

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 31

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, August 10, 2023

A chaotic Wednesday downtown • Changing climate change now • The gall of some flies



IT'S GOTTA BE HERE SOMEWHERE - Xavier Francis and Aidan Carroll use their best sleuthing skills to complete a scavenger hunt at Blue Heron Books last Wednesday afternoon. The *Where's Waldo's* stuff 'hunt' took place during a party that wound up a month-long, downtown-wide celebration of the bespectacled world-wanderer.

Photo by John Cavers

Where's Waldo winds up

Roger Varley

Where's Waldo wannabes went wandering within walls wrapped with writing Wednesday, wondering where Waldo went.

About 30 youngsters attended the wrap-up party for Blue Heron Books' month-long *Where's Waldo* contest, which saw children - and adults - visiting more than 20 stores in the downtown area searching for the iconic character. Many of the youngsters wore versions of Waldo's red-and-white striped shirt and toque and his black rimmed glasses. Two children decided to draw the glasses on their faces with markers.

Lunching on cupcakes and drinking punch, the children were led through a series of activities, including a Waldo trivia game, the Waldo song and one final scavenger hunt through the bookstore to locate Waldo's 12 pieces of equipment. The party also saw a number of draws take place, with prizes for the lucky winners.

During the contest, over 125 people took part

...continued on page 7

'No backpacks' rule at this year's fall fair

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

It's still a month away, but this year's Uxbridge Fall Fair is putting the final touches on planning for this year's event - including announcing that it will have a "No backpacks" policy in place.

Fair organizers say that they consulted with the township, police and security, and that "the decision was taken in the interests of public safety and well being of our valued patrons. Our longtime goal has been the presentation of a family friendly event."

Clear stadium bags that allow the contents to be seen by security staff will be permitted. While fair organizers understand that visitors will need to bring personal items with them, they are asked to "bring as little as possible." Diaper bags are acceptable, and fair organizers ask that the baby be present at time of entry.

Fair board members felt the no backpack rule

was necessary because, according to fair manager Dave Dickie, at last year's fair, security guards confiscated knives that were being brought into the fair in backpacks. Those same guards also confiscated a substantial amount of alcohol, Dickie said. In 2019, a "record number" of 911 calls for medical and police intervention related to dangerous and inappropriate behaviour, and alcohol and drug-related medical emergencies. Dickie also described prescription drug bottles found during cleanup, particularly where youth had gathered.

"When we have some of our vendors telling us that of all the fairs they attend, Uxbridge is the second worst fair for these problems, we must address this issue. We don't want our small town reputation becoming seriously tarnished.

The theme for this year's fair, which takes place from Sept. 8 through to Sept. 10, is "We've Got A Good Thing Growing."

On the programme front, fair organizers say a new attraction this year will be local chainsaw carver Ryan Locke, also known as the Timber Ripper, who, organizers say, will "entertain many throughout the weekend with his skill and expertise."

Among the returning favourites is Mark Hendy and his historical farming and agricultural displays, a popular attraction is interactive and educational. Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue is also returning on Saturday and Sunday.

A full slate of entertainment is scheduled to take place in the Rotary Bandshell; a brand new talent show will be presented on Friday afternoon from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

The Town Trolley is getting in on the action, and offering shuttle bus service on both Friday and Saturday. Volunteers are always welcome for any amount of time. If you are interested and available, please contact secretary@uxbridgefair.ca.

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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The Township of Uxbridge

Trail Capital of Canada



Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for August, 2023

Thursday, August 10, 10:00 a.m.
 TRAILS COMMITTEE

Monday, August 14, 10:00 a.m.
 COUNCIL MEETING

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

Employment Opportunities

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

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.

Fridays at the Foster Concert Series

9449 Conc. 7 (Durham 1)

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May to September.

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Aug. 11 - Chris Saunders – Guitar/Vocals

Aug. 18 - Shimoda Family Ensemble – Instrumental

Aug. 25 - David & Sarah Mills

August 14 – Meditation session

Pre-registration required. Please call 905-640-3966 or email beverlynortheast@gmail.com

The Foster Memorial is open for tours July and August from Wed. to Sun. 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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 person with a disability 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 age-friendliness 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 cellriott@uxbridge.ca

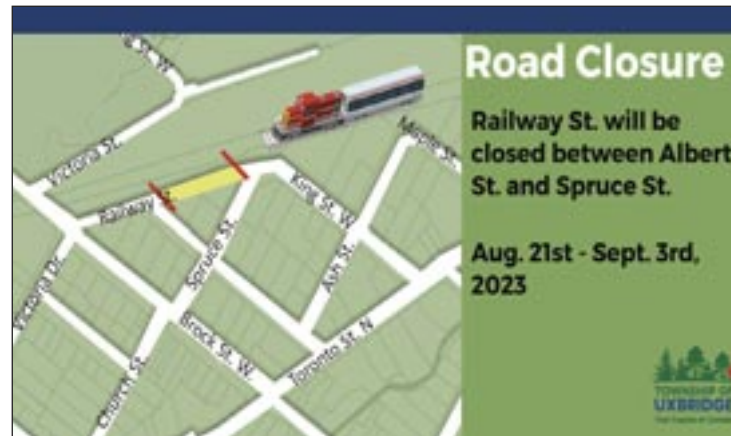
Uxbridge BIA Board of Directors

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

Bricks and mortar - a chaotic day in downtown Uxbridge

Conrad Boyce
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A morning of chaos in Uxbridge last week has left the community shaken.

Beginning at about 4:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 2, two Brock Street businesses were willfully vandalized by having their front windows smashed with a brick. The first to be hit was Mani-Tea, a tea shop at 19 Brock Street West. Later, just down the street, One Brock Street West, which rents office space on a short-term basis, also suffered dam-

age. No one was in the businesses at the time, so no one was injured.

Video surveillance identified the assailant as a female person well known to the owners of Mani-Tea, Yiyuan Wang and Guowen Zhang, as well as to many other downtown businesses. Unconfirmed reports say the female was later arrested by Durham Police.

Later the same morning, a truck suddenly went out of control while heading north on Toronto Street South, crashing into two vehicles parked in driveways, and then into the house at 60 Toronto Street South. Unconfirmed reports say the

driver of the truck suffered a medical emergency, and later died in hospital. No one else was injured.

However, a resident of the house, along with a small child, came out to the sidewalk while police were investigating the accident, and a number of her possessions, contained in several shopping bags, were stolen while she was talking to investigators.

Most of the details of both the vandalism and the traffic accident are unverified because Durham Police, despite numerous requests by the *Cosmos* both last week and this, refused to confirm anything by deadline on Tuesday.



Police had the area in front of 60 Toronto St. S. closed for almost 24 hours after a truck veered off the road. Photo by John Covers

In the meantime, social media have been afire not only with rumours about the identity of the vandal, but with concern that incidents like the window-smashing, and the theft of a victim's possessions, could happen in a small community like Uxbridge.

The *Cosmos* will have more on these incidents, and the fallout from them, in next week's edition.



Caution tape tries to cover the hole made after a brick was hurled through Mani-Tea's front window early on the morning of Aug. 2. The owners had the window replaced one day later, at their own expense. Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

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Our two cents

Can dinosaurs and diplomacy save the day?

Uxbridge is soon to be taken over by dinosaurs.

The York-Durham Heritage Railway (YDHR) is bringing in a large assortment of what it calls “life-sized, realistic animatronic dinosaurs” that apparently move and roar to give visitors a “dino train experience.” (We’re not sure what dinosaurs have to do with a heritage train operation, but we’re intrigued to find out.) And we’re hoping that the dinosaurs encourage all those who look upon them to visit the rest of not-as-prehistoric Uxbridge as well.

When YDHR approached town council on July 31, to request a road closure to accommodate the event (which runs from Aug. 26 through to Sept. 3, in case you want to make plans), council – namely Mayor Dave Barton – was clear about letting YDHR know that it (council) wants to see the railway succeed. As Mayor Barton said during the delegation from YDHR CEO John Perks, “(the railway) is an incredible tourism asset, right in our downtown core, that can have a huge positive effect on our residents, and especially our downtown businesses.”

Council members encouraged Perks to work with the Business Improvement Area (BIA) and local merchants to ensure that the event would be the “great draw to the community” that Perks said it would be during his delegation. Perks appeared to be reluctant to make the effort to get other Uxbridge merchants on board (forgive the pun) with what YDHR has planned, other than saying he was offering downtown merchants the opportunity to advertise in a “dino pack” that will be given to dino train guests when they enter the event.

We could not be more supportive of YDHR trying to be successful in its endeavours. No one wants to see a business fail, and YDHR currently holds one of Uxbridge’s greatest tourism assets in its hands. But the “themed” events it puts on – going all the way back to the Thomas the Train days – have the unfortunate optic of a metal fence running the perimeter of the railway and train station grounds. One way in, one way out. And because parking is scarce downtown, visitors have to be shuttled to and from the train site. This hardly encourages visitors to go head to Brock St., regardless of whether they hold a dino pack or not.

We’d love to see a win-win solution to this conundrum. YDHR’s visitors need accommodating, and Uxbridge needs them downtown. We can’t have one business telling other businesses that it’s not their job to support them. We all have to rely on one another. If we can’t, we may as well roll up Brock St. right now and all go home. A bad Google review for one of us is a bad review for all of Uxbridge.



Your Universe
The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Letters to the Editor

Roger Varley recently reported in the *Cosmos* (July 13 edition) that three eminent Uxbridge artists proposed a multi-medium sculpture commemorating the devastation and the personal impact of the tornado that hit our town in 2022.

They thought up the idea, combined their prodigious artistic visions and presented their concept to council at the July 10 meeting.

For councillor Willie Popp to propose putting the idea of a sculpture out for tenders from other artists is an affront to Fly Freeman, Francis Muscat and Mark Puigmarti. This was their concept, thoughtfully developed and presented, and should not be treated like a proposal to pave a street or pick up trash. Shame on council for treating these artists that way!

We sincerely hope that no other artist would even think of making a competitive bid for a sculpture to replace the beautiful creation of Wynn Walters destroyed by the storm.

When fund-raising for the Tornado commemorative project begins we will be first in line to contribute.

Gill & Ed Powers
Uxbridge

Re: Trail head parking fees bring in bank, July 27 edition

It’s great that the parking fees are bringing in revenue – these lands are an amazing treasure for Uxbridge. The Township, Durham

Region, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority need to do more to protect them. This does not mean adding more trail infrastructure or trail amenities, but the protection of our natural environment.

Having hiked and biked these trails on an almost daily basis for the last 18 years, I have watched invasive plants steadily spread without any action by local government or agencies to do anything about it. These plants are degrading important wildlife habitat and altering ecological function – and they get worse every year – yet the priority is “enhanced services and amenities at local trail heads.” When is the environment going to be prioritized?

Conservation authorities need to stand up for conservation and start to responsibly manage their lands for the critical purpose of conservation.

Christopher Henry
Uxbridge

A special meeting of town council was held on July 31, to deal with a request by the York-Durham Heritage Railway for special privileges (road closures). It was supposed to be a virtual session – it was virtually hidden. I was provided with the link for the live-stream, but it failed. I called the town hall, but got only voicemail – so much for a quick fix. I could not view it live.

Today, I watched the recorded council meeting. The meeting was concluded, even confirmed by by-

law before public comments were asked. The only person attending who had no relationship with the Township was Roger Varley. Thank you, Roger, for asking your pointed question. And there were many more questions that demanded answers, but it was all in vain, the YDHR had their way. I am very disappointed at how undemocratic the session was.

Grant Baines
Uxbridge

Re: High-speed internet investment announced, Aug. 3 edition

I read the announcement and, after not understanding why we are investing to benefit either Bell or Rogers, I ask – how are those 1,400 homes without highspeed internet with Starlink offering the equipment to link to the satellite internet service for \$200? If the reason is there is no highspeed internet available for the homes, then why not just spend a fraction of the funding and give them the equipment? One thousand four hundred homes at \$200/home comes to \$280,000. This would save tax payers \$22,720,000.

And if Bell and Rogers would like to have those homes as customers, then maybe they should pay for the laying of the lines.

Maybe our political representatives need to think a little outside the box and see what is actually available before writing a cheque that is not needed.

Douglas Owen
Uxbridge



Wandering the cosmos

column by Conrad Boyce

The gentle sound of lowing

One of the joys of being back in Uxbridge has been the opportunity to work with some old friends on theatre projects, whether it be at the Music Hall, the Historic Leaskdale Church or the Foster Memorial. This summer, I'm putting together the opening show for OnStage Uxbridge's 2023-2024 season. It's a very funny two-hander called "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune," set in New York in 1987 during the waning years of the AIDS epidemic.

My two actors on this adventure are a certain newspaper editor named Lisha, and her dairy farmer husband Grant, both of them veteran comedians, much of that experience gained at Pickering's Herongate Barn Theatre, which lamentably is closing this fall after the farm property was sold to developers. I've never directed Grant before, and Lisha only once, so this is a treat.

The play centres on one night in the life of two people who had long given up on love, but are given one last chance thanks to Glenn Gould and Claude Debussy (you'll have to come to the show to see what I mean). It has what we theatre folk call a unit set, taking place entirely in Frankie's cramped apartment. It would have been very difficult to rehearse in OnStage's traditional fashion, moving from hall to hall, re-setting the furniture every time, so we've been blessed to be able to have producer Ray Walker build our set in a barn owned by local theatre fans Dave and Enid Jones, where it can sit undisturbed from early July until we move into the Music Hall in late September.

Earlier this week, I arrived at rehearsal last, and as I was walking over a field to the barn, I was greeted by the calls of some cattle grazing in the next farm to the west. For some inexplicable reason, the lyric from "Away in a Manger" flashed into my brain: "The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes..." I stood and enjoyed the sound for a while, then proceeded to the barn, where Lisha and Grant were busy getting ready for work.

"So you're a dairy farmer," I said to Grant. "Tell me. What's the difference between a cow mooing, and lowing? I've sung that song

for 70 years, but I don't think I ever took the time to wonder what it meant."

It was as if the fellow got asked that question every day. He stopped and smiled.

"Well, if a cow is mooing, she's probably not very happy about something. Maybe she really needs to get milked, or she doesn't like her feed, or there's a coyote in the pasture, or a thunderstorm on the horizon. Lowing is very different, it's the sound of a contented cow."

He gave out a quiet mumbling growl, like the purr of an extremely large cat.

"You most often hear lowing when a cow is talking to her calf. So in the Christmas carol, the cow is probably welcoming a new calf to the manger, even if it's a human one. It's a sound meant to calm down anything that hears it, to put everybody at ease."

So that's why the baby Jesus doesn't cry. The Bethlehem beast is singing him a bovine lullaby. As Grant told me the story, I had the urge to pop over to Highview Holsteins, his Scugog spread, and just lie down amongst the herd and wait for them to come out with a communal purr. It's been a stressful couple of weeks, I need me some lowing. Nobody, I think, would have cause for an anti-depressant if they had a couple of cows in the backyard. Maybe we should draft a bylaw.

I've always had a soft spot in my heart for cows, especially the brown ones that give chocolate milk. Those big brown eyes just make you melt, and although just about every baby animal is adorable (with the possible exception of a heron chick), I think a Holstein calf gives a calico kitten a run for its money on the cuteness scale. And when they grow up, the Holstein's purr is way louder.

I have a modest proposal to put an end to the Russian/Ukrainian war. Chances are a lot of the soldiers on both sides are country folk, who spent a lot of time on farms in their not-too-distant youth. And Ukraine no doubt has a lot of cattle. Declare a cease fire. Bring all the soldiers to a pasture, no guns allowed, and sit them down on the grass. Let loose the cows and calves. Encourage petting. Lowing ensues. Clear thinking and deep breathing return. War over.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

The billion-tree promise

There was a short news clip about a week ago. It captured the Canadian minister of energy and natural resources smiling for the cameras. The video showed him joining the mayor of Surrey, B.C. Together, Minister Jonathan Wilkinson and Mayor Brenda Locke planted a tree symbolic of long-range plans to help restore Canada's tree population, reduce the effects of severe weather (flooding or drought) and rescue a warming planet.

"Planting two billion trees over 10 years is a key part of Canada's plan to fight climate change," Wilkinson said on August 2. "Every tree planted is a step toward a healthier, more sustainable Canada."

The mayor added, "The 35,000 trees we are planting in parks throughout Surrey will ... improve air quality and mitigate the effects of climate change."

In contrast, this past April, Jerry DeMarco, the federal environment commissioner (Office of the Auditor General), told reporters that Ottawa's 2019 "Two Billion Trees by 2030" election promise will not get even a tenth of that number of trees in the ground in time. He admitted that the Liberal government had followed through in 2020 with \$3.2 billion assigned to tree planting. According to a Canadian Press update on the scheme earlier this spring, the government said it would get 30 million trees planted in 2021, and another 60 million in 2022, but it's already behind schedule for 45 million of those plantings.

"It's clear that we have repeatedly rung the alarm bells," DeMarco told CP. "Now, those bells are almost deafening!"

So, what's the problem? Well, first of all, it's not the federal government that's planting the trees; the feds don't just call up college students, tree farms and national park wardens to tell them to get out there and plant more trees. Like so many transactions between Ottawa and other jurisdictions, the federal government has to get funding partners, provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous communities, cities and private landowners to sign agreements. The Canadian Press story in April showed that 94 such agreements were being negotiated in 2022, but only 23 of them had actual signatures on them. As of last fall, seven provinces and territories had signed on – not Ontario, by the way.

Meanwhile, in recent years, the Rotary Club of Uxbridge has quietly worked to do its share of environmental repair – planting trees at the

Fields of Uxbridge, as well as trees and shrubs at Bonner Field. Financed by grants from Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the service club is seeking final approval from Township Council to plant seedlings along a swale at Bonner Field this fall to ameliorate water accumulation. But there's a hitch. Some residents adjacent to the park have raised concerns about the planting. As Terry Baskin, past president of Rotary, reminded me. "The plantings will provide tremendous short- and long-term benefit." In other words, it looks as if Canada's problem is a *Canadian* problem. We cannot seem to get public unanimity to plant trees to save the planet. Nor can we apparently move the yardsticks of bureaucracy to get government departments, business organizations, environmental watchdogs, service groups and the public together fast enough to get seedlings into the ground two billion times! And time's a-wastin'. Quite literally, we're "fiddling while Rome burns." The latest statistics – published on Tuesday of this week by the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre – show that in 2023 nearly 5,500 fires have burned over 33 million acres of land. That's four per cent of the entire forested area of Canada ... so far!

It's time we got more serious about tree planting. And, without realizing it, I've kind of done my bit. In the spring of 1966, I managed to convince several of my friends to accompany me to a hobby farm my family owned near Bethany. I had a project in mind. The weather forecast was good. Mom promised to keep my friends fed. Dad promised refreshment to quench their thirst. Two days of labour later, we'd planted 1,000 evergreen trees. You see, I'd hoodwinked my friends into planting Christmas trees that I fully intended to grow, harvest and sell each December when the trees were mature. Well, I groomed those 1,000 trees (and another 2,000 I planted in 1967). And, yes, I harvested a handful for the family. But I never cut down and sold a single one. Today, on that farm (the family sold in 1990) at the corner of Hwys 35 and 7A, there's an evergreen forest, now 50 feet tall and 57 years old. So, maybe it's time to short-circuit the bureaucracy, get off our butts as individuals and start saving the planet one tree-planting at a time.

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Description of Land:

Roll No. 18 29 040 003 27500 0000; 50 THIRD AVE. S, UXBRIDGE; PIN 26843-0144 (LT); File No. 22-01; **Minimum Tender Amount: \$121,945.00**

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the land to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. A full copy of the tax sale advertisement and further information about this matter is available on line at www.OntarioTaxSales.ca or www.uxbridge.ca or you may contact Susan Straughan, Tax Collector, The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge, 51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190, Uxbridge ON L9P 1T1, Phone: (905) 852-9181 Ext. 216, Email: sstraughan@uxbridge.ca

Weekend rally hopes to push back Greenbelt threats

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Residents of Durham Region - particularly north Pickering and the area directly north of it, including Uxbridge, are being invited to a "Save the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Rally" this Sunday, August 13, beginning at 1 p.m. The rally will take place in front of Pickering-Uxbridge MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy's office at 1550 Kingston Road to "push back against an imminent threat to Greenbelt areas."

According to representatives from Stop Sprawl Durham, provincial leaders, along with Pickering council, are being urged to oppose plans to urbanize the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve (DRAP) and impact sensitive areas of Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) despite the offer of what Stop Sprawl Durham calls "secretive 'Community Benefits' for Pickering."

Stop Sprawl Durham's invitation says that "the integrity of RNUP and affordability for Durham residents is threatened by the removal of the 4,700-acre DRAP from the Greenbelt. Durham Region planning staff warned regional councillors about uncertainty surrounding development of DRAP in May 2023: "Full build-out will require major infrastructure upgrades to the Regional

water and sewer systems which will take years to plan and complete. Major improvements to the transportation network would also be required...the costs of delivery of other Regional services, including roads, transit, policing, paramedicine, waste, social and other services also need to be understood."

The rally will come close on the heels of the release by Ontario's auditor general of a report that investigates Premier Doug Ford's proposed Greenbelt land swap. The report has already been sent to the premier's office in order to get an official response before its release.

The report allegedly investigates the government's decision to open up the Greenbelt to housing development.

Stop Sprawl Durham says local residents have been "encouraged" by the words of former Scarborough MP and federal environment minister Pauline Browes, a long-time advocate for the creation of the Rouge National Urban Park. Browes has been outspoken about the need to return the DRAP to the Greenbelt to preserve the integrity of RNUP, which she says is an important natural asset.

For more information on Sunday's rally, visit stopsprawldurham.com or contact them by email at stopsprawldurham@gmail.com

The Band is back: musicians prepare for August recital

The last time the Uxbridge Community Concert Band gathered for a performance was in the lazy, care-free, maskless summer of 2019. It's been a long wait, but the 28th summer season of the UCCB will culminate in a final recital at Hope Church in Port Perry on Sunday, August 27, at 7 p.m.

The final concert continues the UCCB tradition of offering a wide variety of styles for all musical tastes. George Gershwin will be there, as will Gustav Holst. Percy Grainger brings along an English folk song. Music from the Broadway show "Chicago" will liven things up, and lullabies from Sri Lanka and China will mellow listeners out. Ragtime master Scott Joplin has a featured set, including fresh new versions of music from the opera "Treemonisha" as adapted by UCCB horn player Ted Samuels. The band is also revisiting an original work written especially for its 20th season by Kristie Hunter, entitled "A View from the Bridge."

For almost three decades, the UCCB has brought together adults and students from across Durham and York regions for a few weeks of summer music-making. They have remained true to their goal of being a welcoming, non-auditioned ensemble so that players of all abilities can meet and play together. This year, over three dozen musicians are in the band, ranging in age from teenagers to senior citizens.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, and tickets will be available at the door. For more information, contact the band at uccb@rogers.com.

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Waldo's in Uxbridge, from page 1

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Everyone's favourite clownfish - Nemo - is coming to Uxbridge!

Put on your lifejackets, because Vocally Inspired Performers (VIP) is bringing "Finding Nemo Jr." to the Uxbridge Music Hall from August 17 - 27!

Disney's "Finding Nemo Jr." is a 60-minute long musical adaptation of the beloved 2003 Pixar movie *Finding Nemo*, with new music by the award-winning songwriting team of Kristen An-

derson-Lopez and Robert Lopez - the same team who wrote the music for *Frozen*.

Equipped with what it calls an "exciting script and music," the VIP team has put together a cast of young performers aged eight through to 17 from Uxbridge and surrounding areas.

"The production features all the great aspects that Uxbridge audiences have come to expect from VIP: beautiful costumes, fun sur-

prises, energetic choreography and incredible vocals!"

VIP says that "Finding Nemo Jr." is "a fantastic production for younger audiences," so half the shows are matinees - "but there is something for everyone!"

Director and co-founder of VIP, Marisa Hachey, explains that her cast worked on their vocals throughout the month of June and then "came back together for an intense two-week camp program to complete blocking, choreography, character work and of course, team-building and fun!"

In "Finding Nemo Jr.", Marlin, an anxious and over-protective clownfish, lives in the Great Barrier Reef with his kid Nemo, who longs to explore the world beyond their anemone home. But when Nemo is captured and taken to Sydney, Marlin faces his fears and sets off on an epic adventure across the ocean. With the help of lovable characters such as optimistic Dory, laid-back sea turtle Crush, and the supportive Tank Gang, Marlin and Nemo both overcome challenges on their journey to find each other and themselves.

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Now is the right time for climate action

Nikita Mohile

Ontario summers usually feature bright blue skies and a periodical warm, fresh breeze. Today, I sat with Fly Freeman of the Uxbridge municipal Climate Adaptation and Transition Committee, looking out the Tim Hortons window at a hazy, smoke-filled sky. The cause of our deteriorating air quality is the onslaught of wildfires that have burned through 7.8 million hectares of Canadian land. Even after these fires are put out, their potential for damage has not been extinguished. Right now, smoke from Canadian wildfires has crossed the Atlantic Ocean and reached southwestern Europe.

When the effects of climate change are so imminent that we are breathing them in, it's clear that it's time to adapt. The Government of Canada recently released the National Climate Adaptation Strategy. This strategy is the first nationwide guide for climate action and helps communities resist climate change's effects.

"Up to now, everything has been about mitigation," says Freeman. "This is like, disasters are coming, and we need to be prepared."

While she says the report is thorough overall, Freeman feels that more could have been added: "It seems to me that preparedness for refugees and refugee movement is a huge part of climate change that has not been addressed," she said.

Split into five central systems that will be affected by environmental disasters, the report outlines specific initiatives that will be put in place to prepare communities. The sections include disaster resilience, health and well-being, nature and biodiversity, infrastructure, and economy and workers. Each section has actions to promote knowledge and understanding of climate risks and prevent extreme damage from disasters.

Residents of Uxbridge have already lived through historic climate events, namely the tornado that tore through town last May.

"Our municipality did a fantastic job with the tornado. They responded straight away, and they were learning for the next time. The tornado was a very obvious, clear example of a climate emergency," said Freeman.

In contrast, the wildfire smoke covering Uxbridge this year is a slower degradation of our environment. Over an extended period, poor air quality can result in lung damage, respiratory illnesses, and changes to standard weather patterns. With the implementation of the National Climate Adaptation Strategy, buildings will be built to physically resist dis-

asters, healthcare, emergencies, and international systems will be better prepared to deal with the effects of these disasters. Ultimately, this strategy and other climate actions aim to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Unfortunately, government guidelines and their actions are often misaligned. Although many strategies have been made to help the climate situation, Canada still operates as a "rip and strip" economy. "We are still subsidizing oil and gas companies,"

explained Freeman. "Instead we could be using this money for green energy and mitigation, not for increasing the problem."

At a local level, individuals can let their politicians know that the climate is an issue that they would like to see solutions to. Once climate action is prioritized, adaptations like public transit and outdoor recreational spaces will improve.

Nikita Mohile is a student at Port Perry High School who hopes to study journalism.



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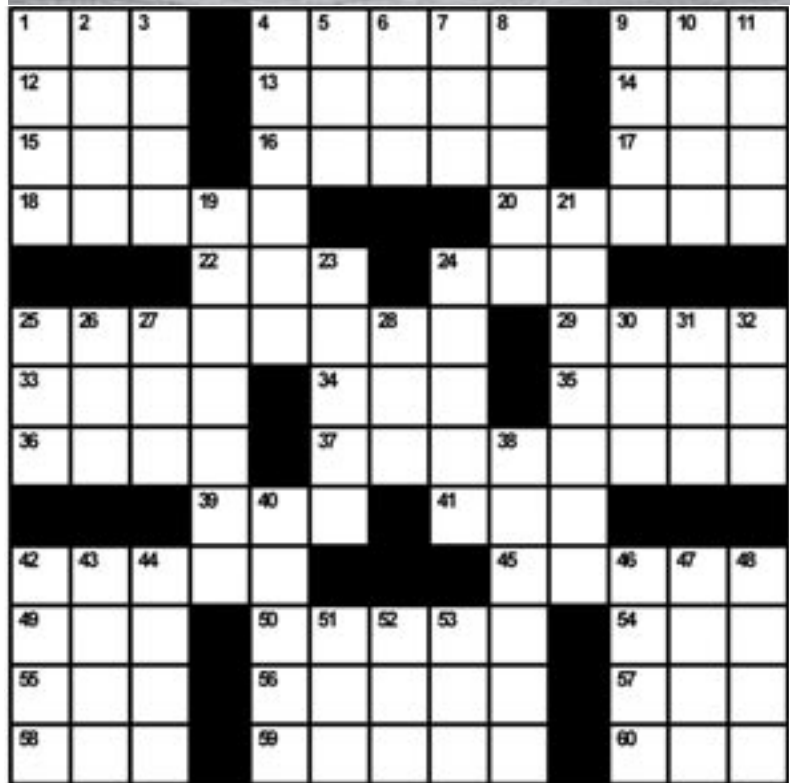
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Across

- 1. That girl
- 4. Saw used in horror flicks
- 9. Rocket launch area
- 12. Skewer
- 13. Postal scale unit
- 14. Verb for you
- 15. Unmatching
- 16. Total
- 17. Vast amount
- 18. Lab work
- 20. Like some organs
- 22. "She Done ___ Wrong"
- 24. Goes with haw
- 25. Clear-cut
- 29. "Once more ___ the breach...."
- 33. It gets pumped
- 34. Hide-hair link
- 35. Handyman's need
- 36. Bring in
- 37. Didn't malfunction
- 39. Where your diamonds studs go
- 41. Gel, in a way
- 42. Cutlass
- 45. Monastery rooms
- 49. Earl Grey, e.g.
- 50. ___ and kicking
- 54. Stock wood
- 55. Get into a stew?
- 56. Conifer trees
- 57. Word with bum or bunny
- 58. ___ Doubtfire--1993 film
- 59. Canvas shelters
- 60. Most spotted card

Down

- 1. Kind of check
- 2. Take cover
- 3. Finishes
- 4. Relative
- 5. Small dwelling
- 6. Pantry pest
- 7. Cocktail addition
- 8. Moxie
- 9. Beyond
- 10. Space
- 11. Agreement
- 19. Diluting agent
- 21. Copy
- 23. Underage
- 24. Start of a toast
- 25. To ___ for
- 26. Pitching stat
- 27. In place of
- 28. Over the ___
- 30. False!
- 31. Ring location, at times
- 32. Antediluvian
- 38. Alcove
- 40. Fit the mold
- 42. Restrain
- 43. Become tiresome
- 44. Quaker ___
- 46. Deep in thought
- 47. Erie, for one
- 48. Hot milk drink formation
- 51. Tell tall tales
- 52. Dew Drop ___
- 53. Dog doc



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EVENTS
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The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

Oooooohhh, such gall!

You've probably seen some unusual round growths, about the size of a ping-pong ball, in the stems of goldenrod plants. These balls are called galls and they're the homes of some baby flies. However, other insects also use plants as a nursery for their offspring.

The female Goldenrod Gall Fly lays eggs in the stems of the plant in the spring. The eggs hatch into tiny cream-coloured larvae several days later, and they begin to feed on the tissue inside the stems. Their saliva makes the goldenrod plants grow a hard rounded structure that houses the developing larvae. In the fall they chew a small tunnel through the gall to serve as their exit the following spring.



A goldenrod bunch gall, close up.

Photo by Nancy Melcher



A willow pinecone gall.

Photo by Nancy Melcher



A goldenrod gall fly gall.

Photo by Nancy Melcher

The larvae spend the winter inside, protected from the cold by the gall itself, but also by making antifreeze to prevent their tissues from freezing. They may become food for black-capped chickadees or downy woodpeckers, as these birds can peck through the gall to pull out the nutritious larvae inside. Those that survive will pupate in the spring and push out of their exit tunnels. They're not good fliers and spend most of their 10-to 14-day lives walking on nearby young goldenrod plants to find a mate, and lay eggs.

Another insect makes its home at the top of the goldenrod plant. Goldenrod Bunch Gall Midges lay eggs in the top leaves. The larvae secrete chemicals that make the stems stop growing taller. Instead, they grow more and more leaves from the same spot, making large rosettes that provide shelter and food for the developing larvae. These tight clusters of leaves also make homes for others, like spiders and other

midges!

A different midge is responsible for making willow shrubs grow galls that look like little pinecones. Willow Pinecone Gall Midges lay eggs in willow buds at the ends of the branches in springtime. Chemicals injected by the females and secreted by the eggs and larvae cause the stem tissues to broaden and harden

into the shapes of pinecones.

I've found all these galls while walking on the local trails, including the Barton Trail and the Uxbridge Countryside Preserve. They don't harm the plants and provide unique homes for insects which in turn provide food for our

local birds, both in the summer and winter. Nature can be fascinating if you stop and look closely!

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



WILES, Martin "Marty" Alexander June 13, 1937 - August 3, 2023

On August 3, 2023, Martin Wiles, while surrounded by his loving wife and family, went home to be with his Saviour and Lord. While we mourn his loss, we celebrate a man who lived a full life of love, faith and friendship.

Martin was a loving husband and true best friend to his high school sweetheart, Caro-Claire (née Braund) for 69 years (married for 67). He was the much older and wonderful brother to Gary Wiles (Susan). He was a devoted father who is cherished by his children: Caro-Alexandra "Tammy" (predeceased), John (Judith), Ken (Carolyn), Ted (Lisa), Andrea Winder (Kevin). Loving Poppa to 13 grandchildren: Ashleigh (Jacob), Melissa (Nathanael), Victoria, Joshua (Brittany), Kathleen, Emily, Graham (Bethany), Vanessa (Andrew), Joanna, Samantha, Nathan, Brennan, and Karl (Bethany). Great-grandfather to 12: Ryan, Oliver, Colton, Theodore, Adrian, Tobias, Milo, Simon, Ivan, Emma, Esther and Evelyn. He is also lovingly remembered by his nephews Adam (Jasmine) and Kash, nieces Megan (Shaun), Eva and Joey, and Mary Lou Wiles.

Born in Toronto to Robert Melville Francis Wiles and Rose Margaret (Black), Martin started a 33 year career at Bell Canada at 19, retiring at 52. He was a continuous learner and enjoyed many hobbies, which included bowling, boating, fishing, building and fixing things, just to name a few. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family and friends. He gave back to the communities he lived in by volunteering and offering his time and leadership. He was an active and committed church member, serving as a deacon and helping to teach children various wood crafts in annual vacation Bible schools. He was valued, supported and respected at the churches he attended- Uxbridge Baptist Church, Vivian Baptist Church and Cornerstone Baptist Church in Orillia.

Martin will be remembered for his unshakeable faith, his loud voice and laugh, his kindness and interest in people. He was generous, especially to his wife, family and close friends.

We are so thankful for the many people who took care of Dad on his health journey. He was also thankful for you.

Visitation will be held at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 265 Coldwater Road West, Orillia, on Tuesday, August 8, from 2 - 4 & 7 - 9 p.m., and on Wednesday, August 9, from 12 noon until the funeral service at 1 p.m. For those unable to attend the service, please feel free to join us by clicking on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sl6XqXZr858>

If desired, memorial donations can be made to the charity of your choice or Cornerstone Baptist Church through the Mundell Funeral Home (705) 325-2231. Messages of condolence are welcomed at www.mundellfuneralhome.com

BARNES, Gerald Gordon

Passed away peacefully at Butternut Retirement Manor, Uxbridge, on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, in his 98th year. (Member of the King Edward Masonic Lodge #A.F. & A. M.; G.R.C.; Royal Canadian Legion Branch #141 Sunderland).

Formerly a resident of Sunderland and Big Cedar Estates (Orillia), and currently resided at Butternut Retirement Manor, Uxbridge. Beloved husband of Jessie Lorraine Barnes (predeceased). Loving father to Doug Barnes (Sharon) of Sunderland, Carolyn Dane (the late Ron Dane) of Beaverton, and Sandra Colby (Barry) of Uxbridge. Loving grandfather to Daniel (Virginia), Karlene (John), Michelle (Reg), Krista (Wes) and Ryan (Ange). Loving great-grandpa to 10 grandchildren. Predeceased by his parents John Edward Barnes and Elsie Mary Barnes (Dean).

A graveside service with the family will be held at a later date. Special thank you to the wonderful staff at Butternut Manor Retirement Home, Uxbridge, for their special care and concern. Thank you to Dr. Chau and Dr. Wong. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association and can be made through the Mundell Funeral Home (705-325-2231). Messages of condolence are welcomed at www.mundellfuneralhome.com



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