Uxbridge Cosm Thursday, July 27, 2023 Vol. 19 No. 29

West Nile found in west Oshawa • Parking fees pay off • 'X' doesn't mark the spot



HIGHLAND FLING - All those who competed in the Highland Dance competition during the Uxbridge Scottish Festival celebrate one final dance together at the Rotary Bandshell in Elgin Park. The Uxbridge Scottish Festival welcomed hundreds of visitors to the park last Saturday. Photo by John Cavers

Memorial ticket sales need to catch fire

Roger Varley

"We want the town to make it a really big

So said Fire Chief Mike MacDonald last week as he spoke about the Uxbridge Fire Department's drive to raise funds for a firefighter memorial.

The fire department is currently selling tickets for a \$20,000 first prize in its efforts to raise \$400,000 to have the memorial put in place next year. However, MacDonald admitted ticket sales are not exactly going like a house on fire. The Sept. 15 draw is coming up quickly, and only about half of the 2,000 \$50 tickets have been sold.

The memorial is being erected to honour

COMING SOON

Uxbridge firefighters who have died as a result of fighting fires and those who have passed away while still on active duty, as well as marking the department's 150th anniversary.

"A lot of new people in town don't realize that this is a volunteer fire department," MacDon-

The memorial will feature a slightly largerthan-life statue of a modern firefighter in full gear standing atop a large granite base. Around the bottom half of the statue will be pieces of old-fashioned gear to evoke the department's long history. The base will also feature a rendition of the Firefighter's Prayer.

The statue, which will be situated in a memorial garden in front of the fire hall, is being sculpted by Tyler Briley of Port Perry, a former

Scarborough firefighter. Briley is the artist who produced the bas relief of Col. Sam Sharpe that was installed in the Centre Block of the Parliament buildings in Ottawa in November, 2018.

MacDonald said the firefighters have been helped in their cause by the Rotary Club of Uxbridge and the Uxbridge Scott Historical Society. Rotary was able to secure the necessary licence to run the raffle, while the Historical Society can issue tax receipts to anyone making actual donations to the cause (minimum donation required). At the same time, MacDonald said, the fire department is waiting to hear whether their project has qualified for a federal

MacDonald said that in its 150-year history, ... continued on page 3















Paddocks

-Several outbuildings Secondary

905.642.6333 debbijefferson@bell.net

.ys Howard And Dr

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

The Township of UXBRIDGE

Trail Capital of Canada

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MORE INFO www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for July, 2023

Monday, July 31, 7:00 p.m. BIA BOARD MEETING

Fridays at the Foster Concert Series

9449 Conc. 7 (Durham 1) www.thomasfostermemorial.com

Every Friday night from 7:30 - 8:30pm from May to September.

Admission is by donation at the door.

July 28 - Laurelle Augustyn – Vocals/Guitar

Employment Opportunities

Complete details of all open positions are available at www.uxbridge.ca/careers/

Clerk's Department Receptionist/Administrative Assistant,
permanent, part-time
Closes Friday, July 28, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Community Services Department - Arena Attendant Assistants (adult), part-time,

8-month contract Closes Friday, August 11, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Community Services Department - Arena Attendant Assistants (student), part-time, 8-month contract

Closes Friday, August 11, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Uxbridge Public Library - Student positions

Closes Friday, August 11, 2023

Uxpool – Lifeguards and/or Instructors, Fall season

Closes Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

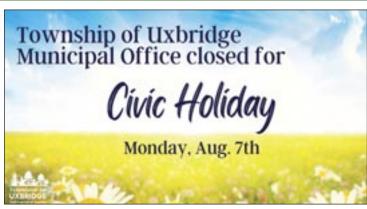
Public Works and Operations Crossing Guards

Resumés accepted on an ongoing basis.

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to http://www.uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders

RFP U23-17 – Arena Pro Shop Closes August 1, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.







Additional road restrictions are listed at www.uxbridge.ca/roads





Township of Uxbridge Board & Committee Appointments

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge invites applications from members of the public who are qualified electors of the Township of Uxbridge to be considered for one of the following committees:

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Open to persons who identify as a <u>person with a disability</u> and who wish to work with Council to review, develop and implement plans, policies and programs to create an accessible and barrier-free community, for a four-year appointment (Term of Council, expiring November 2026).

Age Friendly Advisory Committee

Open to persons who wish to advise Council on the current state of agefriendliness of Uxbridge and can recommend ways to optimize opportunities for residents to age in place and remain engaged in all aspects of civic and social life.

Any person interested in offering their services, and would accept an appointment to these committees are invited to submit a Volunteer-Committee Member Application Form available at the Clerk's Department or on the Township of Uxbridge website under Committees and Initiatives, http://uxbridge.on.ca/committees_and_initiatives, along with a resume and letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience.

Applications for the AAC and AFAC may be sent to Emily Elliott, Deputy Clerk/Uxbridge Accessibility Coordinator, 51 Toronto Street South, PO Box 190, Uxbridge ON L9P 1T1, or via email eelliott@uxbridge.ca

Uxbridge BIA Board of Directors

If you own a property or operate a business within the BIA zone (see https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/bia/about-the-bia/member-

resources.aspx) and have ideas on improving the BIA, please consider this opportunity to help shape our business community and make a difference to the vitality of Uxbridge! Applications may be sent to Debbie Leroux, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk, 51 Toronto Street South, Box 190, Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1 or via email at dleroux@uxbridge.ca

The Township of Uxbridge is committed to ensuring that our community is fully accessible for residents and visitors alike. We do this by following the regulations outlined in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), our Accessible Customer Service Policy and by removing barriers so individuals can access programs and services in our community.

The Township of Uxbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer that is dedicated to an inclusive, barrier-free recruitment and selection process. The Township is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion within its community and organization, and welcomes and encourages applications from Indigenous Peoples, people of colour, women, persons who live with disabilities, people from 2SLGBTQI+ communities, and people from diverse communities. When requested, the Township of Uxbridge will accommodate applicants throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process, pursuant to the Ontario Human Rights Code. These commitments also apply to our Board and Committee recruitment and selection processes.

Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.





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

Durham mosquitoes test positive for West Nile

Justyne Edgell

A recent routine test by the Region of Durham's mosquito surveillance project revealed that a mosquito from Oshawa tested positive for West Nile Virus

Beginning mid-June, the region traps mosquitoes one day a week, in 14 areas across the region, and sends them to a lab for testing. The July 21 report showed the positive test.

West Nile Virus is an illness in birds and humans that is passed primarily through the bite of a mosquito. Those infected may experience headache, fever, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, and a general feeling of unwell. A more severe infection can exhibit other symptoms such as stiff neck, confusion, tremors, numbness and sudden sensitivity to light. Symptoms usually develop between two and 15 days following a bite by an infected mosquito. The disease is not passed from person to person, nor from bird to person.

Uxbridge Travel Health Clinic doctor and local family physician, Dr. Aisha Husain, says that less than one per cent of individuals, and particularly seniors or those who have a weak immune system, are at increased chance of more severe symp-

"Usually, mild symptoms resolve on their own within a week but other cases can last longer, for months. Unfortunately, there is no vaccine or specific treatment for WNV," she adds.

Husain says the simplest step to help protect yourself is to wear light clothing. "Mosquitoes apparently do not like white! So the first prevention tip is to wear long-sleeved, light-colored clothing."

Other steps to protect yourself: avoid the outdoors during peak mosquito activity at dawn, and dusk. Use high-quality insect repellents: Husain recommends DEET-containing

"Alternatively, picaridin can be applied (for 6 months or older) and is also effective in lowering your chance of being bitten too," she says.

To help keep the region safe, the Durham Regional Health Department conducts several procedures including larviciding roadside catch basins, larviciding stagnant surface water sites, and investigating human cases of WNV disease.

For more information on West Nile Virus and updated tracking, visit Durham Public Health online or publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/West-Nile-Virus

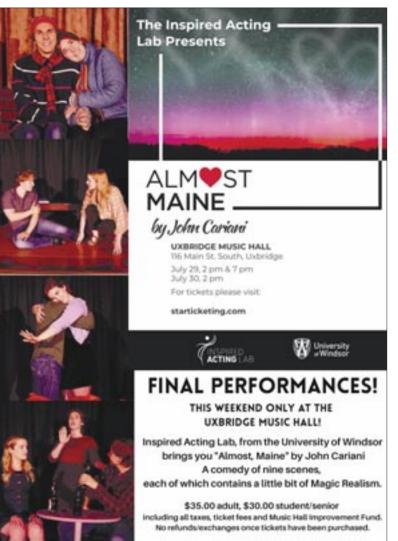
Tickets, from page 1

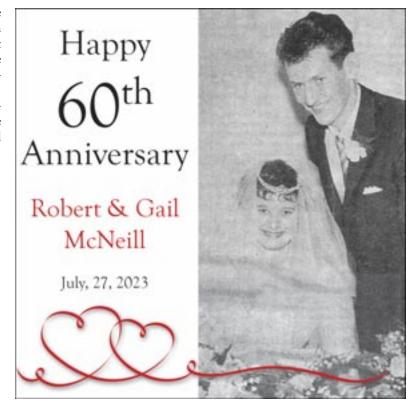
starting with the formation of the Uxbridge Fire Brigade, only one Uxbridge firefighter has died as a result of the job. He said Kevin Gardner died of cancer in 2011, caused by his years of fighting fires. Several firefighters have died while still on active

The fire chief said ground will be broken for the memorial garden in the spring and the statue will be sent to a foundry for casting early in the new year. A grand unveiling ceremony is planned for Oct. 24, 2024.

MacDonald said tickets can be purchased from any member of the fire department or by visiting the fire hall on Brock Street West.







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Our two cents

What's in a name?

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

So claims Juliet in William Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet (Act 2, Sc. 2). She says this meaning that the name of things does not really affect the state of what they are.

Tell that to Elon Musk.

The world's richest man announced earlier this week that he was changing all the branding surrounding his recently-acquired social media platform Twitter. The online news and social networking site is to be henceforth called "X." And users will no longer send "tweets," they'll send "X"s.

That news dropped Monday. On Tuesday we learned that Meta owner Mark Zuckerberg trademarked an "X" logo back in 2019. *insert chuckle here.* Did no one on Musk's team do their due diligence?

The bigger question is, however, why is Musk trying to make this change? There are some things that, no matter how hard you try, ain't gonna change. For example, it was rather recently that our own Uxbridge Cottage Hospital was dropping the "cottage" and would be called simply Uxbridge Hospital. Most people in town still call it Uxbridge Cottage, or the Cottage Hospital - we often get copy that contains the "cottage" and we remove it. What if Uxpool was to be renamed "The Watering Hole." We're willing to bet the name change would never stick. Uxpool is Uxpool. That's just how it is.

We may not love social media, but we use it. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter - they're all OG (meaning original) platforms, and they're instilled in our little social media-dominated brains. So changing from Twitter to "X" isn't going to be an easy task, Mr. Musk, no matter how much you like the letter.

Then there are those of us who sign texts or - archaic though it may be cards and letters with a series of Xs and Os, signifying kisses and hugs. That can't be trademarked or changed. We don't want it to change. Us humans are a resistant bunch. We don't like change. But hey, Mr. Musk You want to change Twitter to "X"? "X" this.





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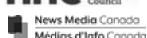
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday to 4 p.m.

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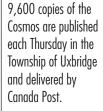


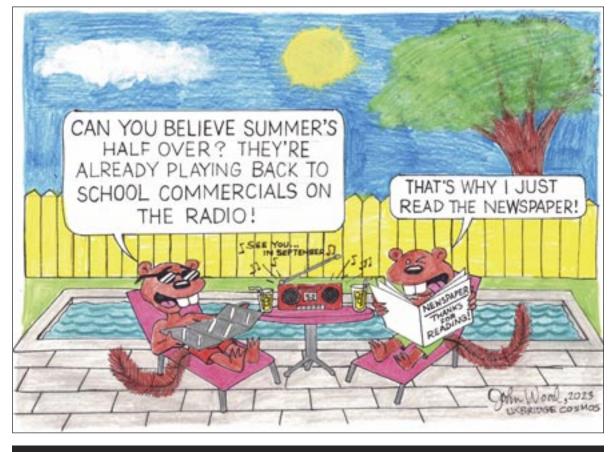






Canada





Letters to the Editor

I would like to thank Ted Barris for his column last week ("True reconciliation," The Barris Beat), since I have been involved with Indigenous reconciliation for some time. I attended five of the national TRC events representing The Presbyterian Church in Canada. As well, the Orange Shirt Day Committee brought to this community information on residential schools and brought speakers here to speak and for us to meet. Two examples of

speakers are Eugene Arcand and the Honourable Jane Philpott.

Eugene Arcand spent nine years at the St. Michael Indian Residential School in Duck Lake, and two years at the St. Paul's Lebret Students Residence, both in Saskatchewan. He was here in Uxbridge for three days. He met students at USS and engaged with them, telling his story and having a discussion. He spoke at the Music Hall to a very large crowd, and finished with a dinner

at St. Andrew's-Chalmers.

The Honourable Jane Philpott speak at another Orange Shirt Day event. At the time, she was Minister of Indigenous Services, and spoke about the importance of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people working together.

Three of the four churches (Anglican, Presbyterian and United) that had residential schools have been diligent in trying to help educate our community towards true reconciliation through various events.

Once again, Ted, thanks for bringing this issue to light, and always to the Cosmos, who supports our endeavours to bring information to Uxbridge and surrounding area.

David Phillips Uxbridge







Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Thank a service club member

For the last several weeks, Justin Trudeau, Pierre Poilievre and Jagmeet Singh have been running all over the place trying to convince Canadians that they are the ones that can get things done. While Trudeau travels to various locations around the world, Poilievre admonishes him for leaving a large carbon footprint with his use of jets, while at the same time having no plan to fight climate change himself. Singh has taken to regularly bashing Trudeau on social media, seemingly unaware of the hypocrisy of continuing to keep the Liberals in power while criticizing them.

However, we must ask ourselves just what exactly any of these men have done to make a difference in our lives. I would venture to say not as much as our service clubs.

Elsewhere in this edition is an item about the Uxbridge firefighters' memorial. As the story mentions, the fire department needed the Rotary Club's assistance in getting their fundraising raffle up and running. To be sure, Rotary will receive a cut of the proceeds, but we know that the club will put those dollars back into the community. And so it is with all our service clubs: they give back to the community in ways that everyone can benefit.

Rotary, for instance, has given us the skate park, and assisted the Optimist Club in no small measure with the pump park (both at the Fields of Uxbridge). Rotary also built the bandshell in Elgin Park.

Elgin Park, in fact, has benefited greatly from the service clubs. Just recently, the Lions Club opened their brand new fully accessible playground, a delightful oasis available to kids of all abilities. Of course, no event at Elgin Park would be complete without the Lions Club food booth being open. And the Lions also bring us the annual Art in the Park, an event not to be missed.

Speaking of events not to be missed, there is the annual Fantasy of Lights, put on every Christmas by the Optimist Club. From its small beginnings, the Fantasy of Lights has grown to the extent it attracts thousands of visitors from around the GTA every year.

And the money they raise? It all goes back into the community, from sponsoring the 1st Uxbridge Scout group to handing out numerous awards at the USS graduation ceremony and donations to other good causes.

If you've ever taken your little ones to have fun in the splash pad at the arena, thank the Bonner Boys. There are other smaller, perhaps lesser known, service clubs also doing their bit for the community, such as the IODE and Kinsmen.

What is really remarkable about our service clubs is the way they often work together on projects. But, unless something has changed recently, all our service clubs face the same challenge: burn-out.

Many members of our service clubs are, to put it gently, of an age and have been involved for many years. I know of some local service club members who have been with their organizations for more than 30 years. I don't think I would be wrong in saying that all clubs could use an influx of new members, new blood, to make the workload a little easier.

While I'm at it, might I add that just about all of this community's volunteer organizations could use some new members. There are so many things in Uxbridge that we would not be able to appreciate if it were not for volunteers. Examples are the annual Santa Claus parade, the off-leash dog park, Friday night concerts at the Foster Memorial, all the events put on by the Lucy Maud Montgomery Society and, of course, the Remembrance Day ceremonies. Even the Uxbridge Bruins are run by volunteers.

Without the efforts of our service clubs and all the other volunteers, this would be a rather dismal community. There would be no hockey leagues, no soccer leagues, no baseball. no lacrosse. Because, as we all know, the politicians aren't going to do any of these things.

It seems to me that if you enjoy living in Uxbridge it is in no small way thanks to our service clubs and volunteers. And if you really want to thank them, join them.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Invisible goodness

I was told he was coming. John Watson arrived a few minutes before I began a presentation about a major Second World War story, last Wednesday night in Swift Current, Sask. Watson is a tall man. He wore a red jacket, a scarf, and had a twinkle in his eye as we shook hands.

"Thank you for coming, Mr. Watson," I said. "I understand you're a veteran, that you served overseas in the last war with the Regina Rifles."

"Yes, I did," he said. "But don't forget the 'Royal' part."

"The *Royal* Regina Rifles," I corrected myself, then added, "No doubt 'Royal' because of you."

He laughed and said, "I was just a rifleman." Watson's military regiment goes back to the birth of his home province in 1905, when Saskatchewan entered Confederation. The Regina Rifles have a battle honours list as long as the province is tall, including the Somme, Vimy, Ypres and Passchendaele in the Great War, as well as the Normandy invasion, Falaise Gap, Scheldt Estuary and crossing the Rhine in the Second World War. It took a bit of coaxing, but I learned that his principal service occurred in Belgium in late 1944, when the Regina Rifles helped secure Antwerp's docks as a new re-supply port for the final Allied push against Nazi Germany in 1945.

"I was just guarding the docks," he said.
"Didn't the Germans bomb Antwerp with V1 and V2 flying bombs?"

"Yeah, but we had to secure those docks for resupply," he said modestly.

Those who know more about military protocol than I do, tell me that military medals are awarded only when somebody spots a soldier doing something heroic. For the rest, service means fulfilling one's duty. And, I guess, that old axiom applies: The measure of a person's character is what s/he does when nobody's looking. And I count John Watson's unheralded service on the docks of Antwerp as heroic and a reflection of his true character.

But such invisible goodness occurs more often than we realize, and in non-military settings too. Not so long ago, I happened to be in a GTA hospital for a planned procedure. During my stay, I was able to enjoy a couple of sit-down meals in the hospital cafeteria.

Remarkably, this one meal happened to include one of my favourites – roasted *al dente* eggplant. For my palate it was perfectly cooked, and I wanted to tell whoever'd prepared it. When I'd finished my meal, I poked my head into the kitchen. "Who cooked that fabulous eggplant?" I asked.

A young cook looked around, spotted me and said, "I did."

"Hospital cooking always gets a bad rap. But this was great!"

"Gee thanks," he said. "Nobody's ever said that."

I wanted to go on about the eggplant, but figured he might think I was a bit of a kook. I went away thinking here was a hospital cook slaving away in this huge, industrial kitchen, catering to hundreds of patients and staff anonymously, and this guy had taken enough pride in his cooking to deliver, for me, a true delicacy in a hospital cafeteria of all places!

Equally noteworthy, as I mentioned last week, I participated in the 27th annual Saskatchewan Festival of Words. As usual, event organizers staged almost all of the events at the Moose Jaw Museum and Art Gallery. As I usually do, a couple of hours before I was due to make a presentation, I scouted the room for its audio-visual equipment. I mentioned to the organizers that the room had no projector or sound system. "We'll take care of it," someone said. And when I showed up everything was set up and ready to go. After my presentation, I took the time to track down the technician who'd almost magically set up the equipment I needed, just to thank him.

"No worries," Doug Smith said and he added, "We're at our best when we're nearly invisible."

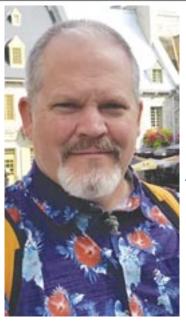
And I thought of the hospital cook's eggplant special, and about John Watson. There weren't any citations or medals struck for Watson's service in the Royal Regina Rifles in the Second World War. He was just thankful he came home safely to live a full life back in Saskatchewan. He's now 97. John Watson's regiment officially earned the "Royal" designation in 1982, long after he'd served. But I like to think it's the invisible goodness in men such as he, that earned them such status.

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



The Uxbridge Cosmos Thursday, July 27, 2023





In Loving Memory of

Gregory Paul Mills

March 17, 1966 -July 15, 2023

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Gregory Paul Mills on July 15, 2023, after a motorcycle accident near Guelph, ON. Greg leaves behind his best friend and wife, Susan (Cathcart) of nearly 30

years, and two wonderful boys, Connor and Liam. Predeceased by infant daughter Jane (2001). Greg is the eldest son of Paul and Judith Mills of Kanata, ON, and brothers Brad (Jenn) and Scott (Jenny) will miss him dearly. Greg will be fondly remembered by mother-in-law Isobel Cathcart, father-in-law Don (2008), Sharron (Matt), Doug (Christine), as well as nieces and nephews.

Greg was born in Toronto on March 17, 1966, he was raised in Kanata and attended University of Waterloo.

Greg was an active Scout member with 1st Uxbridge Scouts, always enjoying a good project and sharing his knowledge of science fiction, movies and books. He enjoyed all things science and had a keen interest in learning more. He pursued many hobbies and enjoyed woodworking and renovations on our house, always teaching the boys new skills along the way.

A Celebration of Life for Greg will be held at the Uxbridge Seniors Centre, 75 Marietta Street, Uxbridge, on Friday, July 28, 2023, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. A Celebration of Life for Greg will be held in Ottawa area at a date still to be determined.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to 1st Uxbridge Scouts through **1stUxbridgeDonations@gmail.com** or a charity of your choice in Greg's memory.

For online condolences, please visit www.lowandlow.ca



Alan Stephens

Alan passed peacefully at the Sunnybrook Veterans Centre on Monday, July 17, 2023, at a spry 98 years young.

Alan was born on December 23, 1924, in Toronto. Alan was the only child of Mary Stephens. His father was never in Alan's life. He grew up in Kettleby, Ontario, amongst his cousins, aunts, uncles and his grandparents. Alan served

two terms in the military. Both times he was stationed in the Netherlands and for a time in Germany. After his military career ended, he spent his entire working career with Cowan Graphics Inc., an Edmonton-based decal manufacturer. Alan loved his work and it showed each and every day. For many years he would put 50K+ kilometres on his vehicle, all to support his valued customers. He did love to drive (many in Uxbridge witnessed this as he motored around town on his red scooter)!

Alan was also a devout Morman, and was a bishop in his ward. Alan loved little children, and it brought him great joy when he could talk to them and have some fun (often at the expense of the parents (or grandparents)). He was at times a wee bit gruff, even belligerent, but he had a great sense of humour and wry wit which always pulled him through. He was a humble man who always cared for others. He will be sorely missed by many. May he now rest in peace. A memorial service will be held in the near future in Uxbridge. He has been laid to rest with his mom in Kettleby.

In Loving Memory of

Richard John Fordham

June 17, 1961 -July 24, 2023

It is with great sadness that the family of Richard John Fordham

announce his passing at the Uxbridge Hospital at the age of 62.

Richard will be deeply missed by his wife & forever love Deborah, his Mum (June Fordham), his daughters Lisa, Olivia (Steve), Tigan (Daniel) & Sarah (James), his stepchildren Brandy (Terry) & Daniel (Tigan), grandchildren Molly Marie, Shyana Hazel Marie, Nathan Richard George, & Vaughn Richard, brother Tony, sisters Caroline, Nicola & Joanne, his sister-in-law Lynn Campbell (Walter) & family. He will also be fondly remembered by his nieces and nephews & many friends. Richard was predeceased by his father (Derrick John Fordham) many years ago.

We invite all those who loved him to remember him with a smile and reflect on happier days knowing how much he loved you.

We wish to thank the staff at the Oncology Clinic at Markham Stouffville Hospital, with special thanks to Dr. Sam Babak, Markham Stouffville Hospital, and Uxbridge Hospital for their care and compassion over the last almost 2 very difficult years.

Please join us for a service to honour Richard to be held at Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Uxbridge, (905-852-3073), Friday, July 28, 2023, visitation 12-1 p.m., service 1-2 p.m., reception 2-3 p.m.

For online condolences please visit www.lowandlow.ca

Trail head parking fees bring in bank

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Although it hasn't been popular locally, the Trail Sustainability Fund, which collects parking fees at select parking locations across the trail system throughout the township, brought in \$115,000 in its first year of implementation.

A recent statement by the Township of Uxbridge said that, as of June 30, the fund had accumulated money that has been used to "engage snow plowing operations for trail parking lots," place a portable toilet at Concession 7 and the Houston Road trailhead, and provide materials for boardwalk repairs in Secord Forest and Wildlife Area.

The statement also said that additional improvements are planned for this summer, including a bridge replacement in the Glen Major section of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's East Duffins Headwaters properties, which "will protect and improve habitat for aquatic species in the Duffins Creek and improve safety for tens of thousands of trail users." The replacement is expected to cost almost \$60,000.

The Trail Sustainability Fund was implemented by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the Township of Uxbridge and Region of Durham at select locations to "fund enhanced services and amenities at local trail heads." One hundred per cent of the proceeds are to fund maintenance, and improvements to infra-



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■ Window wells ■ Desiness

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