4) members shall include a Senior Citizen, a Member of Council and persons from the community with an interest in issues relating to persons with disabilities who may be employed by supporting agencies or parents of children with disabilities. Members shall be chosen for their expertise and commitment to the promotion and facilitation of a ‘barrier-free’ Uxbridge.

Active Transportation Committee
To advise Council on matters pertaining to active transportation and to advocate for and assist with the development and implementation of the Township's Active Transportation Plan to maintain and enhance Uxbridge as a safe, vibrant and active community for people of all ages and abilities. UXACT will encourage, promote and participate in the planning of active transportation policies, programs and facilities and will advise Council on implementation of aspects of the Official Plan Downtown Vision, specifically to “enable people to walk or bicycle from downtown into surrounding natural areas.”

Age Friendly Committee
The purpose of the Age-friendly Community Advisory Committee is to advise Council on the current state of age-friendliness of Uxbridge and recommend ways to optimize opportunities for residents to age in place and remain engaged in all aspects of civic and social life.

Canada Day Advisory Committee
To plan, budget and organize the community celebration for Canada Day.

Climate Adaptation and Transition Committee
The Climate Adaptation and Transition Committee requires volunteers with varying skills and backgrounds specifically in the areas of engineering, alternative energy, HVAC, IT, representation from the agricultural community, representation from the building industry. The Township will be looking to this team of 7-9 individuals to develop and move our climate action plan forward by providing advice, support and guidance to Council regarding climate change adaptation.

Committee of Adjustment
The Committee of Adjustment is appointed by Council pursuant to the provisions of The Planning Act to deal with applications for minor variances within the Township of Uxbridge. Applications submitted by an owner of land requesting a minor variance to the Townships’ zoning by-law, in respect of land, building or structure or the use of the land are also heard by the Committee of Adjustment. **Qualifications:** Preference is members who have a professional designation or background in land use planning. Interviews will be held to fill the positions of this committee.

Downtown Revitalization Committee
The Downtown Revitalization Committee provides a community perspective on how to achieve the Downtown Vision by providing advice to Council and Township of Uxbridge staff as it relates to carrying out and implementing the Downtown Revitalization Strategic Plan and Action Plan.

Economic Development Committee
Provide advice and recommendations to Council on matters relating to the attractions, development, and retention of all business sectors within the municipality inclusive of aggregates, manufacturing, commercial (personal service and retail), agriculture and home-based businesses.

Fence Viewers
Fence Viewers are appointed and follow a process as found in the Line Fences Act to resolve issues relating to disputes between owners of adjoining properties relating to line (boundary) fences. Council is required to appoint no less than three (3) fence viewers. The Fence Viewers are called upon only when the Township receives an application for a viewing by a property owner. This does not apply to residential fencing.

Heritage Committee
Function as an advocate for the preservation and conservation of heritage properties within the Township. Heritage Uxbridge shall advise and assist Council in matters relating to heritage conservation districts and individual structures and properties of historical, cultural and/or architectural significance.

Library Board
The Library Board operates under the authority of the Ontario Public Libraries Act (R.S.O. 1990, chapter P.44) and most public libraries or library systems in the province have such a governing board. The Board is responsible for

making policies for the operation of the Library; for obtaining adequate funding for Library materials, services and programs; and for promoting the Library in the community. The nine (9) Library Board members are appointed by the Township of Uxbridge Council for a 4-year term that runs concurrently with the term of the appointing Municipal Council.

Museum Advisory Committee
The Uxbridge Historical Centre Museum Advisory Committee shall advise, comment on, recommend and assist Council with specific reference to the operation and management of the Uxbridge Historical Centre (Uxbridge-Scott Museum & Archives) and the delivery of museum services to the community in compliance with relevant municipal, provincial and federal legislation. The Advisory Committee will achieve this purpose by working with Council, Township staff, other Township committees, and related agencies.

Music Hall Board
To advise Township Staff and Council on the operation of the Music Hall in a business-like manner such that the budgets are adhered to, the Hall meets the needs of the various users and the community and to ensure that the building, equipment and furnishings are properly maintained. To actively promote the use of the Music Hall by the community and various users so that the facility is utilised as much as possible.

Property Standards Committee
This Committee, pursuant to the provisions of the Building Code Act, deals with matters related to the Township’s Property Standard By-laws and the Town’s Official Plan. When the owner or occupant of a property in Uxbridge, upon whom an order has been served by a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, is not satisfied with the terms or conditions of the order, the owner or occupant may appeal to the Property Standards Committee. The Township of Uxbridge Property Standards Committee, in hearing appeals, has all the powers and functions of the officer who made the order and the Committee may do any of the following things if, in the Committee’s opinion, doing so would maintain the general intent and purpose of the Townships By-law and of the Official Plan or policy statement:

1. Confirm, modify or rescind the order to demolish or repair.
 2. Extend the time for complying with the order.
- A minimum of three (3) members who must be available to conduct site inspections of subject properties and be objective, possess relevant education component or equivalent experience and have an open mind in order to fully consider the evidence provided.

Region of Durham Land Division Committee
One Citizen member to be appointed. Qualities associated with an appropriate appointment to the Regional Land Division Committee would include some knowledge of Provincial, Regional and Municipal Land Use Statutes, experience with public speaking, Diplomacy. The position would be similar to our Committee of Adjustment appointees. We ask the following:

1. Please provide a summary of your experience serving on a Board or Committee in an elected or appointed capacity for an agency, board or commission, ratepayer group or similar organization. Include the name of the Board/Committee/Commission, your years of service, and

an overview of your contributions.

2. Please describe your relevant education, occupational background, experience, and/or qualifications, and how your appointment will benefit the Committee.

Santa Claus Parade Committee
Assist with the planning of the Santa Claus Parade.

Tourism Advisory Committee
Given the wealth of cultural tourism attractions, events and the potential economic benefit to the entire municipality, a Tourism Advisory Board has been established as a Committee of Council to pursue this and other related initiatives. The proposed mandate/responsibilities are: completion of a draft Uxbridge Tourism Plan; coordination of the Tourism Ambassador program; liaison and coordination with Region of Durham Department of Tourism and Economic Development and Central Counties; manage data relating to events, cultural sites and media mappings; coordinate and evaluate promotion and marketing of events and sites; managing the execution of the Social Media policy as related to Tourism initiatives; and coordinate the production of brochures and tourism-related signage. We are looking for 6 to 8 members with tourism/event/digital media expertise to join the Board, with some representation from the following stakeholders: Trails Association, Chamber of Commerce, BIA, Agriculture, Culture, Hospitality and Recreation.

Uxbridge Town Trails Committee
This Committee oversees the development of new recreational trails and maintenance of existing trails in the urban area of the Town of Uxbridge. The Uxbridge Town Trails Committee meets 3 to 4 times per year, and includes representation from local conservation authorities, Township Council, township staff, and trail volunteers. Committee members may also sit on additional working groups and assist with trail projects throughout the year. Community residents who are interested in trail development and are able to participate actively in discussions and projects would be most welcome.

Goodwood Community Association
The purpose of this Committee is to make recommendations to Township staff for improvements to the facility and its operation, as well as bring any matters of concern to the immediate attention of staff. This committee will actively promote the use of the Community Centre by the community and various users so that the facility is utilized as much as possible. Meetings are conducted once a month.

Sandford Community Association
The purpose of this Committee is to make recommendations to Township staff for improvements to the facility and its operation, as well as bring any matters of concern to the immediate attention of staff. The goal is to actively promote the use of the Community Centre by the community and various users so that the facility is utilized as much as possible. Meetings are conducted once a month.

Zephyr Community Association
The purpose of this Committee is to make recommendations to Township staff for improvements to the facility and its operation, as well as bring any matters of concern to the immediate attention of staff. This committee will actively promote the use of the Community Centre by the community and various users so that the facility is utilized as much as possible. Meetings are conducted once a month.

Our two cents

Stop the slippery slide

When Bill 23 was first introduced to the province on Oct. 25 - the very day after municipal elections were held across Ontario - *Cosmos* editor Lisha Van Nieuwenhove immediately called a meeting with Roger Varley and Conrad Boyce, the *Cosmos*'s two civic journalists. The group discussed the severe ramifications of the Bill, namely the stripping of municipal powers with regards to development, the effect taking over portions of the Greenbelt would have on the township (none of the Greenbelt lands slated for development are *in* the Township of Uxbridge, but the township will be affected nonetheless.), and the collapsing of 36 conservation authorities into one - one that would have very little to do.

The meeting resulted in divvying up workloads and immediately investigating not only what the Bill would mean to Ontarians, but also finding out what Ontarians, including our municipal and regional council, were going to do to fight the absurdity. We quickly discovered that they were going to do very little.

We couldn't fathom why no one else seemed to be up in arms against a piece of legislation that would likely result in property taxes going up substantially, in acres of arable farmland being used to put up housing that will still be too expensive for Average Joe to afford, and, in an age when environmental consciousness is at the fore, reduce conservation oversight to next to nothing. The Bill's contents, the fake "consultation process", the undemocratic nature of the entire situation was staring Ontarians in the face, and no one seemed to care. That seemed to be a news story unto itself.

But it appears that it just took a bit longer for the match to strike and fire to light. We think it's still on a slow burn, but it's heating up. The general population is starting to tune in and realize how this Bill, which was passed (during the "consultation process") last Monday, Nov. 28, is going to directly affect them and their bank accounts, and are starting to push back (see Nov. 17's front page photo of a protest outside MPP Bethlenfalvy's Pickering office). Council and staff, whom we've spoken with regarding the Bill, appear to know precious little about how exactly it's going to affect budget talks and tax increases, and that's through no fault of theirs. Information regarding Bill 23 fallout appears to be released in dribs and drabs, and our municipal government is being left to work with other municipal governments around the province to try and make sense of the whole mess. This is particularly difficult when a new council is trying to establish next year's budget; staff in the various departments have already prepared their budgets, and now they have to adjust and readjust again, as information comes in.

Letters to the Editor regarding this deplorable situation are starting to appear in not only this paper, but the dailies as well. The news is starting to relay the outcry various affected groups are now making. Some are even calling for a banding together of all the municipalities in Ontario so they can present an unyielding force *against* the provincial government and its slide towards dictatorship.

The *Cosmos* will be unabashedly supportive of any action the general populace, municipal governments, and other organizations take to stop this Bill and its fallout. People often say, "Well, it's a slippery slope..." We're standing on the brink of such a slope right now.

Your Universe


The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Letters to the Editor

Kudos to the *Cosmos* for featuring the undemocratic actions of our premier (Dec. 1 edition) who, by the way, is strongly supported by our local MPP, Peter Bethlenfalvy.

It is clear they wanted to hide their plans until after the June '22 election and well before the June '26 election. By naming regional chairs, assigning super powers to certain mayors and by preventing consultation, they are disrespecting basic democratic principles the same way they have disrespected most of our public servants and the environment.

They have also disrespected each of us by expecting that we would believe developers would invest millions of dollars buying land without first knowing those protected lands would be available for housing.

The cost to all of us is that we will have to pay infrastructure costs for these new homes and subdivisions. The township will not be able to charge development charges to developers to pay for road, sewers, water systems, libraries, community centres and arts and athletic programs.

Mr. Bethlenfalvy needs to hear our concerns and we need to remember them in 2026.

John McLean
Uxbridge

Re: 'Brownie Power,' Nov. 24 edition

Although I generally agree with your viewpoints in the *Cosmos*, I was taken aback by your most recent piece on the Brownie name change. If a name is causing people pain and suffering, I really don't

understand how one can justify not to change it. It is otherwise saying that a name is more important than the people it is serving.

Nostalgia should never hold us back from driving positive change in this world. The psychological conditionings that block us from seeing the subconscious harm that we are causing to the marginalized is real. The more we recognize it in ourselves, the more we can help others see it as well and abolish archaic thinking. It's these tiny steps that make a huge difference over generations.

Let's leave the past behind for a brighter and more equitable future.

Kasia Malz
Sandy Hook

At our recent family Thanksgiving dinner, we had a conversation which revealed that, in the film industry, there is a position that used to be known as 'Best Boy', and is now called 'Assistant Key Grip', the reason for the change being that not everyone in this position is, in actuality, male.

What took place next was a debate that fell along generational lines. On one side there were older family members who didn't see why that mattered enough to warrant a change, and on the other side were younger family members who saw value in the change of title. The conversation built momentum as other recent changes were brought into the fold, namely Ryerson University being renamed to Toronto Metropolitan University, and the MLB's Cleveland Indians being renamed the Cleveland Guardians.

This newspaper is not exempt from this generational divide: see columnist Roger Varley admonishing any criticism of late Queen Elizabeth II's legacy, or Eleanor Todd lamenting over Egerton Ryerson's besmirched legacy in Letters to the Editor, to *Cosmos* publisher Lisha Van Nieuwenhove's outrage over the Girl Guides' plan to rename one of their branches, the Brownies, so that it is more inclusive.

For some, there is this idea that history should be immutable and everlasting. When legacies are called into question and historical names of institutions and organizations are changed, there is an almost visceral reaction from older folks that things are being taken too far by contemporary society.

For others, we believe that history is written by the victor - which we now identify by name as the oppressive forces of patriarchy, white supremacy, ableism, classism. Experiences, perspectives, and figures of marginalized groups are now being given the long-overdue acknowledgement they deserve, and it is being reflected in the changes we are seeing.

As society continues to reckon with a past rife with inequality and injustice, we are being called upon to think more critically about ourselves, about our relationships with others, about our work, and about our country. Part of what it means to think critically is to think about our biases and to unlearn them in the face of new information that doesn't support our original ideas. If that new information is telling you

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Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

It's all downhill from here

At what point does the average person decide to turn around and tell government to back off and mind its own business? At what point does government turn around and tell the insurance industry to back off and mind *its* own business?

Those questions arise from a report that was presented to council on Monday which saw our municipal government decide that only one hill in the urban area can be sanctioned by the township as a toboggan hill. That's the hill at the arena, perhaps the most popular spot in town to go "slip sliding away." The other five hills (see page 9 for a list) have been deemed to be "unsanctioned." Presumably, that means you ride at your own risk if you take your sled down one of those.

Well, hello, isn't that what tobogganing is all about? Who hasn't stood and watched kids sliding downhill, flying over hastily packed snow ramps, being run down by other sledgers, falling off a sled and taking a faceful of snow? A perfect run down a toboggan hill is something to be savoured, all the more so because the sledder knows there are fewer perfect runs than spills and flips. And, for most kids, the faster the run, the better. Tobogganing is one of the few things a kid can do for exercise without spending a lot of money. Heck, you don't even need a toboggan: when I was a kid, a nice sizable piece of cardboard would do just as well.

The report in question says the Durham Municipal Insurance Pool (DMIP) has been studying the safety of toboggan hills across Durham Region and provided Uxbridge with a risk assessment for all six hills where tobogganing occurs. DMIP apparently recommended the regulations and conditions that Courtney Clarke, parks and trails manager, asked council to approve. Those regulations are listed in our council story. Given that a lot of everyday activity in our society appears to be regulated by the insurance industry, I'm surprised those regulations and conditions don't require toboggan riders to wear helmets and padding. I'm also surprised there is no rule forbidding riders from building snow ramps for the added thrill of take-off halfway down the slope. I will not be surprised if such

rules are put into place down the road.

Only the insurance industry - and government - can take a simple childhood pleasure and tie it up with red tape. For example, if five-year-old Jennie is riding her tricycle, she must, by Ontario law, wear a helmet. I doubt little Jennie will take her trike down a busy highway. She likely will be in the company of a parent or restrict her riding to the sidewalk and driveway in front of her home. But she must wear a helmet. What's next? Helmets on swings and teeter-totters?

A quick Google search shows four toboggan-related deaths in Ontario since 2000 - one of those occurred when a child on a toboggan was hit by a pickup truck. So, it's not as though this is a particularly deadly form of recreation. Kids are going to incur bumps and scrapes whatever fun activity they're engaged in: it's a fact of life and part of growing up. We can't swaddle them in cotton wool until they reach adulthood.

I'd suggest riding a toboggan down a snow-covered hill in the crisp, fresh winter air is a lot safer - and healthier - than just walking along a street in Toronto, where people are being randomly attacked by strangers on an almost daily basis. Just a couple of days ago, a woman was stabbed in the back with a needle by a man passing by. Heck, I'd say a run down Outlook Hill is a lot safer than a Toronto street.

Councillor Zed Pickering, chair of the parks, facilities and tourism committee, remarked that it is nice to see the township will monitor the arena hill. That raises another question: will that mean that, somewhere down the road, monitoring will be expanded to someone actually monitoring the actions of the sledders and removing those who don't conform? Sounds like a silly question, I know, but in my lifetime I've seen crazier things happen.

What other childhood activities are likely to catch the insurance industry's - and government's - attention? It seems to me that council's support of the recommendations in this report could be that "slippery slope" we're always talking about.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Gender equality still three centuries away

During a visit to Sarnia, on Monday, conversation around the dinner party table gravitated to the state of women's rights past and present. One of the women I met at the party recalled that back in the 1950s, an Ontario board of education had forced her mother, a teacher - the moment she got married - to resign from her position at the school. My mother, an American immigrant to Canada at the time, expressed her disgust at such discriminatory rules at the time.

"What makes a wife or mother less effective as a teacher?" I remember my mother saying. In fact, the practice of restricting the employment of married women was fairly common in Western countries beginning in the late 19th century and continuing right into the 1970s. Known as the "marriage bar," school boards actually pressured married women to cut back on their hours of employment, to retire early, or to resign completely so that schools could make their jobs available for others (presumably men, or younger, unmarried women). The marriage bar considered women as surplus employees. It was sexist at least, misogynistic at its worst.

Our conversation proved all the more ironic when somebody pointed out that the next day, Dec. 6, was the 33rd anniversary of the massacre of the 14 women engineering students at *École Polytechnique* in Montreal. On that day back in 1989, an antifeminist shooter entered a mechanical engineering class at the school, ordered the women to one side of the room, told the men to leave, and shot nine women in the class (killing six); he then moved through the corridors and shot eight more female students before taking his own life. The massacre is commemorated as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Women's rights and women's equality have also cropped up - quite rightly - in a number of other contexts in recent weeks. When video of Mahsa Amini being abused in the custody of Iran's morality police because she hadn't abided by the Islamic republic's strict rules for women to cover their hair, rioting broke out across the country; protestors even called for the overthrow of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. And chants of "Say her name, Mahsa Amini," reverberated among protestors outside one of the stadiums ahead of Iran's first soccer match during the current World Cup competition in Qatar.

Meanwhile, earlier this fall, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs published a progress report on gender equality. The study of the progress of women in achieving gender equity by 2030 suggested that COVID-19 and the backlash against women's sexual and reproductive health and rights have diminished the chance to reach that objective. It said that violence against women remains high, and that global health and humanitarian crises have increased the risks of violence against the most vulnerable women and girls.

"Achieving full gender equality, one of 17 sustainable development goals," the UN DESA said, "could take close to 300 years."

Back at the dinner gathering in Sarnia, the topic of education and women's equality continued. One woman remembered that her mother - despite the marriage bar - had managed to keep her job as a teacher until she got pregnant; then she was let go. I noted that my wife had always wanted to become a veterinarian, but back in the 1960s when she explored entry criteria in the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, she learned that the school only allowed four women per year to enter veterinary training. The conversation then shifted to our daughters, and their career aspirations in the 1990s and early 2000s. We all commented on how far things appeared to have come from the days of the marriage bar. Several of us mentioned that our daughters had chosen to teach, and that they'd taught as working wives and mothers. One woman in the group mentioned that her daughter had become an engineer.

"What an achievement," I said. Then I admitted that my comment was in part a reflex response to the imminent *École Polytechnique* massacre anniversary. "I guess we still haven't gotten past the murders of the 14 engineering students in this country. And probably won't for a long time." Then I remembered the younger Trudeau's answering a reporter's question about why he'd chosen to have gender parity in his first federal government cabinet. "Because it's 2015," he quipped.

Seven years on, and we haven't reached gender parity or equality in so many other aspects of work and life - in Canada or anywhere else for that matter. And still women wait for change.

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Throughout December, shop and dine in Uxbridge and discover **Holidays Around the World** featured in the shop windows, enjoy Holiday Trail specials at local restaurants and attend festive events!

December 9 and 10, the **Holiday Trail Comes to Life** with musical characters, a **Toonie Trail**, and a wave through the window for Mrs. Claus! Enjoy a **Holiday Trail special** at a local eatery, hop on a trolley for a drive through the Fantasy of Lights, and a drive through the Fantasy of Lights.

Grab a map, drop off donations for the Toy Drive, and warm up at the Warming Station at 23 Brock St.



Holidays Around the World

December 9 & 10
5 - 8 pm

- Shop late and pick up special items for a toonie along the way
- Dine at participating restaurants and enjoy Holiday Trail specials
- Hop on a trolley ride through the Optimist Club's Fantasy of Lights in Elgin Park
- Warm up by the Fire, sponsored by Cobra Fireplace & Grills
- Have a photo taken with the Grinch in the Holistic Salt Therapy Cave
- Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus through the window at H. Bee Architecture

December 9 only
5 - 8 pm

- Pfefferlaw Creek Farms - Maple Syrup Taffy on Snow at 23 Brock St. at the Cobra Fireplace Warming Station
- Molly Priestman and Kyla Lake, Singer/Guitar Duo at The Bridge Social
- Meet Princesses Elsa and Anna from 'Frozen' at Community Cleaning
- Cathy Lombard Pottery Pop-up at Preston Gallery

5 - 6:15 pm

- Music by Leah Daniels at Low's Furniture, sponsored by Castool Tooling
- Music by Just.Jess. at Preston Gallery

6:30 - 8pm

- Music by Julien Kelland at Low's Furniture, sponsored by Castool Tooling

December 10 only
5 - 8 pm

- Liam O'Connell Ball, T
- Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus
- Cathy Lombard Pottery

5 - 6:15 pm

- Music by Leah Daniels at Low's Furniture, sponsored by Castool Tooling

6 - 8 pm

- Music by Just.Jess. at Preston Gallery

6:30 - 8pm

- Music by Julien Kelland at Low's Furniture, sponsored by Castool Tooling

Holiday Trail Windows & Toonie Trail

Reilly Back CPAs and Prosper Financial Group

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Gourmet Home Food

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Transit Travel

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Mani Tea

Chinese New Year. Stop in for a freshly made egg waffle or hot ginger pineapple green tea for a toonie

Holistic Salt Therapy and Cave

Whoville. Have your photo taken with the Grinch in the salt cave and visit the Gingerbread Man

The Lemonade Stand

Walking in a Nordic Wonderland. Pickup delicious chocolate bark for a toonie

Cycle Solutions

Fat bike season in Uxbridge

TIN Restaurant and Caffé

Nutcrackers of Germany. Dine-in or take-out to enjoy TIN's holiday trail special

Presents Presents Presents

A Canadiana Christmas. Purchase a silicone tea infuser for a toonie

Blue Heron Books

A World of Holiday Stories. Offering a surprise book for a toonie

The Bridge Social

Canadian Christmas in the Woods. Indulge in a delicious Christmas cookie for a toonie. Dec. 9 & 10 enjoy live music in the window

Jillian's

Holiday Fashion Around the World

Passionate Cook's Essentials

Foods from Around the World. Enjoy Belgian chocolate for a toonie!

Woods Clothing

Christmas in Denmark. Offering hand-crafted Christmas gift tags by Steph Law for a toonie

Low's Furniture

Sounds of the season. Dec. 9 & 10, enjoy live music sponsored by Castool Tooling, and complimentary cocoa!

Rutledge Jewellers

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Preston Gallery

I'll be home for Christmas in Canada! Decorate an ornament for a toonie

Sudz Bar at Community Cleaning

'Frozen' in Norway. Meet & greet with Princesses Elsa & Anna on Dec. 9 & Olaf on Dec. 10 & enjoy hot drinks and cookies

H Bee Architecture

Winter Forest. Dec. 9 & 10 - Visit Santa & Mrs. Claus through the winter forest window



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McLaughlin and Matthew
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Community Cleaning

Lombard Pottery Pop-up at
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by Ben Hudson at Low's
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by Else Langhans at Preston
y

pm

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Furniture, sponsored by
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Places to Dine

Find Holiday Trail Specials at these eateries.

Navarra's Eatery

Enjoy special holiday drinks such as a "Mistletoe Martini"

Mani Tea

Drop in for a freshly made egg waffle or hot ginger pineapple green tea for \$2

Universal Wings and Burgers

For the Holiday Trail, order a single deal and get a dessert free

Boba Boy

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Fig Kitchen and Market

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Urban Pantry Restaurant

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TIN Restaurant and Caffé

Featuring a Holiday Trail special

Wixan's Bridge

Photos with Santa 12 - 3 pm, Dec. 9, 10, 11, 17, 18 and donations to the food bank

Corner House

Enjoy a Holiday Trail Special

Booster Juice

Enjoy a complimentary Candy Cane Booster Ball with purchase of a Gingerbread Smoothie

Slabtown Cider Co.

Enjoy a Holiday Trail special

Holiday Events

Visit DiscoverUxbridge.ca/events

Fantasy of Lights

Dec. 3 to Jan. 1. Daily from 6 - 9:30 pm

Town Trolley Tours

Dec. 3 to Jan. 1. Fridays & Saturdays, 5 - 9:30 pm

York Durham Heritage Railway

Holiday trains. Nov. 25 to Dec. 24

The Bridge Social

Fiddler Michelle Charlton, Dec. 10, 11:30 am - 12:15 pm

Holiday Howl

14 Brock Street, Dec. 10, 10 am - 4 pm

Leaskdale Loop with Christmas Markets

Dec. 10, 10 am - 4 pm

The Nutcracker

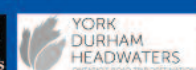
Uxbridge Dance Academy, Dec. 14 - 18

Uxbridge Messiah Singers

Dec. 19 & 20



DiscoverUxbridge.ca/HolidayTrail



Win streak ends but Bruins tied for first

by Roger Varley

A seven-game winning streak ended for the Uxbridge Bruins a week ago when the league-leading Clarington Eagles doubled them 4-2. But the

Bruins came back the following night to down the Georgina Ice 6-4 and earn a share of first place with the Eagles in the seven-team PJHL Orr Division. However, the Eagles have three games in hand.

The loss to the Eagles was a squeaker. The Bruins opened the scoring early in the first period, with Anthony Lamanna converting a pass from Quinn Meek, Travis Winder also assisted. Clarington tied the

score with just about one minute left in the period.

The only scoring in the second was a power-play goal by the Eagles midway through the period.

Clarington scored again early in the third, but Meek narrowed the gap, assisted by Lamanna and Winder, midway through the stanza. Then, with Clarington a man short, the Bruins pulled goalie Noah Acciaccferri for the extra attacker, but the Eagles managed an empty-net marker.

The following night, the Bruins hosted the Ice in a bruising battle at the arena. Matt Gordon opened the scoring early in the first period when a beautiful move around the Ice defence put him alone in front of the goal. Noah Button assisted. Peter Kerr made it 2-0 four minutes later, assisted by Meek and Lamanna. The Ice scored their first a few minutes later but Lamanna, assisted by Kerr, regained the two-goal edge with a power-play marker. Not to be intimidated, Georgina came back less than a minute later to make it 3-2.

Due to some sloppy work by the Bruins in the corners, Georgina

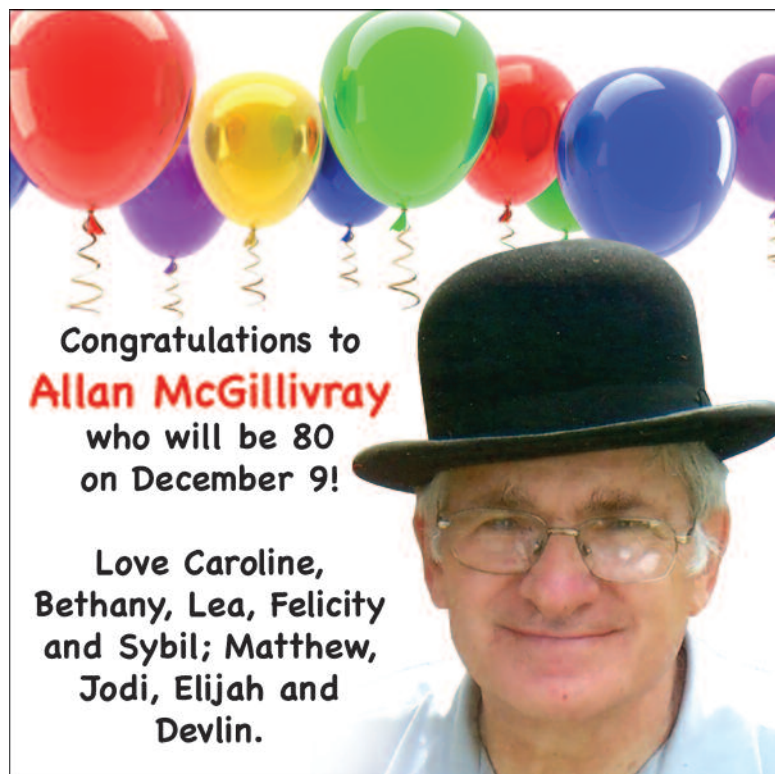
evened the score early in the second, but as the period wound down, Andrew Swan sent a long lead pass to Kerr who then relayed to Lamanna for the lead again. Less than a minute later, Swan blasted in a shot from the blue line, assisted by Joshua Czali and Kerr.

Georgina wasn't ready to give up and capitalized on a bad move by the Bruins defence six minutes into the final period to make it 5-4. Then, with the Georgina goalie pulled in favour of the extra attacker with 2 1/2 minutes left in the period, Swan out the game away with an empty-netter.

The *Cosmos* named Gordon as player of the game for Uxbridge and Reed Tang for the Ice.

The Bruins meet the Lakefield Chiefs at the arena tomorrow (Friday) night at 7:45 p.m. and then head to Little Britain on Saturday to face the Merchants.

Bear pause: Prior to last Friday night's game, Quinn Meek was presented with an award as player of the month for November. During the month, he racked up an impressive nine goals and three assists.



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No pool for Uxbridge, from page 1

said the 2023 proposed expenditures should be referred to upcoming budget discussions and Clementson will return with another report in January.

Finance committee chair Willie Popp said it is possible the budget discussion could see some of the reserves set aside for the proposed new pool used to pay for the repairs to Uxpool.

As for the new pool, Barton said an area of the Fields of Uxbridge was set aside for the proposed facility in the park's master plan, but added that council will now have to balance its priorities.

Tobogganing options go downhill: When snow finally arrives in Uxbridge, those who wish to go tobogganing on township property will find their options severely limited this year.

In a report to council, Courtney Clarke, manager of parks and trails, said only one hill in the urban area will be sanctioned for downhill sliding. The report said six locations identified as toboggan hills in Uxbridge were the Uxbridge arena hill; the Uxbridge Historical Centre; the Elgin Park hill; the Barton Trail Pond hill; Herrema Park hill and Lookout Hill in the Uxbridge Countryside Preserve.

Clarke said that, of the six, only two can be considered sanctioned and the rest must have permanent signage stating the hill is unsanctioned. Sanctioned hills are those that the township is willing to inspect, maintain, sign and have a process to report a hazard or injury.

For hills that are sanctioned, Clarke proposed a series of regulations to be put in

place. They included developing a formal inspection program for each toboggan hill location; considering a flag system to inform the public of the condition of the hill; and developing official hours of operation.

The report said only the arena toboggan hill is currently inspected regularly and is the only hill officially recognized by the Parks Department.

Council voted in favour of the report's recommendations.



Face to Face Encounters Healing Ministry

13448 Hwy #48, Stouffville
Friday, December 9, 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Family Worship Centre

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EVENTS

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER Christmas Day, 12:00 noon at the Senior's Center. All are welcome. No charge. Please call St. Paul's Anglican Church at 905-852-7016 to register.

LEASKDALE LOOP DAY Sat., Dec. 10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. A self-guided tour to discover artisans, cider, maple syrup, baked goods, greenery and live Christmas carolers! Visit 2 Christmas markets at Tindall's Farm and PC Farm. www.leaskdaleloop.ca

UXBRIDGE SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB catered lunches have resumed! Every 3rd Tuesday at noon. Tickets are \$15 for members and available at the centre in the Gathering Room Mondays, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tickets NOT sold at the door.

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Letters, from page 4

that the impact of a name, a legacy, is harming a group that historically and currently face systemic discriminatory barriers, does that not warrant a moment of pause and reflection before charging in defending it? We're not talking about one random person making a complaint. When a name is being changed it is reflecting the voices within a marginalized group.

Those who want historical legacies to remain intact do so because they recognize the importance of a name. But it is interesting to note that these same people, when confronted with these changes, question why people care so much about a new name - the hypocrisy.

The world is trying to make room to include others who were relegated to the margins of society. My question to the folks who want to keep society stagnate - why can't we craft the society we want to live in?

My mother recently shared that she was scared of unknowingly holding onto ideas, sayings, and actions that, at best, no longer serve the same function, and at worst, cause actual harm to others. She wants to be a grandmother, and recognizing that change is inevitable, she wants to continue to learn new ideas and shed antiquated ones.

When family and friends in Pickering come together to celebrate this month, they will likely debate the re-naming of one of their local schools, 'Sir John A. Macdonald Public School', to 'Biidaasige Mandamin Public School' (pronounced Bee-daw-si-geh Maan-daa-min). It is my hope that during those family dinners, people critically reflect on what this change means for our society.

*Tonia Lyons
Uxbridge*

Still no sign of a new animal shelter

by Roger Varley

At the annual general meeting of the New Animal Shelter for Uxbridge and Scugog (NASUS), there was a feeling of frustration among some attendees at the lack of progress on building a new animal shelter.

Township clerk Debbie Leroux told the gathering that the township is "diligently" working to find partners to help finance the project and is exploring a number of options. She said when the shelter was originally tendered, the responses were more than the shelter project had fundraised. She noted there wasn't even enough money to build a scaled-back version.

"It made no sense to carry on," she said.

In reply to a question from the floor, Leroux said there is no room

available to expand the existing shelter on its current site.

Over the years, the NASUS committee has raised about \$1 million. Some of that money has been spent on pre-build activities such as architect fees, surveys and contractor deposits.

Leroux said the township is not prepared to move ahead with the project until all the funds are in place. Asked what is the "magic number" required, Leroux said she couldn't begin to say how much will be needed to start the project.

One attendee, Lori Kennedy, said the group needs some kind of figure in order to set a goal. She said a lot of people have stopped donating to the cause "because it's going nowhere."

Thank You

O'BEIRN The family of the late Edward O'Beirn wish to express their sincere thanks to the many family members and friends for their condolences and expressions of sympathy.

We appreciate the staff of Douglas Crossing for their care and support of Ed during his last few years, and the staff of Uxbridge Hospital during his last few weeks. Thank you to all who sent flowers and attended the Funeral Mass, especially to both Father Gerard Pilon, and Monsignor John Pilkauskas, who officiated at the Funeral Mass, and to the CWL for their wonderful act of service to us through serving the luncheon. Also, we appreciate the streamlined service provided by Low and Low Funeral Home. We are comforted knowing that Ed will be remembered with love and affection.



Philip Joseph June 20, 1925 - September 7, 2022



Philip died peacefully at Douglas Crossing, in Uxbridge, Ontario. Many thanks to family and friends and all the caring staff, including Elin, Dr. Tsvi Gallant and Dr. Kristen Giller, who were very supportive through his last months.

Philip lived a full and adventurous life. Born in the east end of London, England, his family faced severe challenges after his father (a Boxer and Docker) died tragically when Philip was five. In spite of many after school chores, he gained a scholarship to Raines School and an RAF scholarship to Oxford University.

When he was 14, he enrolled as a fire warden during the Blitz and became an RAF fighter pilot in 1943. He joined the British labour movement as a shop floor worker, union steward and community organizer. He believed in and worked towards a more equitable and kind world.

He was assisted in his political and personal goals by marriage to his "soulmate," Madeleine, in July, 1953. Their honeymoon was on a motorbike exploring Europe and dipping behind the Iron Curtain. It was a long, warm and successful marriage ending, sadly, with Madeleine's death in 2007.

Philip gained a UK engineering degree through part-time study and full-time work. He became a railway and road engineer in the early 1960's in the UK.

Philip emigrated with his family to Toronto in 1965, and had a successful career with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, overseeing sewage and water works.

Philip was an active volunteer and engaged in many worthwhile causes, including time spent on the board of Flemington Health Centre, teaching yoga to seniors and running marathons to raise money for health care. He participated in numerous marches and wrote letters for important causes.

Philip was an avid reader and writer and published an historical novel, "Arise", and an autobiography, "A Life at Large", and has a collection of short stories and poetry. Music was a great comfort and he loved to sing. He found solace in painting in his last years and remained committed to world peace and saving the planet.

He is succeeded by his daughter Nicola, his son Stephen (Marcia), as well as grandchildren Philip and Jacob, and will be much missed by all. In Philip's words, "It's been good to know ya."



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