

# The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 24

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Vikings and the New Found Land • Father's Day reigns • A low-key Canada Day



**SING IT LOUD** - Alannah Kemp belts out a tune at Blue Heron Books during an 'acoustic pop-up performance' during Springtide Music Festival, held last weekend. Hundreds of music lovers listened to soloists, small ensembles and groups play at venues all over Uxbridge. *Photo by John Covers*

## Singer takes home two trophies from CMAOntario awards

Justyne Edgell

Local country music sensation Robyn Ottolini took home two wins at last week's Country Music Association of Ontario Awards.

The 11th Annual CMAOntario Awards took place on June 4, at Theatre Aquarius in Hamilton, celebrating the talent and achievements in 19 categories of Ontario's country music industry.

Ottolini took home Single of the Year for her song "Say It," as well as the award for Female Artist of the Year, tying with country duo The Reklaws for most wins of the night.

Ottolini told the *Cosmos* that this win is a huge honour.

"I've been going to that awards show since it began, so to win, let alone be nominated, is always special," she said.

The singer is currently on tour opening for Canadian country music superstar Shania Twain, and says her life is full of "interviews,

...continued on page 3

## Long-awaited refugee family arrives end of this month

Justyne Edgell

North Durham Refugee Reunification (NDRR) has announced that a family of 11 Syrian refugees is finally on its way to Canada, and it desperately needs volunteers from Uxbridge to help with the relocation.

The organization is helping to sponsor the Kurdish Syrian family; relatives of an Uxbridge resident who immigrated here as part of a newcomer family in 2016. The family of 11 has spent 10 years in Lebanon, living without a home.

The family consists of three generations. The parents initially fled the bombing in Damascus with four young children a decade ago. These four children are now grown and in their 20s, and the eldest son and daughter have married, so they bring along two spouses and three children between them (two preschoolers and a baby).

After almost three years of fundraising and organizing, the family is scheduled to arrive in Canada on June 27, and the NDRR is still in need of donations and volunteers to help with the reunification of the family, the immigration and transition into the community.

NDRR has a goal of \$140,000, which is the required amount by Immigration, Citizenship and Refugee Canada (IRCC) to help settle and support this three-generation family for one year. NDRR has \$10,000 remaining to reach this goal. NDRR is also looking for volunteers to help with transportation, help the newcomers learn Canadian culture and English.

While Uxbridge has a hugely supportive and welcoming community, Jane Kiyonaga, co-chair of NDRR, along with Margot Willoughby, says that the town doesn't quite have the infrastructure to support easy integration into building a life in Canada.

"After a lot of deliberation, we are going to be housing the family in the north end of Oshawa because there is a greater opportunity for sustainability. For us that means more employment, walking distance to schools, direct bus routes to ELS classes, etc.," explains Kiyonaga.

Along with individual sponsorships and donations, many community businesses and organizations, like the Rotary Club of Uxbridge and Canadian Tire, have stepped up to help out, along with the youth group, Uxbridge Kids Care.

NDRR has committed to 12 months of settlement support. "It means we support the family for initially one year, with all things, like housing, food supplies, living expenses, but most importantly it's giving them orientation and adjustment support as they make the transition into our culture," says Kiyonaga.

...continued on page 3

**COMFLEX**  
REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

**LOWEST**  
real estate  
commission  
**GUARANTEE!**

Patrick Bryant  
905-439-2033  
www.ComFLEX.ca

Not intended to solicit buyers/sellers under contract.

**PHARMASAVE**

Your independent  
neighbourhood pharmacy

**ORDER REFILLS  
VIA OUR APP  
OR ONLINE AT**

pharmasaveuxbridge.com

29 Toronto St. S., Uxbridge | 905-862-2800

Contact me for a complimentary  
market analysis.

heather  
**MACKENZIE**  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE  
Direct 416-476-5905

heathermackenzie@royallepage.ca

ROYAL LEPAGE  
FRANK Real Estate

**STEP FORWARD  
PHYSIOTHERAPY**

YOUR FIRST STEP  
TO RECOVERY

**905 852-1122**

278 Main St. N Unit 4, Uxbridge

**STEPFORWARDPHYSIO.COM**

Your Local Link to Real Estate

www.**StacyKearley**.com  
Sales Representative

Listing Local  
Marketing Global

**Re/Max All-Stars Realty**  
Inc. Brokerage

47 Brock St. W., Uxbridge  
905-852-6143  
416-570-0393  
www.stacykearley.com

**FREE PUBLIC SWIM**

**NEXT SATURDAY  
JUNE 24TH 1-3PM**

UXPOOL | 1 PARKSIDE DR

905-852-6143 | cindy@cindywood.ca | www.cindywood.ca | 47 Brock St W, Uxbridge ON L9P 1N5

**RE/MAX ALL-STARS**  
CINDY WOOD  
BROKER/TEAM LEAD

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
R.M.R. REAL ESTATE,  
BROKERAGE

**Marie Persaud**  
Direct: 416-970-8979  
Mariepersaud.ca

**Alyssa Persaud**  
Direct: 647-232-8979  
AlyssaPersaud.ca

Sales Representatives  
Office:  
905-852-4338

**Your Private Oasis Awaits!**

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, finished walkout basement, spring-fed pond and direct access to the Uxbridge Brook. Call us today to see this beautiful home before it's gone! Offered for sale for \$899,900.



# 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

FOLLOW US   

MORE INFO  [www.uxbridge.ca](http://www.uxbridge.ca)

## Council & Committee Meetings

### Meeting Schedule for June, 2023

Monday, June 19, 10:00 a.m.  
GENERAL PURPOSE AND  
ADMINISTRATION MEETING

Monday, June 19, 1:00 p.m.  
EDUCATION SESSION  
(Closed to the Public)

Monday, June 26, 10:00 a.m.  
COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, June 26, 7:00 p.m.  
BIA BOARD MEETING

### Proclamations for June

Bike Month • Brain Injury Awareness Month  
• Indigenous History Month •  
International Pride Month to Celebrate and  
Support LGBTQ • Seniors Month • Spina  
Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month  
June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples' Day  
June 23 - National Day of Remembrance for  
Victims of Terrorism  
June 27 - PTSD Awareness Day

## Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to  
[www.uxbridge.ca/en/business-and-development/bids-and-tenders.aspx?\\_mid\\_=-23193](http://www.uxbridge.ca/en/business-and-development/bids-and-tenders.aspx?_mid_=-23193)

**U23-11 - Catch Basin Cleaning**  
Closes June 20, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

## Employment Opportunities

Complete details of all open positions are  
available at [www.uxbridge.ca/careers/](http://www.uxbridge.ca/careers/)

**Uxbridge Historical Centre - Program and  
Collections Assistant, full-time, contract**  
Closes Friday, June 23, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

**Community Services – Arena Attendant,  
Adult, contract**  
Closes Friday, July 14, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

**Public Works and Operations  
Crossing Guard**  
Resumés accepted on an ongoing basis.

**Summer Opportunities  
Parks - Adult Horticulture Worker, skilled,  
contract** - Closes Wednesday, June 21, 2023,  
at 2:00 p.m.

## From The Tax Office

2023 Final Property Tax Bills for Residential, Managed Forest and Farmland properties were mailed May 24th, 2023. Payments for these bills are due on the following dates:

**FIRST Tax Installment is due on June 28th, 2023.**  
**SECOND Tax Installment is due on September 27th, 2023.**

2023 Final Property Tax bills for Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Residential properties were mailed May 29th, 2023. Payments for these bills are due on the following dates:

**FIRST Tax Installment is due on July 17th, 2023.**  
**SECOND Tax Installment is due on September 27th, 2023.**

### Tax Payments Options:

- In person at Town Hall during regular business hours of Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Accepted payment methods are cash, cheque, or Interac debit.
- In an after-hours Drop Box located in the Municipal Office front parking lot. DO NOT DEPOSIT CASH. Post-dated cheques are acceptable.
- By Mail - Payments must reach the Municipal Office by the due date.
- Through Internet or Telephone Banking
- At most Financial Institutions.
- Credit cards and e-transfers are not accepted for property tax payments.

### Penalty/Interest Charges:

All tax payments must be received by the installment due dates as indicated on the tax bill. If you are late paying your taxes, an interest penalty of 1.25% will be added on the first business day of each month until paid. A Notice of Past Due Taxes will be issued in the month following the installment due date and will incur an additional cost that is added to the tax account. 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.**

**PLEASE RETAIN YOUR 2023 FINAL TAX BILL FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.** If a reprinted tax bill, receipt or Statement of Account is required for any year's taxes, a fee of \$15.00 will apply.

If you did not receive your 2023 Final Tax Bill, please contact the Tax Department at 905-852-9181 or [tax@uxbridge.ca](mailto:tax@uxbridge.ca)



## Board & Committee Appointments

### Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge invites applications from members of the public who are qualified electors of the Township of Uxbridge who identify as a person with a disability and who wish to be considered for the **Accessibility Advisory Committee** for a four-year appointment (Term of Council, expiring November 2026).

The purpose of the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is to work with Council to create an accessible and barrier free community. They review municipal building and infrastructure plans, policies, and programs to ensure that they are accessible to all. The AAC is responsible for advising Council about all matters related to accessibility. This includes developing and implementing the Multi-year Accessibility Plan and ensuring that the Township complies with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The work of the AAC will be guided by Council-approved Terms of Reference.

The Committee meets Tuesdays from 3:30pm - 5:30pm, bi-monthly.

### Age Friendly Advisory Committee

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge is now inviting applications from members of the public who are qualified electors of the Township of Uxbridge and wish to be considered for a four-year appointment (Term of Council, expiring November 2026) to the **Age Friendly Advisory Committee**.

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

Any persons interested in offering their services by accepting an appointment to either of these Committees are invited to submit a letter of interest along with a completed Volunteer - Committee Member Application Form, available at the Clerk's Department or on the Township of Uxbridge website under Committees and Initiatives, [http://town.uxbridge.on.ca/committees\\_and\\_initiatives](http://town.uxbridge.on.ca/committees_and_initiatives) to the undersigned.

Completed applications must be submitted to the undersigned by email to:

Emily Elliott, Deputy Clerk/Uxbridge Accessibility Coordinator  
51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190, Uxbridge ON L9P 1T1  
[elliott@uxbridge.ca](mailto:elliott@uxbridge.ca) 905-852-9181 x 209

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.

If this information is required in an accessible format, or if you require assistance filling in, printing or signing the application form please email [accessibility@uxbridge.ca](mailto:accessibility@uxbridge.ca) or contact the Deputy Clerk at (905) 852-9181, extension 209.

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](http://uxbridge.ca/accessibility)

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

## Small scale Canada Day event planned for Uxbridge

Roger Varley

Still plagued by the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the township's Canada Day committee says Uxbridge's celebration of the national holiday this year will once again be a scaled-back affair.

Robin Coombs, chair of the committee, said the day's activities at Elgin Park will begin at 6 p.m. A number of food trucks and food venues will be offering a variety of snacks and treats and there will be entertainment for children, including face-painting. The event will culminate with a fireworks display, but only if the weather cooperates. Coombs said the fireworks will be cancelled if the township's fire ban is still in

effect on the day. According to the Weather Network, the long-range forecast calls for a sunny July 1, with temperatures expected to be in the 20s.

Although not a part of the official festivities, the Lion's Club will be holding a "soft" opening of their brand new playground ahead of the Canada Day event.

Entrance to the park will be free, with parking accessible only through the Elgin Park Drive entrance. Entry to the celebrations will be free, but donations will be gladly accepted.

Coombs said he hopes Uxbridge's Canada Day will return to near-normal next year, but encouraged residents to support this year's edition by attending.

## New family in town, from page 1

NDRR has spent three years building a relationship with the family by communicating through WhatsApp messages and video calls, and is excited to finally welcome the family onto Canadian soil.

"The day we told them they had an arrival date was so exciting," says Kiyonaga. "I was trying to figure out how to tell them, I had a big piece of paper that said "June 27, Canada" and I held it up on video chat and there was laughing, crying and big hugs on both sides of the Atlantic!"

Kiyonaga, says she thinks Uxbridge is "the best community in the world," and that she knows that

when people hear a story of those in need, they step up to the plate. "No one asks to be born into poverty. We were lucky enough to be born into privilege, and we think we should share that," says Kiyonaga.

NDRR is backed by World Renew, a sponsorship agreement holder under the federal government's Private Refugee Sponsorship program, and by Hope Church of Port Perry, which provides critical administrative support and issues tax receipts to donors.

For more information on NDRR, the new family, to donate and/or volunteer, visit [sites.google.com/view/ndrr/](https://sites.google.com/view/ndrr/) or send an email to Kiyonaga at [ndrefugeereunification@gmail.com](mailto:ndrefugeereunification@gmail.com)

## Ottolini awards, from page 1

traveling, playing country music and keeping healthy."

While she'll be in and out of Canada for shows and festivals for the next few months, Ottolini says she is most excited to play live shows at more music festivals as the season starts to ramp up.

For local music fans hoping to catch one of Ottolini's performances, there may be a wait, as she'll be away from home for a little while.

"I just played in Woodstock, Ontario, and I will be back playing in Kitchener on July 1! That's as close as I'll be for a bit!"

Ottolini also teased that "a new single is just around the river bend," and that new music is always in the works.



Rosemary Hamilton is retiring from Stonemoor Daycare after 37 years of service!

Please join us at our open house celebration to wish her well on her retirement.

Tuesday, June 20

5:30 - 7:30pm

763 Davis Drive, Uxbridge



**Budget Blinds**

905-487-8363  
Toll-free 888-982-8343  
[budgetblinds.com](http://budgetblinds.com)

**Butternut Manor**  
*Retirement Living...Among Friends*

**Now Available**  
**Beautiful 1-bedroom and studio suites**

Call us today and *arrange a visit to our residence*  
We can't wait to meet you! 905-852-6777 ext. 401

email [generalmanager@butternutmanor.com](mailto:generalmanager@butternutmanor.com)  
Website [butternutmanor.com](http://butternutmanor.com)

**PEYSON CONSTRUCTION**

**NOW BOOKING 2023 SUMMER**

**LANDSCAPING + WATERPROOFING**  
647.208.3607 [WWW.PEYSON.CA](http://WWW.PEYSON.CA)

**Combination 3 in 1 Sale**  
Saturday, June 17 from 9 am to 1 pm

All proceeds go directly to our Outreach Program

**Plant Sale**

**Yard Sale**

Please make sure donated items are in good condition and in working order. Thank you.

**Bake Sale**

**Front lawn at St. Paul's Anglican Church 59 Toronto Street South**

# Our two cents

## Dads are a good reason to celebrate

Given everything that's going on at the moment, it might be worth reminding everyone that Father's Day is this Sunday, June 18. Dads - and Dad-like figures - aren't just held in high esteem in June, however. They're celebrated all year long, all around the world.

In Brazil, for example, Father's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in August, honouring St. Joachim, the Virgin Mary's father, and a patron saint of fathers and grandfathers. Spain, Italy and Portugal celebrate Father's Day on March 19, which is the Feast of St. Joseph, another patron saint of fathers.

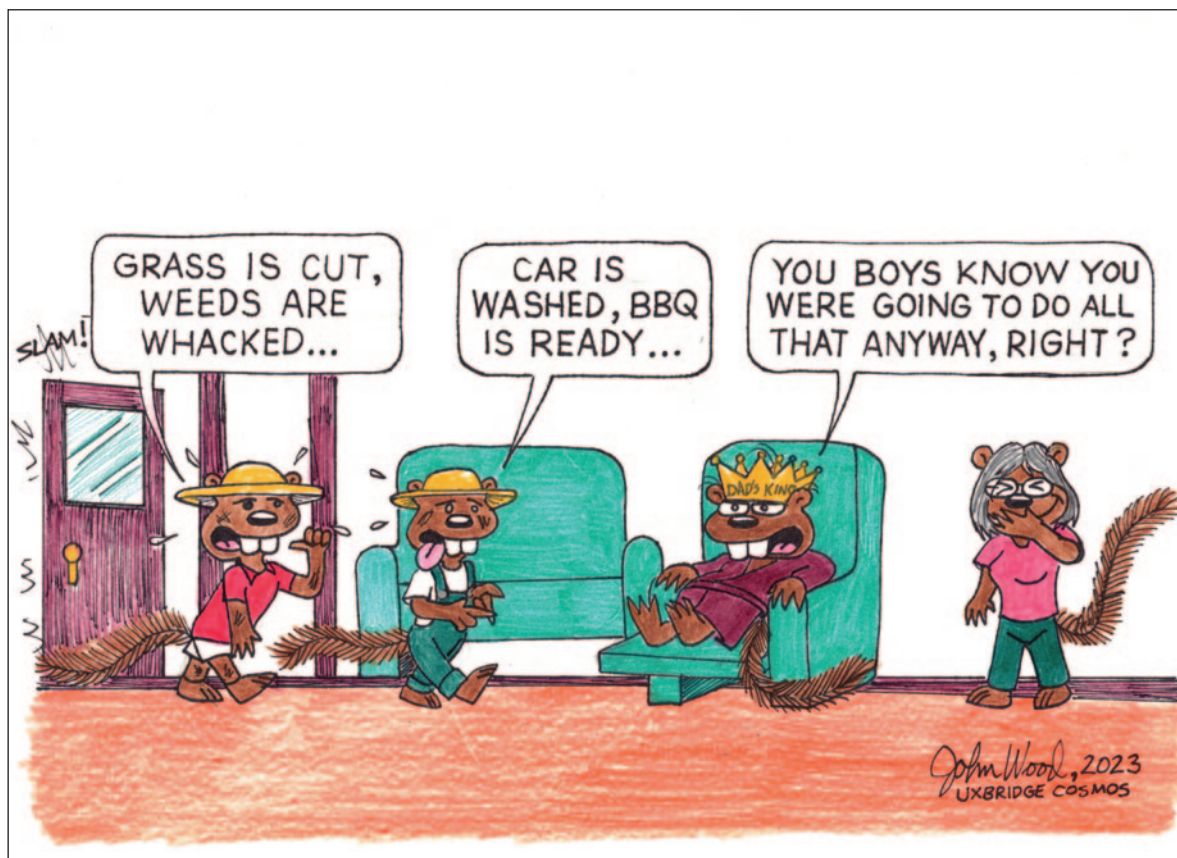
In Russia, Father's Day is more commonly known as "Defender of the Fatherland Day. While it was apparently a military commemoration originally, it has morphed into a day that celebrates all men, and on Feb. 23 every year, Russians get to watch parades that celebrate the Russian Armed Forces. Lucky them.

The French will be celebrating their Father's Day this weekend, as will the Mexicans. In France, loved ones will give red roses to fathers who are alive, and place or display white roses in honour of those who have passed on.

Father's Day is close to Christmas in Thailand, where it's celebrated on Dec. 5. That just happens to be the birthday of their much-loved King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who passed away in 2016. Dads there receive yellow canna flowers, which are said to represent masculinity.

Germans honour *Vater* 40 days after Easter, and apparently spend the day with family going on long hikes (which they do regularly, so it's not a unique outing).

The history of Father's Day is a little difficult to nail down. The ancient Romans apparently had a tradition of honouring fathers in what we call February, but only those fathers who had deceased. Some sources say Father's Day was created solely in response to Mother's Day. Others say it was a lighter manufacturer who invented Father's Day to help sell lighters to smoking dads after World War II. No matter its history, or its various celebration dates, make this year's Father's Day one to remember. The world is full of enough rubbish at the moment - we could use a celebration. Happy Father's Day!



## Letters to the Editor

I have studied the Highway Traffic Act. You know, the provincial statute that governs the way we are supposed to use the roads in Ontario. I have been unable to locate any exemptions for drivers in Uxbridge. There are no exemptions that say drivers of white cars need not stop at STOP signs, nor are there exceptions for pickup trucks to obey the MAXIMUM speed limit only during certain times. Likewise, a bicycle is defined as a vehicle under the Act. There are no exemptions for bicycles at STOP signs. Ontario has not implemented the "Colorado Safety STOP".

Children learn from their parents. If you are not following the rules, how do you expect your children to know what is correct?

Slow down and obey the rules of the road - the other guy may not be following the rules either. A double error is not self-correcting.

*Grant Baines  
Uxbridge*

Asking for a friend: Why does (the) LGBTQ2+ (community) get a whole month of "celebration?" Canada gets one day, July 1. Veterans (like Trooper Hugh Buckley, mentioned in the June 8 Barris Beat column) get one day, November 11. Mothers and fathers get one day (or they used to). Families get one day. Jesus gets one day, Christmas (except where He has been cancelled in favour of the more inclusive "winter holiday").

A group called "Gays Against Groomers" has issued this statement: "Each year Pride seems to go on a little longer. Not only do we

find Pride unnecessary now, we are concerned by the exposure of inherently sexual materials that fall under the LGBT umbrella to children. Children are being indoctrinated, sexualized and even medicalized in the name of 'LGBTQ acceptance'. We will not let this happen without a fight. We appreciate any and all support in our efforts to hold the line and save the innocence of children."

If only our schools, businesses, governments and even churches had the courage of this organization to speak the truth and refuse to pander to extremists who want to control our thoughts, speech and actions.

*Aleta Voss  
Uxbridge*

First, a giant 'Thank-you' for basing your recent column ('Am I wrong?', June 8 edition) on the young adult issue at our annual Fair. To repeat a point in my letter, this issue is with a small percentage of our youth. Most are wonderful!

To be honest, it really does not matter who is right or wrong in this case. What is important is the issue is now clearly out in front of the public where it should be. The fair board's concern is that if something is not done to respond to the situation, someone will be seriously injured. I do not wish to have EMS proving lifesaving care to anyone because we did not try hard enough to prevent the problem.

The reality is that our community has seen an increase in socially unacceptable behaviour in public as some people feel they can ignore rules and do whatever they want.

We are now in a position where we need to deal with it.

In 2022, our security guards at the gates confiscated knives being brought in to the fair in backpacks. We ended up with enough confiscated alcohol to open a small LCBO branch, again being brought in backpacks. In 2019, we made a record number of 911 calls for medical and police intervention related to dangerous and inappropriate behaviour and alcohol and drug related medical emergencies. Alcohol and drugs were a contributing factor, in most cases. During cleanup, we found a few OxyContin prescription bottles lying about where the youth had their massive group gathering.

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 first step in resolving problems is to recognize them; the second is to discuss them in an open and frank manner, and the third is to deal with them. So why not help deal with it, as a community should? The fair board has recognized the issue and is having in-depth conversations on to the most appropriate way to deal with it. There is plenty of time to come up with alternative solutions, but only if the process continues.

One must also recognize the legal and liability ramifications of all this in today's courts.

...continued on page 6

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



Support our local businesses so they can support The Cosmos.

Because without them, we can't continue to deliver the news you want and need.

Your Universe  
**The Uxbridge Cosmos**

Publisher/Editor: Lisha Van Nieuwenhove 905-852-1900  
Advertising/Sales: 905-852-1900

38 Toronto Street North, Unit One, Uxbridge Ontario L9P 1E6  
E-mail: Lvann@thecosmos.ca Web site: Thecosmos.ca  
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday to 4 p.m.

EDITORIAL POLICY: Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of The Cosmos. Letters must be signed and the telephone number provided (number will not be published). Requests that a name be withheld will be honoured only if there is a compelling reason. Errors brought to our attention will be corrected. The Cosmos reserves the right to edit and/or refuse to publish unsolicited material. ADVERTISING POLICY: The Cosmos reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The Cosmos is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors in advertisements or any other errors or omissions in advertisements. All material herein, including advertising design, is copyrighted, and may not be reproduced in any form without permission.



Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



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



## Wandering the cosmos

column by Conrad Boyce

### East meets west

The breeze was chilling off the North Atlantic as we listened to the Parks Canada guide weave the tale of how Viking explorers first came to this cove, at the farthest northern tip of Newfoundland, around a thousand years ago.

The Norse legends don't tell us what they called this place, and the Indigenous people who camped here have long since disappeared, so we don't have their oral histories. Nowadays it's called *L'Anse aux Meadows* ("anse" meaning "cove"), in recognition of the long grasses waving all around us. In the early 1960s, it was a pasture inhabited by the flock of local shepherd George Decker. One summer afternoon, George was visited by a Norwegian antiquarian, Helge Ingstad, who said the old Norse sagas had convinced him that the Vikings must have landed around here somewhere in quest for wood and iron to improve life in their Greenland colony.

"Have you seen any unusual ruins or formations here?" asked Ingstad. "Anything that might indicate an old settlement?"

George thought a moment. "Yeah, maybe," he said. "The sheep are down there right now, down by the water. We call them the Indian mounds, but who knows? Why don't you come see?"

As soon as he saw the mounds, Ingstad got excited. He and his archaeologist wife, Anne, invaded that pasture for several summers in succession, and it wasn't long before their suspicions were confirmed. A decade later, *L'Anse aux Meadows* was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

What's the big deal, you ask? A small gang of fair-haired barbarians wanders into this cove, throws up a few sod huts, and after only a few decades, retreats to Greenland, never to return. And Europeans didn't come this way again for almost 500 years.

Well, the big deal is that the small Viking settlement in the cove probably witnessed a landmark moment of human history. It was about 250,000 years ago that our species first came out of Africa. Driven by curiosity, some of us headed north, then west. Others drifted east, to China and Australia, and then, via the Bering Land Bridge, across to the Americas. Some headed south at that point. But others continued the march east, only stopping when they reached the wide Atlantic.

Meanwhile, the west-goers had also been stymied by the Atlantic. It wasn't until Erik

the Red colonized Iceland, then Greenland, that European shipwrights began to dream of conquering the westward sea. In fact, some of Erik's colonists, blown off course, glimpsed a mysterious country off in the foggy distance, and when the Greenlanders began to long for wood and iron, they thought maybe they could go southwest to get it, rather than back to Europe.

And thus it was, the saga goes, that one spring day right around the turn of the last millennium, Leif Eriksson, Erik's boy, gathered a few reckless companions and set off in his favourite *knorr*. Inevitably, he encountered this particular cove and decided it was an ideal site for a base camp, to further explore the coast. Not long after that, another inevitability: the first encounter with the local population. And that was the moment when humankind finally put a girdle round the globe, when the east-roamers, established here for thousands of years, at last encountered the westward bound. Ah, to be a no-see-um on the black spruce bough at that first meeting.

Leif would have suspected that this new land was inhabited, all the other ones had been. But the native people might have been surprised; no one had arrived on their shores from the east before. What did the two groups think of each other? How did they communicate?

It wasn't exactly the Viking way to be intimidated by strangers. And the scouting party must have been sufficiently encouraged by what they found to bring women to the camp in ensuing years; among the artifacts at the site were cloth-making and basket-weaving tools.

The camp was abandoned for good in fewer than 30 years. Archaeologists can only speculate that something must have soured the relationship between the two groups. Or perhaps the camp had served its purpose, maybe the Vikings now knew where to find what they needed, and could just send boats every summer to gather supplies, without ever putting down roots, much as fishermen from many European countries did for centuries on the Grand Banks.

For now, the only evidence of ancient Norse presence in North America is right here on this boggy inlet. And it must have been on a day like this, with the north wind whistling in off the icy sea, that Lief and his boys first came ashore and closed the human circle.



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Pilgrimages of loss and remembrance

We are virtually alone down this back road in northern France. A breeze rustling new spring leaves and chirping birds overhead provide the only sounds here. Nevertheless, because the lawn and flowerbeds look so immaculate, we know gardeners have tended here recently. At a headstone engraved with a maple leaf, our group gathers to listen to fellow traveller Robin John.

"John Alexander Edward Hughes enlisted in the Canadian Forces on May 22, 1917, five days after his 18th birthday," she said of her uncle.

Which meant that Hughes was just legally eligible to enlist. Like so many young Canadians, Hughes felt compelled to serve King and Empire. And since, at the time, he was a medical student at Montreal's McGill University, the army trained him for the medical corps. He arrived overseas in time to serve in the Arras-Scarpe campaign and earned two military medals during the critical last 100 days of the war.

In a moving tribute, Robin John, a retired nurse, said she never considered she had much connection to the military, much less an uncle who served in the Great War as a stretcher bearer. But this cemetery has drawn Robin and husband Tom to join a battlefield tour of sites where Canadians served in the 1914-1918 war. At Hughes' grave, she read his letter home thanking his parents for sending a pot of fresh jam, which he admitted was such a delicacy "it was *not* long in the land of the living."

Pte J.A.E. Hughes' headstone simply identifies his regiment, rank and date of death – Sept. 29, 1918 – just 43 days before the Nov. 11 Armistice.

Not all pilgrimages to battlefields in Europe lead to cemeteries. Since the Battle of the Somme in the summer and fall of 1916, a place called Beaumont Hamel has drawn generations of Newfoundlanders to walk this former WWI battlefield, now just grassy trenches, shaded meadows and a towering memorial crowned by a sculpture of Newfoundland's symbolic caribou. Gene Fisher's grandfather, Pte Hubert J.W. Fisher, sustained wounds here. And he's considered lucky.

"They lost 86 per cent of his regiment here," Gene Fisher said, standing beneath the caribou and three bronze plaques commemorating Newfoundlanders whose bodies were never found. Just after 9 a.m. on July 1, 1916, men of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment

had barely gone over the top when they were cut down by German machine-gun fire. Of 800 men, more than 700 were killed, wounded or missing within the hour. Gene explained that his grandfather had left a teaching job in Bonavista to fight, but overseas faced freezing temperatures in winter, German gas attacks and "if your buddy was killed next to you, his body might remain there for weeks, not removed."

Despite the odds and shrapnel wounds, Hubert Fisher returned home to Newfoundland and operated a hardware store in Bonavista. For a time, Gene got to know his grandfather there, quizzing him about his wartime experiences. At some point, the veteran showed his grandson a club he'd used to batter enemy troops in the battlefield, "and there were dark spots on the club, the remains of German blood," said Gene, who would himself go on to serve in the Canadian Forces in the 1960s and '70s.

As the Beaumont Hamel memorial illustrated – commemorating 820 Newfoundlanders with no known graves – all too often in the Great War, soldiers simply disappeared to be commemorated only in spirit – 11,285 at the Vimy Memorial, 72,000 at the Thiepval Memorial, and 54,000 at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. Eventually, our tour group followed Carol Pearcey into the Berks Cemetery Extension outside Ypres. The Uxbridge Legion Branch 170 member entered the vast rotunda there to seek out the name of her great-uncle, James Hutchison, on the wall of disappeared dead. The Black Watch private from Scotland was an old man by most First World War standards, at 44, when he vanished on May 9, 1915. But as Jamie Herriot from our tour group made a pencil tracing of Hutchison's name on a sheet of paper, Carol admitted, "I've always wanted to come here to pay homage, even if they never found his body."

When Robin John finished her pilgrimage to the Bucquoy Road Cemetery, days before, she reflected on the futility of her uncle John Hughes' death at age 19 on the verge of a budding medical career in 1918. "An extreme tragedy that he was lost so young," she said, "and with so much potential." So, might it be said of all 59,544 members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who died in the Great War.

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

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.



**AND THIS IS FOR YOU** - The 2023 production of uxpérience raised \$5,000, which was presented to the Uxbridge Youth Centre last Wednesday during uxpérience's wrap-up meeting. Pictured left: Dale McKnight from the UYC happily accepts the donation from uxpérience director Matt Gunn, while members of uxpérience look on. *Photo by John Covers*



**SENIOR PLAY DAY** - The Durham Region Senior Games horseshoes tournament took place last Wednesday at the pitches on the grounds of the Uxbridge Historical Centre. Fourteen people came out to play despite the chilly, overcast weather. Winners Case Glasbergen, from Whitby, and Bob Kirvan, from Uxbridge, go on to compete in the provincial senior games in Brantford. The runners up were Murray Smith and Tim Thomson of Uxbridge.  
The Durham Region Senior Games games celebrate active living in an atmosphere of fun, fellowship and friendly competition, and individuals of all skill levels are welcome. The Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society horseshoe club, the only one in Durham Region, meets at the UHC on Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. *Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove*

## Community Supper

Friday, June 23

St. Paul's Anglican Church • Lower Hall

free!

**MENU**

serving from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

	Hamburgers	
	Hot Dogs	
	Potato Salad	
	Snacks	
	Cool Desserts	
coffee, tea and juice		

*Be an early bird!*

### Summer Vacation

Our Community Supper is having a holiday during July and August.

Back in September!

St. Paul's Anglican Church • 59 Toronto Street South • 905 852-7016

*Letters, from page 4*

I started reaching out for assistance in January, to those who should be involved - police, township staff, and the school. The only sound

feedback came from my contacts at the school. I am still waiting for feedback from the other groups.

The fair board is open to constructive suggestions that will help us provide a wonderful experience for everyone who attends, and a safe environment for all.

*Dave Dickie  
Fair Manager,  
On behalf of the Uxbridge Scott  
Agricultural Society*

Davis Dr., did not really need repairs yet, but the same road north of Sandford to Leaskdale, locally known as "Axle Buster Avenue," does not so far look like it is on the repair list! This road needed ripping up and major repairs more than a decade ago, but for some strange reason the "pride of Durham road department" is still shamefully ripping the wheels, suspensions and tires out of our vehicles.

Maybe there are not enough members of council living up here to swing it!

*David Brewer  
Uxbridge*

There are lots of road resurfacing and lane restrictions going around the town, but when are going to see this work on roads which actually need fixing? Main St., south of

## TREE CARE

SINCE 1981

- ISA Certified Arborists
- Bucket & Crane Trucks
- Consulting
- Fertilizing
- Hydro Line Clearing
- Stump Grinding
- Tree Pruning and Removals
- Planting & Plant Health Care

905-852-5313

UTSTreeCare.ca

LIST YOUR HOME WITH A MAIN STREET AGENT AND

## RECEIVE \$500.00 TOWARDS YOUR LAWYER FEES

CALL MIKE FOR DETAILS 905-853-3801

24 Toronto Street North Unit 3 Uxbridge 905-852-2424

# June Mulch Sale!

From our yard to yours

SAVE \$10.00 ON BULK BAGS

\$170 for the 1st bag delivered  
\$105 for additional bags

SAVE \$7.00 PER YARD ON LOOSE MULCH

BLACK \$55/YARD  
CEDAR \$51<sup>50</sup>/YARD  
FOREST \$48/YARD

Conditions:  
For orders delivered to any address in Uxbridge. Not applicable with any other promotions or discounts. Limit 10 bags or 7 yards per delivery.

UXBRIDGE STONE & LANDSCAPE SUPPLY

www.uxbridgestone.com  
905-852-0202  
Visit us at 545 Highway 47 Behind Petro Canada

## TOO MUCH HOUSE?

Downsizing can seem like a large task. Let me help.

- ✓ Complimentary Cleaning & Staging
- ✓ Packing & Decluttering Assistance
- ✓ Painters & Trades on call for repairs

I specialize in helping my clients prepare their home for market and help find the perfect home for the next phase of life.

Call or text to see how I can help.

CHESTNUT PARK  
REAL ESTATE LIMITED, BROKERAGE  
CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

LEAH SPROTT

Sales Representative  
(647) 994-1272  
Chestnut Park Real Estate Ltd.  
9 Main Street S., Uxbridge

# COSMOS BUSINESS BULLETIN BOARD



**GILLDERCROFT**  
FURNITURE

Early Style Canadian  
Handcrafted Pine Furniture

905-852-2275 Like us  
www.gilldercroft.com 



**GOODWOOD**  
HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Home renovations including: additions,  
kitchens, bathrooms, basements, garages,  
hardwood flooring, trim etc

416-526-3469 




**Alec Leask**  
Earthmoving  
& Haulage

Large and Small Jobs Welcome

- Site Preparation
- Basements & Driveways
- Trenching & Drainage
- Septic Systems



Uxbridge & area  
Mobile/Text: 416-346-1623  
www.alecleask.com



**GILLANDERS**  
AUCTION SERVICES  
WWW.G-A-S.CA

Online Auctions  
Uxbridge Estate & Antique  
Auction  
June 15-22



---

July - Live Auction  
Uxbridge, ON

---

Consign to Gillanders today

www.g-a-s.ca  
gillandersauctionservices.hibid.com  
647-212-2275  
Like us on Facebook


**BRIAN L. EVANS**  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Best GIC rate: 5.60%  
Terms & conditions apply  
Effective June 12, 2023.

38 Toronto Street North, Unit 2  
Uxbridge, Ontario  
905-852-3184 www.investsmart.ca

Serving our clients &  
communities since 1965

Life Insurance • GICs • Financial Planning

**PUT YOUR AD  
IN THIS SPACE**  
and get seen by everyone in  
Uxbridge Township!



Call  
905  
852-1900  
for details

**PROPERTY  
MAINTENANCE**  
RESIDENTIAL • ESTATE • BUSINESS

Leaf Raking & Disposal  
Grass Cutting & Trimming  
Garden Weeding  
Small Tree Removal

**SENIOR DISCOUNT**

Call Daniel or Tony  
Cell 289-988-2474

**JONES PUMPING**  
Septic & Holding Tanks

905-852-2486  
416-476-7170

Serving Port Perry,  
Uxbridge &  
surrounding areas

MOE licensed

**OLE HANDYMAN & FAMILY**  
Spring Booking Now

Seamless eavestrough,  
waterproofing, cement, stonework,  
electrical, plumbing, post rebuild,  
mold, kitchen, bath, basements,  
roofing, demolition, drywall, painting,  
brick gates, ceramics, flooring.

Licensed. 52 years experience.  
Seniors' discount. Please call:  
905-473-5197 or 647-225-3311 24/7

**Windcrest**  
electrical contracting ltd  
Paul Fraser  
Cell 416.527.0878  
windcrestelectrical@gmail.com  
esa #7007893

**DARRYL NOBLE  
ELECTRICIAN**

Complete Electrical Service

New installations ~ Troubleshooting  
Commercial ~ Residential  
Agricultural ~ Electrical Repair  
Replacement Panel Upgrades  
Service Changes  
Generator Installation ~ Auxiliary  
Power Solutions

647.220.6093  
darrylnobleelectrician@live.com

## CLASSIFIEDS

Classifieds are \$15/week up to 25 words; \$0.20 per additional word (plus HST). Payable in advance by cash, cheque, debit or credit card. Contact Lvann@thecosmos.ca or 905-852-1900 Deadline: Tuesday, 12 noon.

### SERVICES

**COUNSELLOR IN TRAINING PROGRAM AT HARROGATE HILLS RIDING SCHOOL.** A great summer opportunity to build leadership skills. While learning about horses, CITs will be building skills in effective communication, team work, self-awareness, problem solving, and responsibility. We will be covering topics like equine health, nutrition, and stable management. Please contact us at info@harrogatehills.com 7/13

**SHARPER EDGE** (formerly Exact Edge). Chains, machetes, scythes, axes, etc., sharpened. Kitchen knives, too! Chainsaw maintenance & tree felling. 416-705-8427.

**HAPPY YARDS** is here to assist with your summer garden & yard projects! We specialize in trimming, pruning, weeding, garden design & chainsaw services. Now booking for July. Call Sean for a free consultation (416) 804-0639. 6/29

**THE GIRLS BRA SHOP** - Find the bras you'll love living in with our expert fitters at The Girls Bra Shop in Stouffville. Contact thegirlsbrashop@gmail.com for details. 905-642-3339. An uplifting experience! 6/29

**ACTION OUTDOOR SERVICES** Formerly Lawn Slide Services. Offering landscaping, hardscaping, lawn cutting, light excavation work, snow plowing. NOW HIRING. Email noah@actionoutdoorservices.ca Instagram: action\_outdoor\_services, 647-523-6730. 6/29

**HOME-WATCH HOUSE/PET SITTING SERVICES:** Home Owners have trusted Heather Stewart for 19 years for her reliability and detailed professionalism. Property Services / Dog Walking / Cat Sitting / Doggie Sleep-Overs! Visit home-watch.ca for more info on Heather's services. Call or text 905-852-8525, email hstewart@home-watch.ca and follow us on Instagram - HomeWatchUxbridge 6/29

### WANTED

**CLEANING PERSON WANTED** 2 days per week for family home in Uxbridge. Honest, reliable, dog-friendly and good attitude are all a must along with excellent references. Please call (416) 937-2600. 6/15

**FARM WAGON RUNNING GEAR.** At least 5 ton, 7 ton would be better. Call 905-852-7395. 6/15

**HELP WANTED - YOUTH** to work on beef farm. Part-time. Leaskdale. Must have own transportation. Call 905-852-5568. 6/15

**DONATIONS OF VINTAGE COMPUTERS** plus any old computer mainfram/mini parts. Computer cards, tape, disks, etc., and any vintage related items (calculators, etc.) Starting a collection for a data processing history/computer museum. Call Dave at 905-852-6881. 6/22

### EVENTS

**FURNITURE SALE:** Sat., June 17, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., 48 Oakside Dr. Wall unit, computer cabinet, hall bench, coffee table, sofa table, small tables, etc.

**YARD, BAKE & VENDOR OUTDOOR SALE.** Udora United Church, 14800 Durham 1. Rain or shine. Saturday, June 17, 8 a.m. to Noon. For further information contact 705-228-1191. 6/15



Support Your Local Legion  
Uxbridge Branch # 170  
Saturday June 17 @ 7:30 P.M.  
109 Franklin St. info@905-852-5293  
featuring the Entertainers



**YOU KNOW DAD WANTS STEAK FOR FATHER'S DAY - WE CAN HELP YOU GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS!**



**THE MEAT  
MERCHANT**  
Family Owned and Operated Since 1990

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR  
THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS!**  
www.themeatmerchant.ca

3 Brock Street West  
905-852-9892

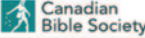
*To place a death  
or in memoriam  
notice*

Visit: thecosmos.ca  
Call 905-852-1900  
Email: lvann@thecosmos.ca



**Light For Your Path**

*"Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children...a refuge."*  
Proverbs 14:16

For Bible Resources:  
biblesociety.ca/scriptures-daily-manna/  


Rotary  
Uxbridge



# WING & PIZZA NIGHT

Sponsored by **Vinces**  
A FRESH SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

## SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023

### Community Centre, at Uxbridge Arena

### 7PM - 1AM | DINNER: 8PM

THIS IS A 19+ EVENT.

### TICKETS \$35 OR \$40 AT THE DOOR

ENTRY FEE COVERS THE COST OF ALL FOOD AT THE EVENT

- DJ and Dancing • Cash Bar • 50/50
- Live Auction



Tickets available at Boyd's Sports and Woods Clothing in Uxbridge,  
or online at [uxbridgerotary.com](http://uxbridgerotary.com)

SUPPORTING  
SPONSORS

**Wilson  
Cameron Law**  
Small Details → Big Picture

