

# The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 13

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, March 30, 2023

Foster at the Foster • Coast through Elgin Park • Tornado clean-up can begin



**ARTISTS AT WORK** - Agnes Lobbezoo, Jane Butler, and Joanne Binns, all members of Artists of Uxbridge, busily work on their creations during the Township of Uxbridge-sponsored Seniors Information Fair, held last Saturday at the arena. Dozens of vendors, service organizations and hobby groups were on hand to share information with the 55+ crowd.  
*Photo by John Covers*

## Province announces new park, but no details on location

Roger Varley

In last week's provincial budget, Pickering-Uxbridge MPP and finance minister Peter Bethlenfalvy announced that a new provincial park will be established in Uxbridge.

That was the extent of the announcement. No details were provided on where the park might be situated or what such a park might offer. A spokesman for the government told the *Cosmos* on Tuesday that "details on a proposal to create a new protected area are currently being determined."

He said that any consultation on the proposal will include township officials, Indigenous communities and the public.

Former mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor suggested to the *Cosmos* on the weekend that the proposed park might include that area of land surrounded by Hwy. 47, Old Stouffville Road and Concession 6. A couple of decades ago,

...continued on page 3

## Africycle collecting bikes and cyclone relief donations

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Africycle is a charitable cause well-known to Uxbridge. Founded by a group of Uxbridge youth in 2005, Africycle has delivered over 16,000 bicycles to Malawi. It's now being used to help those most drastically affected by Cyclone Freddy, which swept through Zomba, Malawi, in February and March this year.

"We received many inquiries from those abroad as to how they can help support those in our community here in Malawi who have been affected by this disaster," says an online post from Africycle days after the devastating cyclone destroyed much of the area. Floods and landslides reportedly killed more than 500 Malawians, a number continues to rise. Over 200 Malawians are still missing, and more than 500,000 are homeless.

"We recognize that Africycle is not an emergency response organization," says Brooke Voss of Africycle, "but we have had numerous sup-

porters reach out asking how they can help, and so we decided to extend our donation page to provide people with the opportunity to make a donation towards relief efforts specifically."

Donations to help can be made directly through the Africycle website [africycle.org](http://africycle.org), choosing the "Malawi Emergency Relief Fund" option.

"We will be sure to see that 100 per cent of said donations go to those most affected by the cyclone in Zomba district, the home base of Africycle Malawi, as well as other areas of the southern region as we partner with local organizations within the Emergency Response sector," says Voss.

The organization is well-positioned to distribute emergency relief through its network of supporters and "Village Bicycle Agents" who already help provide access to bicycles to rural communities. Africycle Malawi collects and ships second hand bicycles from around the world. Once the bikes are received in Malawi,

they are rebuilt and returned to like-new condition, then sold at a greatly reduced cost to Malawians struggling with poverty who require transportation on a daily basis.

And although the region is still reeling from effects of the cyclone, Africycle says it is eager to send out another container from Uxbridge this summer, and is looking for donations.

"If people are doing their spring cleaning and come across any adult bikes, we would be happy to take them off their hands!" says Voss's mother, Kim Tuck-Macoretta, who lives here in Uxbridge. "We're hoping we can get about 350- 450 bikes collected, so we can get the container shipped," she adds, noting that it takes at least three months for a shipping container to arrive at Africycle in Malawi.

Bike donations can be dropped off at the Africycle containers located across from The Second Wedge Brewing Co. on Victoria St. Those wishing to drop off bikes at the containers are asked to call or text 416-407-8546 first.



# The Township of Uxbridge

Trail Capital of Canada

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## Council & Committee Meetings

### Meeting Schedule for April, 2023

Monday, April 3, 10:00 a.m.  
GENERAL PURPOSE AND  
ADMINISTRATION MEETING

Wednesday, April 5, 9:00 a.m.  
TRAIL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

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

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

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

### Proclamations for March

March - Multiple Myeloma Awareness  
Month

March 31 - Transgender Day of Visibility

### Proclamations for April

April 2 - World Autism Day

April 12 - Day of Pink

April 16 - 22 - National Volunteer Week

April 22 - Earth Day

April 28 - National Day of Mourning

## The Following Programs at Uxpool are Cancelled

**Saturday, April 1**  
**Lane Swim and Public Swim**

**Sunday, April 2**  
**Aquafit and Lane Swim**

## Road Closures

Visit [Uxbridge.ca/roads](http://Uxbridge.ca/roads)  
for up-to-date notices.

# 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](mailto:info@uxbridge.ca)

## Employment Opportunities

Complete details and qualifications required for these positions are available at [uxbridge.ca/careers](http://uxbridge.ca/careers)

### Current Opportunities

#### Public Works and Operations - Crossing Guards

Resumés accepted on an ongoing basis

### Summer Opportunities

**Community Services - Summer Camp Supervisor, contract**  
Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

**Community Services - Summer Camp Counsellors, contract**  
Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

**Community Services - Assistant Summer Camp Counsellors, contract** - Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

**Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter - Animal Control Assistant/Kennel Attendant, contract**  
Closes Sunday, April 2, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

**Parks - Adult Horticulture Worker, skilled, contract (Union)**  
Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

**Parks - Attendant, unskilled, contract (Union)**  
Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

**Park - Grass Cutting Attendant, contract (Union)**  
Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

**Parks - Horticulture, summer student, contract**  
Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

**Parks - General Labourer, summer student, contract**  
Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario - Project Assistant, summer student** - Closes Friday, April 21, 2023.

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

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

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

## Bids & Tenders

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

- U23-13 – Uxpool Masonry Repairs – Closes March 31, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
- U23-01 - Reconstruction of Planks Lane - Closes April 12, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

## The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge

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

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

**FURTHER, NOTICE** is hereby given that the Township Council at its regular meeting held on March 27th, 2023, declared by Resolution No. 2023-05 the aforementioned lands to be surplus to the needs of the municipality. A copy of the plan showing the location of the lands may be viewed in the Office of the Clerk.



## Arena Spring Public Skating Schedule in effect April 1st

291 Brock St.W [www.uxbridge.ca](http://www.uxbridge.ca)



The Township of Uxbridge  
Municipal Office is closed  
for Easter

April 7-10

We will reopen again April 11th  
Have a safe and enjoyable long weekend

Effective Mar. 1, 2023

## Notice of Weight Restrictions



Seasonal weight restrictions on Township roads are now in effect.

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



## Winter Ice Conditions

### Elgin Pond

The Township of Uxbridge will be testing the ice conditions at Elgin Pond throughout the winter. A flag notification system is in place:

**No Flags** – Testing has not begun

**Red Flags** – Ice is not safe. Please stay off

**Yellow Flags** – Skate with caution

Flags are located at the north end of Elgin Pond, beside Mill St. Please keep away from water inlets and outlets on the pond, as ice thickness is compromised.

### Storm Water Management Facilities

Please keep off of all storm water management facilities. Water levels fluctuate at these facilities and as such are not safe for skating or other activities.



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

## Youth centre kicks off 5-year Community Commitment campaign

The Uxbridge Youth Centre (UYC) has, like many local organizations, weathered the storm of COVID-19, but it says it needs funds to build back to pre-pandemic levels. Programming did continue throughout the pandemic, most of it virtually, and now in-person numbers are starting to build up again.

"Our numbers are tracking close to 80-85 per cent of pre-pandemic levels" says UYC program coordinator Dale McKnight.

"Now that we have re-opened and virtual programming is behind us, our board's focus is our continuing sustainability, and our next 5-Year Community Commitment Campaign is a big part of that," says Jamie Houghton, chair of the UYC's ,

board of directors.

The last five-year campaign ran from 2019 and was anchored by a few big supporters. The UYC says it hopes that this next five-year wave is even better.

In late 2018, at the opening of the youth centre in its new location in the Seniors Centre building on Marietta Street, it was announced that The Optimist Club of Uxbridge, The Pottruff Family Foundation, and Canadian Tire JumpStart would each donate \$5,000 per year for the following five years, with the Uxbridge Lions Club and The Bonner Boys also contributing each year. The Rotary Club of Uxbridge has also supported the UYC, donating throughout each year with funds for

specific capital assets.

Building on this foundation, the UYC says it hopes these supporters will return for the next five-year wave of support, and that it would like other community organizations, businesses, churches, groups and individuals to join the five-year plan, contributing what they can each year, whether it is \$100, \$200, \$500 or more each year.

Donation request packages will be sent out in the coming weeks. As a registered charity, the UYC can provide tax receipts for donations. Donations can be made directly to the UYC, on its website or via CanadaHelps.org.

## Uxbridge to receive tornado clean-up funds

Roger Varley

To assist with the cost of repairs and cleaning up damage caused by last year's tornado, Uxbridge Township will be receiving financial aid from the province.

The Ontario government announced last week that municipalities that were hit by the tornado - or derecho - will be eligible to receive funds from the province.

Uxbridge suffered extensive property and infrastructure damage, months' worth of recovery, and numerous homes were left uninhabitable. Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey said Uxbridge will receive "up to" \$881,000 from the \$5 million fund.

"This goes a long way to covering our total losses of approximately \$1.1 million," she added.

This funding is available only to the township for repairs and clean-up of its properties. Honey said private property owners have other provincial programs to help them with their costs.

The township said the money from the province will not only help with the cost of repairs to township properties but also help restore Uxbridge's tree canopy.

Park posits, from page 1

that area was parcelled up by Joey Tannenbaum with plans to put in a major development. His plan was met with fierce resistance from Uxbridge residents and eventually dropped.

O'Connor also suggested that the land might be connected with other properties on Wagg Road and Conc. 6, which could be connected by the township's trail system.

All speculation until the province provides details.



## COVID assessment centre closing down this week

At 4:01 p.m., this Friday, March 31, the North Durham Covid Assessment Centre will close for good.

Since August 2020, this physician-led assessment centre, located in the Prince Albert Hall, has provided an essential service to North Durham, supplying PCR testing for COVID-19 infections, as well as clinical assessments by local nurses, doctors and healthcare support staff, to those with cough, cold, flu and COVID-19 infections.

"The North Durham COVID Assessment Centre was truly an extraordinary project that got off the ground in record time, managed massive surges, brought together variable groups of people and served a wide community exceptionally well for almost three years," says Dr. Carlye Jensen, NDCAC doctor and local family physician. "The enthusiasm and energy for positive change that

exists within our healthcare teams in Uxbridge and Port Perry will not cease with the closure of the NDCAC but rather move on to meet the other needs within our communities."

For the period of August 2020 to March 2023, when the clinic was in operation, NDCAC provided 2,790 assessments, performed 52,223 swabs and 15,132 paediatric swabs.

The NDCAC is encouraging community members to take advantage of other accessible care options in the area. Some options include: visiting a family doctor; calling 811 or visiting the Health811 website for safe, high-quality care from a registered nurse; visiting a local pharmacy. (many locations prescribe and dispense Paxlovid and offer onsite PCR and rapid testing); visiting Lakeridge Health Assessment Centres located in Courtice, Oshawa and Pickering;

visiting Oak Valley Health COVID-19, Cold, and Flu Care Clinic (Markham).

Respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, continue to circulate, and vaccination is still recommended as one of the most effective ways to protect against viruses.

COVID-19 vaccines remain available to the public through Durham Public Health and participating pharmacies.

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# Our two cents

## Enlightenment at the library

"I'm Muslim. Ask me anything."

These were the words emblazoned on a bright blue van parked outside the Uxbridge Public Library last Saturday afternoon. We were going to the library to cover the event that Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada was holding at the library, and the large blue van in the parking lot told us in no uncertain terms we were in the right spot.

The small group of Ahmadiyya missionaries made a stop in Uxbridge as part of a larger outreach program entitled "Explore Islam." The program is meant "to educate, and raise awareness about the true teachings of Islam, its commonalities with other faiths, unique features, and how it leads to a life of peace, serenity, and fulfillment."

Peace and serenity was the first thing we noticed in that little room in the library. The Ahmadis couldn't do enough to make us welcome and comfortable, and even though Ramadan has them fasting during daylight hours, they were happy to ply refreshments upon those who wandered in to see what was going on.

We were so impressed with how fervently they appear to want nothing more than for people to ask questions about Islam, and to provide answers. The Islamic faith is suffering an identity crisis all over the world because of sects (particularly in Afghanistan and Iran) that have, shall we say, perhaps diverged a little from the original intent of the religion.

One woman we noticed was having a robust conversation with one of the missionaries (that's what they called themselves) regarding the role of women in Islam. We heard her repeatedly saying, "I had no idea!" or "I didn't know!"

We applaud Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada for going into communities all over the province and providing this opportunity to learn. We also applaud their bravery, because it has to be a little daunting, going into an unknown community and putting it all out there.

We'd all do well to open our ears, our minds and welcome opportunities like this - imagine what the world could be if we did.



## Letters to the Editor

I am writing in response to Conrad Boyce's column "Shooting for even par," (March 23 edition), and I couldn't disagree more.

When we are talking about professional sports, money talks. The biggest revenue-generating sports pay the most to their participants regardless of gender.

Male golf generates more revenue than female golf, as does hockey, basketball and soccer.

I'll use an analogy to explain.

Female professional hockey players, as good as they are, play at the level of Triple A midget teams, possibly even one level higher. If they "deserve to be paid accordingly," what would that amount to at the Triple A level?

I'll go one step further. The Toronto Marlies are an AHL team in the top five of the league. They play to crowds of around 5,000, and they "get paid accordingly." I've also paid much less for tickets (\$30 for Row 5, directly behind the net) to watch them play five times this season, as opposed to going to watch the Leafs.

It's very similar for basketball, soccer, golf, etc. However, these sports do generate some revenue, and they get their share of it.

In golf, the lower echelons of the professional spectrum get paid less than the top players. Why? Simply due to the fact that they cannot generate enough revenue to earn more. The top women golfers could possibly play with the Senior Champions Tour, which gets paid slightly less than the ladies.

Frankly, I would rather watch the top level of play in any sport. For that I'm willing to pay more, regardless of gender.

Currently the one sport that pays equally is tennis. Why? The women earn sponsorship money that is equal to that of men. In all other sports they don't. A one-off would be marathon runners. All levels of runners begin at the same time, so the purses are equal.

When we bring amateur sports into the picture, along with government funding, etc., things become murky. Very few of these sports generate enough revenue to fully fund

themselves. In that case, I'm happy for my hard-earned tax dollars to be split equally. In addition, I would prefer that fewer of my dollars go to the bloated bureaucracies of each sport and more go to the athletes.

There is, of course the option to do away with the gender split and have everyone play on a level field. The best athletes would be paid the most - problem solved. But when one honestly considers the results of this scenario, I fully believe there would be far fewer female professional athletes.

*David Mannila  
Whitby*

The Liberal government under Mr. Trudeau will increase taxes on beer, wine and wpirits by 6.3 per cent on April 1, 2023, at a time when 60 per cent of Canadians are living paycheque to paycheque.

With high inflation, this is no time to be increasing taxes.

This applies to all level of governments.

*Bob Kirvan  
Uxbridge*

## Springtide gets okay for another year

*Roger Varley*

Springtide Music Festival will be returning to Uxbridge in June for its fifth year

Appearing before council on Monday, Springtide coordinator Tania Senior said the music festival will be held June 9-11, at various locations and venues around town. She said performances on the Friday and Sat-

urday will not continue past 9:15 p.m. and Sunday's performances will run from noon to 6 p.m.

As part of the festivities, Senior requested that Springtide be allowed to close Victoria Street from Brock to The Second Wedge Brewing Co. She said it was likely the weekly Farmers' Market would find a temporary location for that Sunday's activities.

Performers will be appearing at several venues in the downtown area, as well staging pop-up performances on the streets.

Council voted to support Springtide, including exemptions from the township's noise and sign bylaws.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



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



## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### No parking

Imagine, if you will, that your boss tells you that you are going to be given a raise. That would certainly perk your ears up.

But then the boss goes on to say he/she doesn't know exactly how much the raise will be, when that raise is going to come and can't even tell you what form that raise will take. Maybe it will be an actual increase in your take-home pay, perhaps it will be in the form of extra benefits or possibly you'll receive the same salary but with fewer hours worked.

I can't imagine you'd be overly excited by the news. You wouldn't know whether to go out to buy a new suit or just look forward to an eventual five bucks extra in your pocket.

So I'm not overly excited about the news that Uxbridge is going to be the location of a new provincial park.

Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, our local MPP, announced the new park in his budget last week. But that was all he said. Absolutely no details whatsoever. He didn't even say how much the provincial government would budget for such a park.

Bethlenfalvy is Minister of Finance. What does it say about his approach to his portfolio when he pledges to provide something without even hinting about the dollars involved or how much it would cost to operate a provincial park?

Nor was there any word about where in Uxbridge this park will be located. A call to his office for some details elicited the response that they didn't know anything about it. They sent me over to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. That ministry couldn't tell me anything either. Their answer to my request for information about the new park was as follows: "Details on a proposal to create a new protected area are currently being determined. Any consultation on the proposal will include the Township of Uxbridge, Indigenous communities and the public."

Notice the response didn't even use the word "park." Instead, they talk about "a

new protected area."

Maybe I'm just a cynical old newspaperman, but my immediate reaction is that we're being sold a bill of goods. Given the recent uproar over the Ford government's plan to open up areas of the once-protected Greenbelt to development, I'm guessing this park announcement is just an attempt to temporarily stem criticism. I'm also cynical enough to think that certain "friends of the government" will receive the details about the park long before the general public.

But I'm not the only cynic. A local resident told the *Cosmos* that, as far as he is concerned, "even though (the land) may be protected, that really doesn't mean much when previously protected lands (Greenbelt) become unprotected."

There was also no mention in Bethlenfalvy's announcement of what this promised park would offer. Former mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor suggested to me that it would likely be a "passive" park, something akin to the Countryside Preserve. However, I have seen reports in other media suggesting the new park would have swimming, skiing and 250 campsites. One wonders where they found that information when even the ministry of the environment has no idea.

Green Durham Association is the only site where I have been able to find any plausible and reliable information. They point out that 1,300 acres of Uxbridge Township are owned by the province. The association points out the land was acquired in 2003 to settle a land dispute and has since been sitting unmanaged. The association claims that they joined with the township in 2020 to urge the province to transfer ownership of the land to the township.

It seems to me that if Bethlenfalvy's announcement is all they have managed to obtain after two years of negotiations, it's going to be a long, long time before we see anything happen, if at all.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Wonders need a Canadian upgrade

Nobody told him to go looking for a wonder of the modern world. But about 30 years ago, when he moved from Calgary to Vancouver Island, model train buff Ken Ortwein kept hearing about an architectural treasure not far from where he now lived. He took his son and grandsons up the island on the Trans-Canada Highway, then into the remote Cowichan Valley. There, across a deep river gorge near Shawnigan Lake, he saw the Kinsol Trestle for the first time.

"I fell in love with the crazy thing," he told a local news reporter. "I thought I ought to build a scale model of it. And so, it began."

Standing about half as tall as Niagara Falls, 44 metres, and about the length of two football fields, the Kinsol Trestle is the largest railway bridge in the British Commonwealth, among the tallest free-standing and timber rail trestles in the world. At the beginning of the last century, when forestry industries gained a toehold on Vancouver Island, lumber companies envisioned a means of connecting the island's massive old-growth forests with the port of Victoria. Canadian Northern Pacific Railway engineers planned an interior railway line with a span across the Koksilah River. That span would be built beginning in the 19-teens near the King Solomon copper and silver mines, thus the abbreviated name – Kinsol Trestle. The trestle served regular passenger and industrial rail traffic for 60 years.

But all that transportation history wasn't what motivated railroader Ortwein to build a model of it. "The whole thing intrigued me," he said. From its original construction between 1914 and 1920 and its subsequent upgrade in 1934, Ortwein discovered a structure deemed among the most sophisticated pieces of railway architecture of its day – a hybrid structure (of Douglas fir timbers) comprising eight parallel trusses, resting on concrete piers and supporting six decks of framed trestle-work. The spans on either side of the trusses consisted of 46 multi-decked timber bents (triangular vertical braces) to support the 614 feet of railway deck, including a seven-degree curve across the gorge.

Last week, I had the opportunity to read through Ken Ortwein's construction notes and diagrams. Armed with a 30-foot tape measure, a pen and a scribbler, Ortwein launched his model version of the historic trestle in 1994. Every page of his scribbler

contains sketches, measurements and memoranda for each one of the eight trusses and all 46 bents supporting the trestle. He chose to recreate the trestle on a 1:50 scale – a model 12 feet long and three feet high. While the actual Kinsol Trestle took four years to build, it took Ortwein even longer to build his version.

"I worked on the model for over six years," he wrote in a journal. "Each and every piece of wood is cut on a table saw ... each piece twice, and some three times (to get them right). I (cut) my own ties and laid the track. The cross-bracing pieces are put together with straight pins and glue. The bents with half-inch nails and glue. I loved every minute of it."

My tour of the Shawnigan Lake Museum, last week, revealed that the actual trestle survived a number of setbacks, some of which nearly destroyed the historic piece of transportation architecture. The railway abandoned the trestle for ruin in 1979. Next, the provincial government acquired it for potential recreational purposes. Vandals twice burned its superstructure. Eventually, the Cowichan Valley Regional District stepped up to raise millions of dollars to restore it and maintain it for hikers, cyclists, and equestrian activities. It's now part of the Trans-Canada Trail.

I've often thought that the notion of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World (i.e. Roman Colosseum, Great Wall of China, Taj Mahal, etc.) needs a contemporary and even a Canadian makeover, including more modern marvels of human engineering – structures such as the Fogo Island Inn, the geodesic Biosphere at Expo 67, Province House in Prince Edward Island, Arthur Erickson's Museum of Anthropology at UBC, and in Toronto the Sharpe Centre for Design.

Despite its remote location and some inclement weather, friends recently made sure that I saw the Kinsol Trestle. Not only did I walk the full length atop the trestle, but I also clambered down to the Koksilah River bank for a perspective from the trestle's base. Impressive it must have been in 1920, as it is today. But model railroader Ken Ortwein described its impact best: "It was the sheer mass of it!"

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

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# Foster concert kicks off spring at the Foster Memorial

They'll begin with an unaccompanied gospel rendition of "My Old Kentucky Home." They'll close with a choral treatment of "Beautiful Dreamer." In between, four of Uxbridge's finest young singers will treat audiences next month to a full concert of the timeless melodies of one of the first writers of popular song, Stephen Foster. And all within the marble-enhanced acoustic marvel that is one of the township's ar-

chitectural treasures, the Thomas Foster Memorial.

American composer Stephen Foster died when he was only 37, in 1864, but created songs that will live forever. At this concert, you'll hear favourites like "O Susannah," "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair" and "Swanee River" (a.k.a. "The Old Folks at Home"), as well as a score of other tunes.

Foster's songs will be interpreted by

a quartet of young Uxbridge women, all under 30. Leslie Higgins, Laura Hughson, Julien Kelland and Renae Wolfesberger all received their early vocal training at the local studio of Jennifer Neveu-Campsall. They'll be accompanied, and occasionally joined in song at the Foster concert, by veteran musician Jane Loewen, a fixture in the Uxbridge performing scene for almost 20 years.

The concert, appropriately dubbed Foster at the Foster, will have three performances - Sat., April 15, at 2 and 7 p.m., Sun., April 16, at 2 p.m. - with proceeds to the upkeep of the Memorial. Since there are only 90 tickets available for each show, Patrons are encouraged to pick up your tickets in advance at Blue Heron Books, then pay by donation at the concert.

# Uxbridge 'Sunshine List' grows

Roger Varley

Add another township employee to the list of civil servants who earned more than \$100,000 last year, according to the province's so-called "Sunshine List."

In 2021, Uxbridge had eight employees on the list: in 2022 there were nine.

Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey led the way with a 2022 salary of \$175,000. Next in line were Public Works director Ben Kester, clerk Debbie Leroux, director of community services Amanda Ferraro and director of development services Kyle Rainbow, who all pulled in \$137,600 last year.

Fire chief Mike MacDonald was paid \$130,000, while former treasurer Donna Condon received \$126,000, and current treasurer Tobi Lee made \$111,500 as deputy treasurer.

Rounding out the list was road operations manager Bill Rynard with a salary of \$104,000.

All also received additional recompense in the form of benefits.

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# Thrill ride set to coast into Elgin Park

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

An amusement ride company wants to combine the beauty of Elgin Park with the thrill of a roller coaster, and is hoping to partner with Uxbridge to make it happen.

Kosmos Amusements has created a proposal that features a 415-metre long wooden roller coaster designed to gracefully but speedily whip through the trees and trails of Elgin Park. Uppen Downs, president of Kosmos Amusements, explains.

“Elgin Park is a gorgeous spot, right in the middle of Uxbridge, and it deserves to be seen, both from the ground and from the air. Our roller coaster, which we’re calling The Sky Trail, would let visitors see views of Uxbridge that they wouldn’t otherwise see, and provide a unique experience – what other small town anywhere has a roller coaster right in the middle of it!”

Downs says that his company would like to pitch the idea to town council, or even to the Uxbridge Fall Fair committee. He says he’s hoping that, if the Fall Fair took it on, it would be in place in time for the 2023 fair, and that, if it was well received, the coaster could stay in place perma-

nently and that he and the town could come to some sort of an arrangement for paying for it.

“It will cost about \$3 million to build,” says Cashwell Spent, chief financial officer for Kosmos Amusements. “I understand the township paid that amount for a building in the middle of town where half of it is useless, so I think they might have the money to pay for this,” referring to the Circle K/Coffee Time building. Coffee Time has stood empty since work on the culvert project reportedly damaged the foundation and building.

The Sky Trail will be what is called a “terrain roller coaster,” a type of coaster that takes advantage of the natural undulations of the land upon which it’s built. Because terrain roller coasters tend to stay close to the ground, they require fewer supports and thus are usually

cheaper than the same coaster on flat ground.

Bill Decoster designed The Sky Trail. He describes the ride as “a gently thrilling journey that will skim the

will load at a custom-built dock that runs parallel to Joseph St. The seven-car train will exit the station and head north, taking riders on a one minute and four second journey around and through Elgin Park at speeds of up to 55 km/h.

“The first hill will be 12.5 metres in the air,” exclaims Decoster. “You’ll be able to see all of Uxbridge from up there!”

Decoster also says that because The Sky Trail is meant to be in the sky, so to speak, it will never dip below the level of the lowest tree top in the park. It will be purposefully built to skim the tree tops, but never come into contact with them. He guarantees that no trees will be cut down to build The Sky Trail.

It’s early planning stages yet, but some residents who live adjacent to the park who have learned of the proposal aren’t as enthusiastic as

some potential riders may be.

“I live on Joseph St., and I don’t want a roller coaster loading station in my backyard!” says Gretchen Pük. Her 13-year-old daughter, Anita, however, is more excited about the prospect of just nipping out her back door and riding a roller coaster.

“I think it’d be really cool,” says the little Pük excitedly. “I really hope this happens!”

Downs opines that it will be cool for the town, too.

“Think about it – it won’t take up any space on the ground, so it won’t affect the actual park. Squirrels will have the trestles to run up and down on, the wildlife will love it. And the Optimists can hang all kinds of lights from it during their Fantasy of Lights! They could maybe even incorporate Night-Light rides!”

Downs and Decoster hope to present The Sky Trail proposal to appropriate township officials as soon as possible and, if given the thumbs up, the first train will leave the Elgin Park station at this year’s Fall Fair.

“And we’ll make you a deal,” laughs Downs. “The first people to recognize that this is an April Fool’s joke get to be the first people to ride.”

Happy April 1, Uxbridge.



tree tops of Elgin Park and provide unparalleled views of downtown Uxbridge.”

According to Decoster, The Sky Trail

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## Connecting with the Region

with Regional Councillor Bruce Garrod

### What the Region does, Part 2

Last week, I began answering a common question regarding where Uxbridge residents' regional property tax dollars are invested. I focused on the higher-profile services, such as maintaining the 130+ km network of regional roads located in Uxbridge Township; waste management, including the evolving recycling and green bin programs; and clean water and sewage management. The article also highlighted Durham Region Police Services (DRPS), and a provided very high-level view of the social services that are available.

Durham Region receives 57 per cent of the residential property taxes Uxbridge Township collects.

This week I will continue to explore how those funds are spent, beginning with emergency services.

The Region of Durham Paramedic Services is one of the largest paramedic services in Ontario. Ambulance operations involve more than 330 advanced and primary care paramedics who are stationed at 11 paramedic stations across Durham Region. The region also proactively participates in emergency preparedness with partners such as Public Safety Canada, Ontario Power Generation, and Environment Canada.

In May 2022, Uxbridge witnessed the full breadth of Durham Region's emergency response capabilities

ties ranging from onsite triage response, police and auxiliary officer support, provision of temporary housing and assisting individuals throughout the impacted area during the tornado-associated blackout.

Often, when emergency assistance is required, a call is made to 911. In 2022, 239,000 such calls were received. Answering 96 per cent of calls within eight seconds requires a minimum of six Regional staff to be in place 24/7. Significant changes to 911 are forthcoming as NextGen911 service is implemented. Durham Region will be among Canada's earliest adopters of this enhanced national service.

A growing percentage of the collected property taxes is directed to Durham Region Transit (DRT), which helps residents and visitors travel across Durham Region and beyond. DRT operates a fleet of buses and vehicles for scheduled and On-Demand service with a staff of over 500 employees. DRT is now serving a growing number of customers via On Demand transit in areas where ridership levels don't support regular bus routes. The most recent statistics show that members of the Uxbridge community used On Demand service 7,800 times in 2022.

Public health is a critical service supported by Regional property taxes. Over 400 Durham Region public health employees provide services that include Regional outbreak response, as well as compliance inspections, infectious diseases

prevention and control, as well as inspections of migrant farm worker housing and private septic systems.

The Region-wide team also performs the DineSafe Durham program by way of food-establishment inspections, administers 40,000 doses of publicly funded vaccines in community immunization and school-based clinics, distributes 3,000 Naloxone kits/refills, and completes 6,400 home visits to clients in the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program.

Public Health supports eligible low-income adults and seniors through the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program, and implements the Durham Region Opioid Response Plan.

Finally, the Durham Health Connection Line is a service where callers can get immediate help on items ranging from parenting concerns, to help with breastfeeding support, and children, teen, adult, and seniors' support.

The list of services supported through Regional property taxes continues with Development Planning. The Region reviews applications for developments ranging from infill housing to major residential, commercial and industrial construction projects. As part of the provincial "Build More Homes Faster Act," Durham Region's population is expected to double by 2051. Much remains to be defined regarding the future role of regional planning.

For those of us living in North Durham, a little known yet crucial service provided by Durham Region, in partnership with York Region, is the Energy from Waste facility located in Clarington.

This world-class facility safely processes 140,000 tonnes of residential waste per year after maximizing waste diversion programs –

reducing, reusing, recycling and composting. In turn, it generates enough energy to power approximately 10,000 homes.

To improve Durham Region's competitiveness, investment is being made in a regional broadband network which will establish a 700-kilometre fibre optic network known as Durham OneNet. Residents in Goodwood and businesses located in the west side of the township, will soon see the benefits of this project as local service providers connect to the OneNet network. Expansion of the network will continue in 2023 and beyond.

Regional property tax dollars are also allocated to conservation authorities. A regional councillor is part of the governance board of directors for each of the five conservation authorities in Durham Region. Among many other activities, the CA's review development applications, conducts enforcement of illegal fill operations and operates and maintains conservation lands.

Uxbridge has representation on the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority and Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority.

Column space limits detailing other regional services, but it would be a disservice to not include the benefits Uxbridge receives through the economic development efforts of Invest Durham and the work of Durham Tourism, which encourages visiting, shopping, dining and exploring Uxbridge, in addition to driving industry, film, and employment, agriculture, and industrial land opportunities to our community.

The next quarterly "Connecting with the Region" will provide additional details regarding specific regional services that are available to Uxbridge residents.

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I'd like to give a kiss and a hug, just like this one, to my co-workers, customers and owners.

Thanks for putting up with me for the past 10 years. It's been fantastic fun, but it's time to try something else.

Special thanks to Kire, Kay and Jude. You've been very supportive.

Thanks to my co-workers, and especially Mel and Kristine, the "Dream Team."

To you, our great customers. Sunday night dinner with Jeff and Leslie, Cathy and Mike, and Jim and Kim. Thanks to Sandy and the Mini Mensa club. Thanks to the hockey gals and the firefighters.

Most of all, medium chicken wing Dave, Larry, Mark, Jameson, Bruce, and Sherry and Laura, my sisters.

The next time I see you I'll be on the RIGHT side of the bar!  
Good health and live long. Cheers!

Love,  
*Rusty Brown*

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# Bruins hold the edge in tough semi-final series

Roger Varley

With the first three games of their best-of-seven semi-final series against the Merchants behind them, the Uxbridge Bruins held a 2-1 lead going into last night's (Wednesday's) game in Little Britain.

The series began last Friday when the Bruins eked out a 2-1 win despite playing poorly. In fact, at one stage of the first period, the linesman had to point out to the Uxbridge bench that they needed to put another man on the ice.

After a scoreless first period, Little Britain took the lead with the only goal of the second period. The Bruins managed to tie the game in the third when Quinn Meek, assisted by Anthony Lamanna, scored near the midway mark. Meek's brother, Declan, gave the Bruins the win with a goal just a couple of minutes into the overtime period.

The *Cosmos* named Bruins goalie Kyle Groff and Little Britain's William Van Halteren as players of the game.

In Little Britain the following night, the Merchants demolished the Bruins 5-1. The Bruins' lone goal came in the first when Ben Schmidt, assisted by Travis Winder, tied the score on a power play. But the Merchants came back with what proved to be the game-winner before the period ended. Little Britain added a power-play goal in the second and two more, including another with the man advantage, in the third.

Back at the arena on Monday, the Bruins came out blazing. With a solid team effort, they scored three unanswered goals in the first period. Nick Colangelo opened the scoring when he converted a rink-wide pass from Jake Rigillo just five minutes into the game. That was followed by Quinn Meek's marker following another rink-wide pass from Lamanna, Declan eek also was credited with an assist. With five seconds left in the stanza, Quinn Meek scored again, this time on a power play, assisted by Lamanna and Peter Kerr.

The barrage continued in the second, with Declan Meek making it 4-0, assisted by Kerr and Quinn Meek, and Noah Button adding yet another less than a minute later, with assists going to Winder and Sam Davis. However, the Merchants were down but not out, scoring two of their own before the period ended.

Little Britain narrowed the lead in the third with a sharp-angled goal early in the period but penalties put an end to their comeback bid.

Josh Czaliy was chosen as Bruins player of the game, while Alexander Dillon received the nod for the Merchants.

The two teams were scheduled to meet again on Wednesday in Little Britain and they will meet again at the arena this Thursday at 8:15 p.m. Other games, if necessary, will be played in Little Britain on Saturday and in Uxbridge on Monday.

In the other semi-final series, the

Clarington Eagles swept the Georgina Ice, outscoring their opponents 21-4.

*Bear pause:* Good crowds at the last two Bruins home games resulted in big prizes in the 50-50 draw. The draw winner received \$500 on Friday night and \$434 on Monday.

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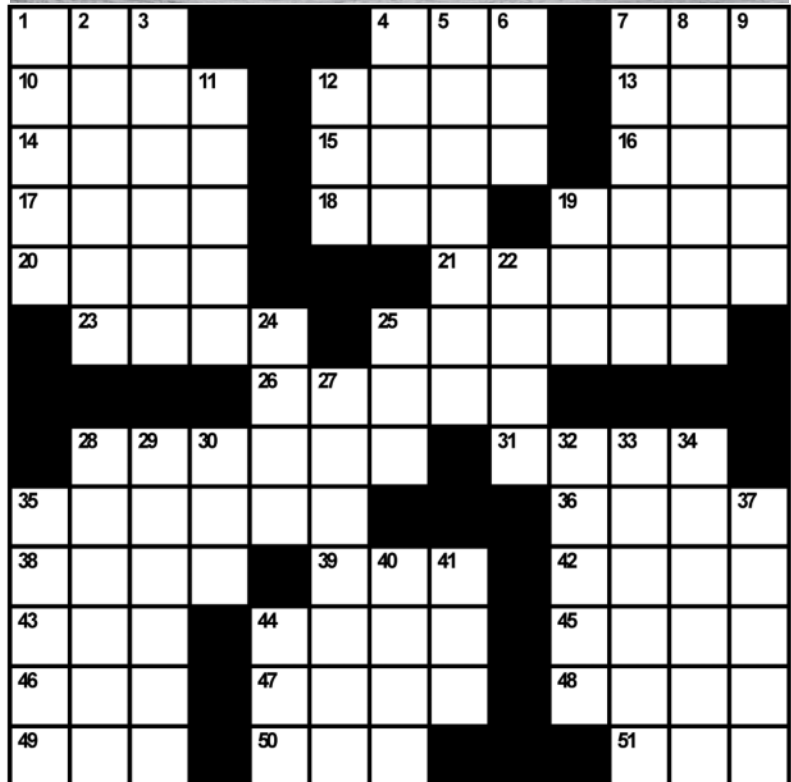
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|---|--|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fitting</li> <li>4. Lion's foot</li> <li>7. Application</li> <li>10. Freeway for example</li> <li>12. Brayer</li> <li>13. ___ Shooter</li> <li>14. Pilaf base</li> <li>15. Horse from "Sahara"</li> <li>16. Sun preceder</li> <li>17. Questions</li> <li>18. A shot</li> <li>19. Arrange papers</li> <li>20. Egg center</li> <li>21. Non-winning race horse</li> <li>23. Raven's haven</li> <li>25. Dissolved</li> <li>26. Range groups</li> <li>28. They are part of a setting</li> <li>31. Blatant</li> <li>35. Oil source</li> <li>36. Freezes</li> <li>38. Add a little brandy to the coffee?</li> <li>39. Santa's little helper</li> <li>42. The others</li> <li>43. Inquire</li> <li>44. Gazetteer datum</li> <li>45. Written rule</li> <li>46. Kicker?</li> <li>47. Tools</li> <li>48. Hot spot</li> <li>49. Tackle's teammate</li> <li>50. Unmatching</li> <li>51. Harden</li> </ol> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Marshal</li> <li>2. Corrupt</li> <li>3. Address</li> <li>4. 100%</li> <li>5. Fearful</li> <li>6. Filagree</li> <li>7. Advantage</li> <li>8. Part of S.W.A.K.</li> <li>9. Chewed and swallowed</li> <li>11. Daily stations</li> <li>12. It tells you where you are</li> <li>19. Able-bodied</li> <li>22. Plus</li> <li>24. Biblical pronoun</li> <li>25. Mister's lady</li> <li>27. Went into</li> <li>28. Winter, e.g.</li> <li>29. Compacted</li> <li>30. ___-horse town</li> <li>32. Spiel</li> <li>33. Resounds</li> <li>34. Bug</li> <li>35. Home or silver follower</li> <li>37. Silvery fish</li> <li>40. Starring role</li> <li>41. Way off</li> <li>44. Previously</li> </ol> |
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### EVENTS

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**JAZZ CONCERT IN LEASKDALE HISTORIC CHURCH**, Fri., March 31, 7:30 p.m. Admission by donation at the door.

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# Mental health 'hub' now available to help farmers

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) recently announced the launch of a new online farm safety and mental wellness hub that “brings together information and resources in one place to support farmers, farm families, farm workers and farming communities.”

Available on the hub are farm safety and mental wellness resources created by CASA, resource and programming highlights from other organizations, links to national, provincial, and international resources, links to reports and research, as well as a section that highlights news and events linked to agriculture safety and mental wellness.

“Healthy farmers, farm workers and farming communities are key to safe and sustainable farms,” says

Andrea Lear, CASA’s CEO. “The hub will bring together information for producers, community members, providers, researchers, journalists and anyone else interested in the link between mental wellness and farm safety.”

She says the intent of the hub is not to duplicate resources but rather to amplify and promote the already existing programs and resources available to producers across the country.

The new hub is supported by Farm Credit Canada (FCC).

“The strength and vitality of the agriculture and food industry depends on many things, but especially on the health and wellness of the people who are the backbone of its success,” said Carla Warnyca, FCC’s manager, Community In-

vestment. “We see the work of CASA and the new mental health hub as an important part of supporting Canadian farm families with the resources to help them better navigate mental health challenges and understand the importance of overall wellness on the farm.”

The hub is available on CASA’s

website at [casa-acsa.ca/mental-health](http://casa-acsa.ca/mental-health). For more information about CASA programs, visit [casa-acsa.ca](http://casa-acsa.ca)



*Playoff Games*

-  Wed., March 29, 8:30 pm against Little Britain at the Little Britain Arena
-  Thurs., March 30, 8:15 pm against Little Britain at the Uxbridge Arena
-  Sat., April 1, 7:30 pm\* against Little Britain at the Little Britain Arena
-  Mon., April 3, 7:45 pm\* against Little Britain at the Uxbridge Arena

\*if necessary



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## BOTTLE DRIVE



**McHappy Day is May 10th**

Uxbridge McDonald's is raising money for  
RMHC Toronto, Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Durham, Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity & Precious Minds

Drop off your empty alcoholic containers at  
**Uxbridge McDonald's**

**Saturday, April 1st**  
**Saturday, April 8th**  
**Saturday, April 15th**  
**Saturday, April 22nd**  
**Saturday, April 29th**

Can't make it those days?  
Email us at  
[mcdonaldsbottledrive@gmail.com](mailto:mcdonaldsbottledrive@gmail.com)  
and we can arrange a pick up

*To place a death or in memoriam notice*

Visit: [thecosmos.ca](http://thecosmos.ca)  
Call 905-852-1900  
Email: [lvann@thecosmos.ca](mailto:lvann@thecosmos.ca)



*Nancy Christine Lotton McCarthy*

In loving memory of a dear daughter, wife, sister and special aunt who left us so suddenly, five years ago, on April 1st, 2018.

*"Gone are the days we used to share. In our hearts, you're always there."*

We miss you more than anyone knows. There's a special corner in our hearts. We keep it just for you, as long as we live. We will always remember you with love.

*"Our special angel. Forever in our hearts."*

Lovingly remembered by Mom (Jo-Anne), Dave McCarthy, Lisa, Kevin & Trevor Clarke; Donna, Steve, Ryan & Chase Barkley; Brittany & Nate McGuire. xo





 <p><b>COLDWELL BANKER</b> R.M.R. REAL ESTATE, BROKERAGE Each Office Independently Owned and Operated</p> <p><a href="http://ColdwellBankerUxbridge.ca">ColdwellBankerUxbridge.ca</a> 75 Brock St. W., Uxbridge 905-852-4338 Toll Free 1-866-666-2696</p>	<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p>  <p>4 beds, 5 baths, 3-car garage, 6,313 sq.ft. incl. finished basement, inground swimming pool.</p>  <p><b>Gerald Lawrence</b> Manager/Realtor® <a href="http://MultipleListings.ca">MultipleListings.ca</a> Cell 416-556-0238</p>	<p><b>WANTED</b></p>  <p><b>THINKING OF SELLING?</b> Inventory is very low and buyers are out looking...Give Judy a call today for a Complimentary Competitive Market Evaluation.</p>  <p><b>Judy Esmonde</b> Broker/Realtor® <a href="http://JudyEsmonde.ca">JudyEsmonde.ca</a> Cell 416-677-8709</p>	<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p>  <p>58 Wagners Rd. feels like you're living in the middle of cottage country yet you're only 10 minutes from town! This updated and renovated home sits on 1.3 acres and features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, a finished walkout basement, spring-fed pond, and backs onto the Uxbridge Brook. Call today to view this great property. Offered for sale at \$899,900.</p>  <p><b>Marie Persaud</b> Realtor® <a href="http://MariePersaud.ca">MariePersaud.ca</a> Cell 416-970-8979</p>
<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p>  <p><b>SOLID BRICK, 3 BEDROOM, 3-LEVEL SIDE-SPLIT</b> Lovingly maintained by original owner. Custom glass solarium overlooking 190' deep lot on quiet dead-end street. Asking \$1,049,000</p>  <p><b>Gwen Layton</b> Realtor® <a href="http://GwenLayton.ca">GwenLayton.ca</a> Cell 647-991-3276</p>	<p><b>SOLD</b></p>  <p><b>CONGRATULATIONS!</b> After only 3 days on the market, 18 showings, a busy open house and 3 offers, 496 Centreline Road is now off the market! Buyers are buying again!</p>  <p><b>Chris Larmer</b> Realtor® <a href="http://Powerofbluex2.ca">Powerofbluex2.ca</a> Cell 416-500-6377</p>	<p><b>FREE CMA</b></p>  <p><b>SPRING IS HERE!</b> Selling a home is complicated, especially now in a changing market. Call us and we will sit down together and review your home's value as well as our marketing plan.</p>  <p><b>Shane Coxworth</b> Realtor® <a href="http://Powerofbluex2.ca">Powerofbluex2.ca</a> Cell 905-903-7965</p>	<p><b>JUST SOLD</b></p>  <p>40 Cemetery Road, Uxbridge Sold in just 11 days, with multiple offers! If you're considering buying or selling contact me today!</p>  <p><b>Alyssa Persaud</b> Realtor® <a href="http://AlyssaPersaud.ca">AlyssaPersaud.ca</a> Cell 647-232-8979</p>

# Holiday Closure

Waste Management Facilities  
will be closed **Friday, April 7**  
and **Saturday, April 8.**

- Oshawa Waste Management Facility, 1640 Ritson Road North, Oshawa
- Scugog Waste Management Facility, 1623 Reach Street, Port Perry
- Brock Waste Management Facility, C22480 Brock Sideroad 17, Cannington
- Clarington Household Special Waste Depot, 1998 Bowmanville Avenue, Bowmanville

Regular operations will resume Tuesday, April 11, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



For more information, please visit [durham.ca/waste](http://durham.ca/waste)

If you require this information in an accessible format, please call 311 or 1-800-372-1102.



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