

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 14

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Have a Happy Easter weekend, Uxbridge!



A SP'EGG-TACULAR HUNT - The Uxbridge Baptist Church's Community Outreach Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt had over 150 youngsters scouring Elgin Park for 29 "eggs." After completing a task at each station, participants got their sheet stamped, and received a bag of treats at the end. From left: Ella Blackburn, Austynn Ahier, and Bryce McNutt get their sheet checked by Julia Ott. *Photo by John Covers*

Bruins win semis, face tough final

Roger Varley

After defeating the Little Britain Merchants 4-2 in their best-of-seven PJHL Orr Division semi-final series, the Junior C Uxbridge Bruins now face a daunting challenge: the Clarington Eagles.

That best-of-seven final series begins tonight (Thursday) in Clarington at 7:25 p.m., with the second game scheduled for tomorrow (Friday) at the arena at 8:15 p.m. In seven meetings between the two clubs during the regular season, the Eagles won six, outscoring the Bruins 24-13. In the first two rounds of the playoffs, Clarington easily swept the Lakefield Chiefs and Georgina Ice. Uxbridge, however, after sweeping the Port Perry Lumberjacks in the opening series, had a tough time against the Merchants.

Last Wednesday, in the icebox known as the Little Britain Community Centre, the Bruins

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High school gearing up for a party a century in the making

Justyne Edgell

This Spring, Uxbridge Secondary School is celebrating its 100th Anniversary with a weekend-long reunion celebration.

"Join family, friends and reconnect with past acquaintances," says the Uxbridge Secondary School reunion committee. "Highlights include Decade Rooms, a Remembrance Room and School Tours."

Beginning Friday, May 26, the reunion will feature a weekend full of events at both the high school and around Uxbridge. On Friday, those who have pre-registered can pick up a registration package and tour "the old stomping grounds" before heading off to the Karaoke Meet-up on Friday night at the Legion.

Saturday will begin with a Family & Friends Breakfast, put on by the culinary arts department at the school. This will be followed by the official anniversary ceremony, from 11 a.m. to

noon in the old gymnasium. The ceremony will feature voices from the past, current student drama, dance, and music. With student performances throughout the afternoon, along with a reunion golf tournament, Saturday will finish off with the 19+ Saturday Evening Social!

Sunday morning features a pancake breakfast at the Legion, followed by an interdenominational church service in the USS cafeteria, followed by a morning of USS's favourite sport - a rugby match!

The reunion committee encourages students, former students, graduates, staff, alumni staff and community members to register for the reunion on their website. Registration funds support all reunion events and will provide guests with a reunion name tag, a souvenir lanyard, a pen, sticker, and bag, as well as a printed program for the weekend.

Registration is required to purchase tickets for

the Family & Friends Breakfast and to play in the golf tournament. The 19+ Saturday night social has an entrance charge but does not require registration, although it is encouraged. Many reunion events and activities are free, including the Decade Rooms, the official ceremony, school tours, community tours, guided trail walks, the Sunday Service and more.

The committee has the goal of creating the 100th Anniversary Reunion Commencement Award, or the Legacy Award, which will recognize three students each year for the next 100 years. One award would be conferred to a student proceeding to an apprenticeship or equivalent; one for a student proceeding to college or equivalent; and the final to a student proceeding to university or equivalent. The awards will increase in value every 10 years to reflect the value of the dollar.

"Whether you plan to be present all reunion

...continued on page 6

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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 905-852-9181 info@uxbridge.ca

The Township of
UXBRIDGE

Trail Capital of Canada



MORE INFO www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for April, 2023

Monday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.
 HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING
 Township office will only be open for this meeting (Easter Monday).

Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.
 COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

Monday, April 17, 10:00 a.m.
 GENERAL PURPOSE AND
 ADMINISTRATION MEETING

Monday, April 24, 10:00 a.m.
 COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 24, 11:00 a.m.
 PUBLIC MEETING – OPA 71
 and ZBA 2023-02

Proclamations for April

- April 12 – Day of Pink
- April 16-22 – National Volunteer Week
- April 22 – Earth Day
- April 28 – National Day of Mourning

The Thomas Foster Memorial
 check out www.thomasfostermemorial.com
 for event schedule.

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to
https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/business-and-development/bids-and-tenders.aspx?_mid_23193

- U23-01 - Reconstruction of Planks Lane - Closes April 12, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
- U23-05 - Fire Extinguisher Maintenance - Closes May 18, 2023, at 12:00 p.m.

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

Treasury – Deputy Treasurer, full-time, permanent
 Closes Friday, May 5, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Public Works and Operations - Crossing Guards
 Resumés accepted on an ongoing basis

Summer Opportunities

Development Services – Administrative Clerk, summer student, contract
 Closes Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Public Library – Children’s Summer Program Coordinator, summer student, contract
 Closes Friday, April 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Collections Associate, contract
 Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Uxpool – Lifeguards and/or Instructors, summer
 Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Community Engagement and Programming Associate, contract
 Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Interpretive Guides, contract
 Closes Friday, April 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Community Museum Technician, contract
 Closes Friday, May 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Tourism – Assistant Tourism Development Coordinator, summer student, contract
 Closes Friday, May 26, 2023

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.

From The Tax Office

Second Property Tax Installment is due April 26, 2023.

Penalty/Interest Charges:

For non-payment of a tax levy on or before the respective due dates of each installment, a penalty of 1.25% shall be imposed on the first day of each calendar month and thereafter in which the default continues. Failure to receive a Tax Bill does not excuse the taxpayer from responsibility for payment of taxes nor liability of any penalty or interest due to late payments.

The penalty/interest charges cannot be waived or reduced by the Tax Department or Council for any reason.

**Monthly or Installment Pre-Authorized Payment Plan
 Deadline to Enroll for the 2023 Final property taxes is
 April 30, 2023.**

To find out if you are eligible to enroll, visit our website www.uxbridge.ca/en/living-here/property-taxes.aspx or call the tax office at 905-852-9181 for more information.

Change of Address

If you need to change or update your mailing address, please notify our office in writing or by emailing tax@uxbridge.ca

The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge

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 11 on plan 40R-29312 in the Township of Uxbridge in the Regional Municipality of Durham and municipally known as 17 Bascom Street (Old Fire Hall)

FURTHER, NOTICE is hereby given that the Township Council at its regular meeting held on March 27, 2023, declared by Resolution No. 2023-05 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.



ARENA SPRING PUBLIC SKATING SCHEDULE NOW IN EFFECT

SEE WWW.UXBRIDGE.CA FOR DETAILS

AVIAN FLU SAFETY

- Do not attempt to rescue waterfowl who appear to be in distress
- Ponds and rivers are unsafe due to flooding and melting ice.

Report ill or dead birds to Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Control at 905-865-9647

Notice of Weight Restrictions

Seasonal weight restrictions on Township roads are now in effect.

Restrictions are in place until approx. May 1st. Weather conditions will determine the actual end to the enforcement season.



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 *continued*

The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge Notice of Complete Application and Public Meeting Concerning an Application for an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-Law Amendment

This notice is to inform you that the Planning Committee of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge will hold a statutory public meeting to make available adequate information to the public regarding, and to consider, a proposed Township Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment pursuant to Sections 17 and 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, in respect to drug treatment and harm reduction facilities in the Township of Uxbridge.

The statutory public meeting will be held in person and electronic format. The Township of Uxbridge will be processing the Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment as required by the Planning Act and welcome any comments that you may have.

PURPOSE OF PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT:

The purpose of the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment is to introduce a land use planning framework and regulations with respect to planning for drug treatment and harm reduction facilities in the Township of Uxbridge.

LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:

This Amendment applies to all the lands in the Township of Uxbridge.

FILE NO.: Official Plan Amendment No. 71 (OPA 71)
Zoning By-law Amendment 2023-02 (ZBA 2023-02)

APPLICANT: Township of Uxbridge

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information relating to the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment is available for inspection in the Development Services Department between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Township Municipal Office, 51 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge, Ontario. It is preferred that if you require additional information that it be requested by email, mail, or telephone from the undersigned.

Jennifer Beer, Permits & Approvals Analyst
Development Services
Township of Uxbridge, 51 Toronto St. S.
Box 190, Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1
Email: jbeer@uxbridge.ca
(t) 905-852-9181 ext. 225
(f) 905-852-9674

PLANNING ACT REQUIREMENTS:

This Notice is being given in accordance with Planning Act requirements. A final recommendation on the application will not be presented until after the Township Public Meeting and all technical comments have been received.

The public meeting is being held in a hybrid format allowing for in-person attendance or electronic viewing of the public meeting. The livestream public viewing can be accessed by visiting: <https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/your-local-government/council-meeting-calendar.aspx>.

The meeting date and time is as follows:

MEETING DATE: Monday, April 24, 2023 **TIME:** Public Meeting 11:00 a.m.

REPRESENTATION

ANY PERSON may participate in the public meeting and/or make written or oral representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

1. Written Submissions

Written submissions should be addressed to the Township Clerk at the address shown below. Written comments should be submitted before Friday, April 21, 2023. If you wish to be notified of the adoption or the refusal of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must also make a written request to the Township Clerk before the adoption of the by-law.

2. Oral Submission

Oral submissions may be provided to Council at the meeting on livestream, you must pre-register with the Clerk's office by email at cleroux@uxbridge.ca or telephone at 905-852-9181 ext. 228 or mail at the address below before 4:30 p.m. on April 21, 2023. Please include your full name, address, and a call-back phone number. You will be contacted by the Clerk's office to confirm your participation and receive the online and call-in information before the meeting. Technical assistance may be provided to ensure you are able to participate.

PLANNING ACT REQUIREMENTS

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Uxbridge before the proposed application is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Township of Uxbridge to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

If a person or a public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Uxbridge before the application is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

DATED AT THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE THIS 4TH DAY OF APRIL, 2023.

Debbie Leroux, Clerk
Township of Uxbridge, 51 Toronto St. S.
Box 190, Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1
Email: dleroux@uxbridge.ca
(t) 905-852-9181 ext. 228
(f) 905-852-9674

Bruins headed for semi-finals, from page 1

eked out a 2-1 win over the Merchants despite an uninspired effort. After a scoreless first period, Quinn Meek opened the scoring late in the second, assisted by Anthony Lamanna and Peter Kerr. The Merchants tied the score less than two minutes later with a floater from a face-off.

It was midway through the final period that Meek, assisted by brother Declan and goalie Noah Acciaccaferri, notched the winning goal. The Merchants outshot the Bruins 44-27.

The following night, back at the arena, it took 62 minutes before the first and only goal was scored. The Merchants jammed around the net early in the overtime period and the puck barely trickled over the line to give the visitors the win, bringing the series to 3-2 for the Bruins.

The *Cosmos* named Acciaccaferri and Little Britain goalie Oliver Webster as players of the game.

On Saturday, the teams returned to Little Britain, where the Merchants took the lead with the only goal of the first period. The Bruins responded in the second with a power-play marker by Stellucio Basile, with Meek and Lamanna credited with assists.

The Bruins came out blazing in the third. Meek, assisted by Lamanna and John Czali, scored less than two minutes into the period and Josh Schmidt potted what proved to be the winning goal with an unassisted short-handed effort. The Merchants, not going down without a fight, reduced the lead to one with a late goal, but saw the series come to an end when Travis Winder, assisted by Alex Hyde, notched an empty-netter as the clock wound down.

The rest of the series is scheduled as follows: Game 3 in Clarington on Sunday at 3:25 p.m.; Game 4 in Uxbridge on Tuesday at 8:15 p.m. If other games are necessary, Game 5 will be in Clarington a week from today at 7:25 p.m.; Game 6 in Uxbridge on Sunday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m.; and Game 7 in Clarington on Monday, April 17, at 6:25 p.m.



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Our two cents

Imagine a world without journalism

The editor of the *Cosmos* was in Toronto last week and had the opportunity to listen in while Jordan Bitove addressed the Canadian Club at the Royal York Hotel. Bitove is the publisher of the *Toronto Star*, and sole owner of TorStar Corp. (which owns the *Star* and heaps of other media outlets). Bitove's talk was entitled "Truth we need for the world we want," and it promised to delve into the "increasingly potent threat" that today's journalism is experiencing.

This little newspaper knows well that journalism is taking a beating all over the world. But the editor figured it might be amusing to listen to a relative newbie to the news industry (Bitove and Paul Rivett took over TorStar in 2020; Rivett left in November 2022) expound on the tenets of journalism and its importance to a democratic society. She also went into the talk wearing her independent publisher's hat (the *Uxbridge Cosmos* is not owned by a large media company) and expected to feel righteous indignation towards the man who owns the company that publishes a direct competitor.

Alas, we could not. Oh sure, the entire event was a commercial for the *Toronto Star*, but what Bitove had to say during his 45-minute talk was every bit as relevant to the *Cosmos* as it was to the *Star* and every other print media organization in the province, and beyond.

To begin, he openly acknowledged that he is not a journalist, his prior connection to the news industry was being a paper boy as a child. He then talked about how many news outlets across Canada (mostly newspapers) have closed over the past three years (53). Over 3,000 editorial and non-editorial jobs. That's a lot of local information and accountability, gone.

He then explained why they'd closed. He pointed out to the largely business-suits audience that Meta, Google and Twitter account for 80 per cent of most companies' advertising spends. We feel that right here at the local level - "Oh, I don't need to advertise in the paper, I do it all on Instagram." We hear it constantly, and it's like an arrow to the heart each time.

Yet we also hear that local communities should be supported, local news is important, local businesses should be prioritized, local local local. But the revenue to support trusted local news outlets, like the *Cosmos*, has never been lower.

Bitove pointed out that the federal government spent around \$140 million last year on advertising to reach Canadians on topics like COVID, reconciliation, equality, climate change, affordability, health care, and many other important issues. He then revealed that all the TorStar publications combined received less than \$400,000 of that \$140 million. A drop in the ad bucket. Remember, 80 per cent of that \$140 million went online.

The bottom line is, if advertising money isn't spent on what Bitove called "fact-checked, investigated, accountable truths - the stories that inform civil discourse, how we vote, what is happening in schools, hospitals, in the offices of influence, and on our streets," then that journalism will disappear. And if it goes, even at a hyperlocal level, who and what is left to provide that information? Meta, Google and Twitter just copy and paste the news, they don't create it.

Jordan Bitove was bang on in his presentation, and he wasn't just on TorStar's side, he was on the side of all traditional media outlets. We left his talk at the Royal York Hotel inspired to press on. Pun absolutely intended.



Letters to the Editor

Re: 'Am I Wrong?', March 30

Roger, you have not done your research. I am referring to your opinion piece about the Ontario budget. You mention that other media are describing a new provincial park of 250 campsites with swimming and skiing. The budget papers describe the new park on page 68. I quote: "The new park will offer four-season facilities and recreational activities including swimming, hiking, cross-country skiing, and add 250 new campsites to the Ontario Parks system." In fact, a new park was mentioned in the 2022 Ontario budget, on page 92.

I believe you will find that the Uxbridge "Protected Land" project

is different from the new provincial park. Virtually, every provincial park in Ontario is situated on a body of water suitable for swimming, boating, fishing and other activities. Uxbridge has no water suitable for those activities. The former GanEden lands do not measure up to the needs of a provincial park, but they could possibly be a new protected area.

Grant Baines
Uxbridge

Did you know that Lafarge Canada Inc. is planning on bringing in 8,000,000 cubic metres of fill, which will be 500-1,000 truck loads a day over 8-16 years of trucks running through the township, de-

pending on where the fill is coming from? (We've all witnessed Greenbank's large fill operation.)


Lafarge originally did not plan on testing the fill, but have since decided to test it. They're saying that Table 2.1 (provincially established standards for agricultural property use) fill can be used at anytime and anywhere, so I presume they will not be leaving the fill in the pit, and Lafarge will be paid for each truck load that comes into the worked out pit.

Residents on Durham 21 (Goodwood Rd.) will of course be inundated with trucks and no cameras in the vicinity to possibly TRY and slow them down.

The main pit to receive these 500-1,000 trucks a day is on the Stouffville side of the Uxbridge-Stouffville townline, so nothing has been discussed at our council (to my knowledge), but it has been discussed at Durham Regional council, as they have put in place some protections for the townline road., (our mayor and regional councillor sit at the Region.)

A few residents have notified others about the impact of this huge fill operation (no word from our council rep). I made a presentation to Stouffville council on Wednesday, March 29, regarding the environmental damage that 500-1,000 truck loads a day could cause, as well as the pollution from diesel fuel which is a carcinogen for lung cancer. But not one question was asked by Stouffville council to anyone present at the Lafarge public meeting.

...continued on page 6






9,600 copies of the *Cosmos* are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge and delivered by Canada Post.


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MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the March draw for the 2023 Trip of the Month Club!

The 'Belize Breeze' trip was won by Ben Sutherland ticket #226, sold by Greg Eickmeier

2nd place, \$150, won by Sharon Vanderven ticket #122, sold by Dale Hickey

3rd place, \$100, won by Francois Bessay ticket #112, sold by Dale Hickey

Congratulations to our March winners, and best of luck for the April 2023 draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge Trip of the Month Club. 'Breathtaking Banff' includes round trip, direct, non-stop flights from Toronto to Calgary, Alberta, 7 nights' stay at the Banff Caribou Lodge and Spa, and an evening wildlife safari on an animal spotting bus tour through Banff National Park. There is also an hour-long guided horseback ride along the Bow River through Banff National Park, and a complementary hop-on/hop-off double decker bus tour by Wow Banff.

A gift certificate from Getaway Travel worth \$2,500 or \$2,250 cash is available instead of the trip. The trip must be taken in the month following the draw.

Rotary
Club of Uxbridge





Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Book 'em, Danno!

With just about every passing day, I see the United States of Insanity slip ever deeper into the quagmire of idiocracy. Government of the people, by the people, for the people seems to be a grand idea, but in the last decade "by the people" has turned into "by the lunatics."

The latest example of this comes from Missouri, where the state legislature, ruled by Republicans, has voted to withdraw all funding from the state's public library system. And one of the reasons given is that it is "for the children." The legislators apparently do not want sexually explicit material in the public library system, and when librarians challenged the constitutionality of Missouri's ban, the legislature voted to withdraw funding.

This is just a small episode in what appears to be the Republicans' absolute obsession with sex. Republican-led states are passing laws banning abortion, to the point where one state wants to be able to criminally charge anyone who drives a woman to an abortion clinic out of state. A number of Republican-led states have passed laws banning gender-affirming care for transgender youth under 18 years of age, and five states have expanded that to include adults.

Some states have passed laws declaring that drag shows are akin to strip bars and other such adult entertainment, once again "to protect the children." If Uxbridge was subject to such a law, OnStage Uxbridge would not have been allowed to put on *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* because three of the brothers were portrayed by women. And, horrors, there were children in the cast!

In Tallahassee, a teacher had to resign because she showed her class a picture of the world-famous "David" statue. Not surprising, coming from a state - (a Republican-led state) - which not only passed a "Don't Say Gay" law but also a law allowing anyone to carry a concealed, loaded handgun without a permit. Al Capone must be rolling in his grave!

Getting back to books for a minute, Utah

has banned books with "pornographic or indecent" material from schools and school libraries. The law allows a book to be banned if only one parent objects to it. As I predicted when I heard that little snippet, someone has since decided to complain about all the questionable parts of the Bible and wants it banned from schools. Of course, the legislators are huffing and puffing that it isn't the same.

The Republicans' obsession with sex doesn't stop there. In a weekend interview, Marjorie Taylor Greene claimed that Democrats are "paedophiles." Now, as a politician - (and I use that word in its loosest sense) - Green could have claimed Democrats are corrupt or incompetent or lazy, but, no, she had to go for the sex angle: "paedophiles."

And now we have Donald Trump in court - finally - and it all comes down to the fact that he allegedly had sex with a porn actress while he was married. But he's not the only politician who's been brought up short by sex. Former vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin's son has fathered a child out of wedlock, as has Congresswoman Lauren Boebert's son. Incidentally, Boebert's husband was once charged with indecent exposure.

So, while Republicans are eager to tell Americans what they can and cannot see, do or read when it comes to sex, they don't display the same eagerness to control their own behaviour when it comes to sex.

And every one of them wraps themselves up in religion. How many of them - (Democrats, too) - have told us that the victims of mass shootings are in their "thoughts and prayers." And yet they refuse to pass any meaningful legislation that would restrict access to assault weapons or large capacity magazines. To them, the Second Amendment's right to bear arms - (see Florida gun law referred to earlier) - is far more important than the First Amendment's right to speak - and read - freely.

It seems to me that when the inmates run the asylum it's only a matter of time before they declare insanity is normal.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

When Canada's sovereignty was young

Seventeen years ago, a number of Canadian and American scientists set off on a unique voyage - sailing the Bellot Strait, a narrow channel in the Arctic Ocean that separates the most northerly point of North American mainland from Somerset Island in Canada's Far North. For the first time in history their vessel crossed the strait in October (when typically it would be frozen). One of the scientists on the trip in 2006 noted that Canadian Coast Guard officials aboard the ship all had the same reaction.

"They were collectively terrified," explained Michael Byers, then director of the Liu Institute for Global Issues at UBC. Terrified that the strait was entirely ice-free during the voyage, and therefore open to passage. In other words, about 1.2 million square kilometres of Arctic Ocean - Canada's northern frontier - lay wide open to any ship of any nation at any time.

Today, when global warming has the polar ice cap melting as much ice as an area greater than the state of California every year, when the economic potential in the North remains so attractive, and when the planet's three most powerful nations - the U.S., China and Russia - continue to sabre-rattle all around us, Canada's Arctic frontier remains dangerously vulnerable. Or, given the presence of so-called spy balloons, some might suggest the North sits undefended.

It wasn't always that way. In 1928, the Burrard Dry Dock shipyards in North Vancouver constructed a 100-foot-long police schooner, named *St. Roch*. Based on the same design as *Maud*, Roald Amundsen's exploration polar exploration ship, *St. Roch's* hull was made of thick Douglas fir and Australian "ironbark" eucalyptus wood, to withstand the punishing pressure of Arctic ice. She was commissioned in the service of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to patrol Canada's 2,000-kilometre-long Arctic coastline. I walked aboard this historic vessel last week inside Vancouver's Maritime Museum. Even sitting on dry land, I could hardly imagine such a small ship surviving Arctic sea conditions.

"She heaved and bucked like a bronco," wrote her captain, Henry Larsen. And he was the only sea-going person on her crew. Yet, during the Second World War, when Canada's North first seemed at risk, *St. Roch* and her landlubber RCMP crew became the first vessel to transit the Northwest Passage from west to east, and thus the first important symbol of

Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic. Using the Bellot Strait (the same one navigated originally by Amundsen in 1903) and warned by the Americans he was blocking U.S. access to international waters, Capt. Larsen sailed from Vancouver in June 1940 anyway. *St. Roch* wintered at Victoria Island, reaching Halifax in October 1942. Larsen received the Royal Geographical Society's Patron's Medal for his achievement.

Among her wartime crew, Constable Eugene Hadley was typical. Born in 1928 in Weyburn, Sask., Hadley took shorthand and typing at school, joined the RCMP and served at its crime lab. In 1940, he joined *St. Roch* for that first Northwest Passage voyage. One journal entry during the trip noted that Hadley "was so seasick that (he) just stands at the rail of the ship refusing to move." Nevertheless, Hadley's skill as a radio operator kept southern RCMP detachment offices in-the-know about *St. Roch's* progress.

As I strolled about the ship's decks, I spotted a brass weight shaped like a ship's propeller on a rear deck. I asked one of the museum interpreters for an explanation. "It's called a *loch line*," Owen Stewart Jordan told me. "They used to toss the weight tied to a rope off the stern. The weight spun in the water and based on the rotation of the rope in the sailor's hands, they could determine *St. Roch's* speed. Kind of like a speedometer."

I ventured into the ship's forward crew's quarters. Half a dozen men slept, washed and ate where today a two people might feel quite cramped and claustrophobic. "You become so familiar with everything about everybody in such close quarters," Eugene Hadley wrote. And it was like that for two years, as *St. Roch* carefully navigated that Northwest Passage eastward. Hadley said the crewmen learned to occupy themselves reading, resting or playing cards.

When the world learned of *St. Roch's* incredible passage, Larsen lauded the ship's voyage of discovery, while de-emphasizing her mission to protect Canadian interests in the Arctic from the Americans and Soviets. Const. Hadley, while proud of being part of history, "swore (to a fellow crewman he'd) never go aboard a ship again as long as (he) lived." I guess like sovereignty, there are limits to one's constitution.

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Landfill project proposed for Uxbridge border

Roger Varley

A massive landfill project has been proposed for Whitchurch-Stouffville right on its border with Uxbridge Township.

Lafarge Canada Inc. has applied to bring in eight million cubic metres of fill to its aggregate site on the York-Durham Road, immediately

opposite Uxbridge's industrial park at York-Durham and Bloomington Road. Lafarge says the fill is needed to bring a decommissioned part of the gravel pit to re-extraction grades.

A public meeting in Whitchurch-Stouffville last week was told that the eight million cubic metres of fill will take anywhere between eight to 16 years to complete, with 500 to 1,000

loads of fill being delivered a day. The operation would run Mondays to Fridays between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

In the proposal to Whitchurch-Stouffville council, Lafarge also outlined that it would "import only fill that meets or exceeds provincially established Table Standards," that the operation would adhere to Whitchurch-Stouffville's noise by-laws, and that it would clean, within four hours, unacceptable levels of mud tracking onto the road.

Although the meeting was told that the plan has been reviewed by various local governments, including Durham Region, there was no mention that Uxbridge Township has been consulted on the project.

Lafarge said it is setting up a website to handle any complaints arising from the project.

USC hosts first meet in years

The Uxbridge Swim Club (USC) hosted its first full-sized swim meet in over six years last weekend.

The meet, which ran at Uxpool from Friday evening on March 31, to Sunday evening, April 2, saw six Ontario clubs (Whitby, Ajax, Trent, Torch, Barrie, USC) attend, with over 200 athletes present.

As is standard practice at swim meets, athletes are awarded points dependant on their finishing placement in the races. USC swimmers won five of the six possible high-point awards for the meet. As result of their effort, six USC athletes are now newly qualified for regional events which will take place this June.

During the meet, USC athletes won both elimination SKINS races (a series of back-to-back races which operate on a knockout basis). Chloe

Walker, 13, of Zephyr, and Ethan Sneath, 15, of Port Perry, each walked away with a cash prize for winning their respective 50m freestyle races after besting their competitors in three elimination rounds.

Over 60 local parents volunteered to help make the event happen - working on deck for upwards of 30 hours over the course of three days. The Bridge Social organized the coffee and tea for the weekend guests.

"As usual, our swimmers demonstrated great teamwork and spirit with lots of cheering on deck and in the crowd," said Kristyn Steinke, USC head development coach, about the weekend.

The Uxbridge Swim Club now has over 100 swimmers. To learn more about the Club, contact Sarah Steinke, head coach, at coachsteinke@gmail.com

Committee of Friends Meeting House and The Friends Burial Ground

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
Evans Financial Services
38 Toronto Street North

To amend by-laws as required • To receive annual financial statement and annual report • To elect officers, directors, auditor and lawyer for 2023/2024
To transact such further business as may properly come before the meeting.



CHEVIS, Mary Kathryn
(née: Krauss) (Jones)

Passed away surrounded by her loving children at Oak Ridges Hospice on Sunday, March 26, 2023.

Mary had a very full life as a proud, loving, single mother of three children. She was predeceased by her parents, who came to Canada from Romania-

Joseph and Barbara Krauss, and her brothers, Frank and Jack Krauss. She is survived by her amazing sister-in-laws Marian Krauss and Jud Krauss, her loving children, Linda Mochulla (John), Jim Jones (Karen) and Brian Jones. Adored grandmother to Corinna & Cameron, Kayla & Krista, Michelle Burdick (Josh), Samantha Bosiljevac (Erik), Brandi Mochulla (Natalie), Angel Mochulla (Brendon), Tony Berlino, and great-grandmother to Ivy-Rose, Jacob, Ethan, Amelia, Cooper, Taylor, Ryerson, Sydney, James, Olivia, Alyssa, Sierra, Vienna and Antonio.

According to Mary's wishes, cremation has taken place, and a Celebration of Life will be held at the Low and Low Funeral Home, 1763 Reach Street, Port Perry (905-985-7331), on Saturday, May 27, 2023, from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m. In Lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Oak Ridges Hospice of Durham, Port Perry, would be appreciated by the family. For online condolences, please visit www.lowandlow.ca



To place a death or in memoriam notice

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Call 905-852-1900
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USS reunion, from page 6

weekend or you live halfway across the globe, everyone can donate," says the committee. "Consider how you can contribute and be part of the legacy reaching to 2123!"

Donations to the Legacy Award can be made on the website.

The reunion committee is also looking for volunteers and memorabilia as they prepare for reunion celebrations. Sweatshirts, buttons or Tiger's Roar paper, or even retro items that

would give a decade room extra cultural interest are sought. Memorabilia can be shared by dropping off at the Uxbridge Secondary School main office, Pharmasave (Toronto St. location), or by contacting the reunion committee for pick up.

For more information about the Uxbridge Secondary School 100th Anniversary Reunion, and to register and donate, visit uxbridgess.ddsb.ca/en/our-school/100th-anniversary.aspx or uss100.com



ENG, Johnny (John)

John passed away suddenly on March 28, 2023, at the age of 77.

Beloved husband of Pierrette. Loving father to Johnathan (Jackie), Jeremy and Jessica. Proud Grandpa to Noëlle, Emery and Elora. Son of the late Chong Fat and Jeanne D'Arc Eng. Dear brother to Linda (Andy), Lyan,

Allen (Sandy), Willkie (Erika), Ross (Pacita), Harry (Brenda), Teddy (Jannette), George (Rose), Henry (Karen), Joan (Rob), Gene (Ann), Gordon (Maggie), Judy (Eric), Frances (Scott); and predeceased by Tana, Thane and Jackie. He will be sadly missed by his many nieces and nephews, and his many friends.

Visitation will take place at the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge, L9P 1M8, (905-852-3073), on Wednesday, April 5, from 2:00 – 4:00 & 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. A Funeral Service will take place at the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, 70 Toronto Street North, Uxbridge, on Thursday, April 6, at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences can be made at www.lowandlow.ca



Letters, from page 4

What happened to the Ministry of Natural Resources progressive rehabilitation for pits, seeing as how the Lafarge pit is worked out?

No one promised these pit owners they would have a future hauling fill after the gravel was worked out of the pit? BUT when is a gravel pit no longer a gravel pit? When there is no gravel left? When do residents get a break from the trucks, the dust, the noise, the smell and the pollution, and the health issues??

The Township receives 19.8 cents per tonne for gravel, but this fee, which is quite low, is for gravel - will it apply to fill as well?

*Bev Northeast
Goodwood*



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Eph. 1:10

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EVENTS

UXBRIDGE LOAVES & FISHES FOOD BANK will hold its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 10 a.m. St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church, main floor gymnasium, 40 Toronto Street S., Uxbridge. Results for Calendar Year 2022 will be presented, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

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