

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 35

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, September 7, 2023

A Fair assessment • More Greenbelt cogitations • Wasp-y nature



A MOUTH FULL OF FIRE - Although live-sized dinosaurs were the main attraction at York-Durham Heritage Railway's recent "Dino Train Experience," there was no shortage of human entertainment at the train station. Here, Chris Precius, a professional fire eater and breather, spews a fireball from his mouth, entertaining guests of all ages. *Photo by John Cavers*

Bears sighted downtown

Roger Varley

Unlike the children's song *Teddy Bears' Picnic*, one does not have to go to the woods for a surprise these days. Over the weekend, there were reports of bear sightings right in the heart of downtown Uxbridge.

Resident Tamara Williamson posted a short video on Facebook showing a bear on Bascom Street on Sunday evening. Other Facebook users reported seeing a bear near Uxbridge Public School at Victoria and Colborne Streets, on Toronto Street near Pharmasave, and on the railway tracks.

Staff.-Sgt. Todd Wilson of Durham Regional Police North Division said police received two calls about bears in Uxbridge on the weekend and sent cruisers to the scene but no danger was seen and no reports were filed.

Neither Uxbridge's animal control department or bylaw department received any calls about bears. By-law department manager Hilary Williams said if any calls are received

...continued on page 3

Goodwood students lose school bus

Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

For at least the last 14 years, school-age children receiving pre- and post-school care at All About Kids daycare in Goodwood have been picked up and dropped off by a school bus courtesy of the Durham District School Board. But that ends this week.

Late last spring, parents of these students (there were 15 of them last school year) received a letter from L. Winter, a "Transportation Route Analyst" with Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS), which operates buses on the DDSB's behalf, informing them that because the daycare was within 1.6 kilometres (a mile) of Goodwood Public School, bus transportation would no longer be provided. The letter did not clarify whether this was a new regulation, or an old

one that had not previously been enforced.

The daycare is on the north side of Highway 47 through the village. To get to the school on foot, there are two options. One is to cross the highway to the sidewalk on the south side, walk east to Concession 3, re-cross the highway, and proceed north to the school. There is no sidewalk on the Third. The second option is to use a fenced walkway just to the west of the daycare, that goes north through a wooded area. It leads to a residential subdivision. The students would then proceed along Goodwood Street and Lapier Street, neither of them with sidewalks, to the school. This second option was the route suggested by the DSTS letter.

"It's too dangerous to use those busy highways," says Caroline Erlinger, supervisor at All About Kids, "but the walkway is also nar-

row and dark, and can accumulate snow very quickly. And walking the kids to and from school would require staff time that we just don't have. So we've decided to hire a van twice a day, that the parents will have to pay extra for. They're not happy about it, and neither are we. The bus has picked up the kids as long as I've been here. We've talked to other families who are continuing to get bus service, even though they're within the 1.6 kilometre limit. So why the sudden change for our students, after all these years? They won't tell us."

Requests for clarification for this story made to the DSTS by the *Cosmos* also went unanswered by deadline Tuesday. The *Cosmos* will provide an update if it becomes available.



Uxbridge at a Glance

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge
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Uxbridge L9P 1T1
905-852-9181 info@uxbridge.ca

The Township of Uxbridge

Trail Capital of Canada



Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for September, 2023

Monday, September 11
COUNCIL MEETING, 10:00 a.m.
HERITAGE COMMITTEE, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, September 18
GENERAL PURPOSE AND
ADMINISTRATION MEETING,
10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING - ZBA
2023-06, CP REIT ONTARIO
PROPERTIES, 4 BANFF RD., 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 19, 2:00 p.m.
AGE FRIENDLY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 20, 7:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

Monday, September 25
COUNCIL MEETING, 10:00 a.m.
PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING - ZBA
2023-05, CHINA CANADA, 309
ZEPHYR RD., 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 28, 7:00 p.m.
BIA BOARD MEETING

Monday, October 2
CANCELLED – GENERAL PURPOSE
AND ADMINISTRATION MEETING

Proclamations for the Month

- September - National Hunger Action Month
- September - Big Brothers Big Sisters Month
 - September - Local Food Month
- September 10 - Firefighters' National Memorial Day
 - September 18 - Big Brothers Big Sisters Day
- September 18-24 - Rail Safety Week
- September 21 - International Day of Peace
- September 25 - Franco Ontarian Day
 - September 28 - Test Your Smoke Alarm Day
- September 28 - British Home Child Day
- September 30 - National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)

Fridays at the Foster Concert Series

9449 Conc. 7 (Durham 1) www.thomasfostermemorial.com
Every Friday night from 7:30 - 8:30pm, May to September.
Admission is by donation at the door.

- September 8 – Linda Dempster & Laura Heighway, Folk
- September 15 – Scot Benson & Susan, Flute & Guitar
- September 22 – Andrew Heathcote, Guitar
- September 29 – FINALE with Mike Burns, Entertainer

For information call 905-640-3966 or email
beverlynortheast@gmail.com

Employment Opportunities

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

Uxbridge Fire Department – Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment
Closes Friday, Sept. 15, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Office of the CAO - Downtown Marketing and Event Coordinator
Closing date: Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.

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

Elves Wanted!
Be part of the 2023 Uxbridge Santa Claus committee!
We are looking for creative people, organizers, and those with holiday spirit of all abilities and backgrounds to help with the parade.
Register at <https://rb.gy/zj1pw> or scan the QR code

Fall Fair
Rules for Entry

1. Back-packs not permitted, all other bags subject to search.
 - For more information, visit www.uxbridgefair.ca
2. Smoking, vaping, and using cannabis or alcohol is prohibited in Elgin Park.
 - Violations can result in fines up to \$5,000

Uxbridge Fire Dept.
Recruitment Information Session
Thurs., Sept. 7th 7:00pm
Fire Station
301 Brock St. W.

Road Closure

- Bascom Street from Mill to Poplar Streets, road and sidewalk closure from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., to September 8
- Planks Lane, between Marietta St and Main St S., to end of September - road and sidewalk closure
- Victoria St. between Brock St. W and King St. W., Sundays, May 7 - October 29, 7am to 3pm - Victoria St is pedestrian-only during Farmers' Market hours
- Uxbridge-East Gwillimbury Townline from north of Durham Reg. Rd. 39/Queensville Sideroad to south of Holborn Road, East Gwillimbury - closed for bridge repairs to 2024
- Uxbridge East Gwillimbury Townline from York St. 500m south of Ravenshoe Road to Zephyr Road - closed for bridge repairs to January 2024

Sidewalk Closure

- Main Street N. immediately north of Maple Brook Dr. – sidewalk temporarily closed

Notice of Road Closure
The closure of Planks Lane between Marietta St. and Main St. continues into September.
Road and Sidewalk Closed.
Please plan school route using alternate streets.

Kids are Back to School
Drive Safe
Walk Safe
Bike Safe
Please obey Crossing Guard signals at school crossings

CROSSING GUARDS WANTED!
Not all heroes wear capes... some wear high visibility white vests holding stop signs!
Become a community hero by applying for a crossing guard position!
For more information on how to apply, visit uxbridge.ca/careers

Uxpool Closed
for maintenance
September 2nd-17th
The pool office remains open during regular hours of operation.



Township of Uxbridge documents are available in alternate formats upon request. Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at uxbridge.ca/accessibility

email: accessibility@uxbridge.ca
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209

Bears in Uxbridge, from page 1

indicating a bear problem, the department would then get in touch with the Ministry of Natural Resources bear hotline, but added that a bear has to be an ongoing safety concern before action is taken.

Williams advised residents not to approach a bear should they see one.

She also said residents should make sure their pets are indoors at night and should remove any food sources on their property that might attract bears.

Anyone wanting to know what to do should they encounter a bear can find a list of dos and don'ts at www.ontario.ca/page/bear-wise-tips-and-tools

Although bear sightings are quite common in Uxbridge's rural areas, it is not that unusual to see wildlife in the urban area. Bears have been seen downtown before, as have coyotes and foxes, and just a couple of years ago a moose was seen on Fred Barnard Way.

Historical herb garden shares secrets

Roger Varley

Tucked away in a corner of the Uxbridge museum grounds is a small herb garden, featuring 10 beds which grow a variety of herbs. It was there last Thursday that about 50 people gathered for a presentation by Karen Stephenson of Newmarket on the uses and nutritional and medicinal values of a number of common herbs.

Stephenson, founder of Edible Wild Foods (www.ediblewildfood.com) told her audience that, while "we're in a food crisis, with worse yet to come," there are plenty of wild foods available for free if one knows what to look for.

On the herbs themselves, Stephenson noted that while all have nutritional or medicinal benefits, they should be used in moderation. For example, she said, a small dab of lavender oil can help alleviate a headache, but a whole bouquet of lavender can trigger a migraine.



"You can have too much of a good thing," she said.

She noted that some herbs can be used to ease aching muscles, stop bleeding from small cuts and adjust

a body's pH level. She said learning about medicinal herbs means combining lore with science.

At the end of the talk, participants were invited to take samples of the herbs in the garden - ("cut them, don't tear them") - with the admonition to "take a little, leave a lot."

Bob Kirvan, an Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society board member who helped organize the evening, said the museum's herb garden was started about 50 years ago and is maintained by volunteers.

Bear wise tips and tools

At home

Bears usually avoid humans, but they are attracted into urban and rural areas to get food. Bears will be attracted to your neighbourhood by: strong food aromas, the scent of garbage, cooking smells, ripe fruits and pet food left outside.

If bears learn that they can find food where people live, they will often return many times as long as the food source is available. They will even try to enter buildings.

Relocating bears is not a good way to prevent conflicts because bears will remember where they found an easy meal and will return. Bears returning repeatedly to a food source can lead to a more dangerous human-bear conflict and result in the potential dispatch (killing) of the bear.

The best way to prevent conflict with bears is to avoid attracting bears to the neighbourhood by eliminating attractants.

To avoid bear encounters, follow these Bear Wise tips.

Garbage: put garbage out only on the morning of garbage day, not the night before. Put meat scraps in the freezer until garbage day. Put garbage in containers that have tight-fitting lids and store it in a bear-proof location such as your basement or a sturdy garage. Frequently wash garbage cans and recycle containers and lids with a strong-smelling disinfectant, such as bleach. Take garbage to the dump often, if you do not have curbside pick-up.

Bird feeders: fill bird feeders only through the winter months. Put away feeders in the spring and instead, offer birds natural alternatives (for example, flowers, nesting boxes and fresh water).

Fruits and berries: pick all ripe and fallen fruit from trees and shrubs on your property. Plant non-fruit bearing trees and shrubs

Pet food: do not leave pet food outdoors, in screened-in areas or porches. Keep your dogs on a leash. Check the yard before you let your pets out and watch them while they're outside. Turn on yard lights at night to scan surroundings before letting your pet out after dark.

Barbecue: burn off food residue and wash the grill right away. Empty the grease trap every time you barbecue. Remove all utensils, dishes and food after eating. Be aware that cooking odours can attract bears.



The Uxbridge Cosmos

Join our team!

We're hiring.

Want to join the team that brings The Uxbridge Cosmos to life every week?

We're looking for a media ad sales rep!

- Work with local businesses
- Flexible schedule
- Perfect for those who love their community and want local journalism to thrive

Call Lisha 905-852-1900 or email your resumé to Lvann@thecosmos.ca

UXBRIDGE FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL

September 15th 2023
6:00 PM
Uxbridge Fire Hall

RAFFLE

1st prize \$20,000

2nd \$3,000 3rd \$1,000

\$50 /ticket Proceeds to the Firefighter Memorial & the Uxbridge Rotary



Scan here for tickets online or buy in person at the Fire Hall

Rotary Club of Uxbridge

Purchase tickets at the Uxbridge Fire Hall

FOR MORE INFO:
UFDmemorial@gmail.com
416-802-2221

Licensed to the Rotary Club of Uxbridge as 441730191. 2,000 tickets printed.



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Our two cents

Happy Birthday to us

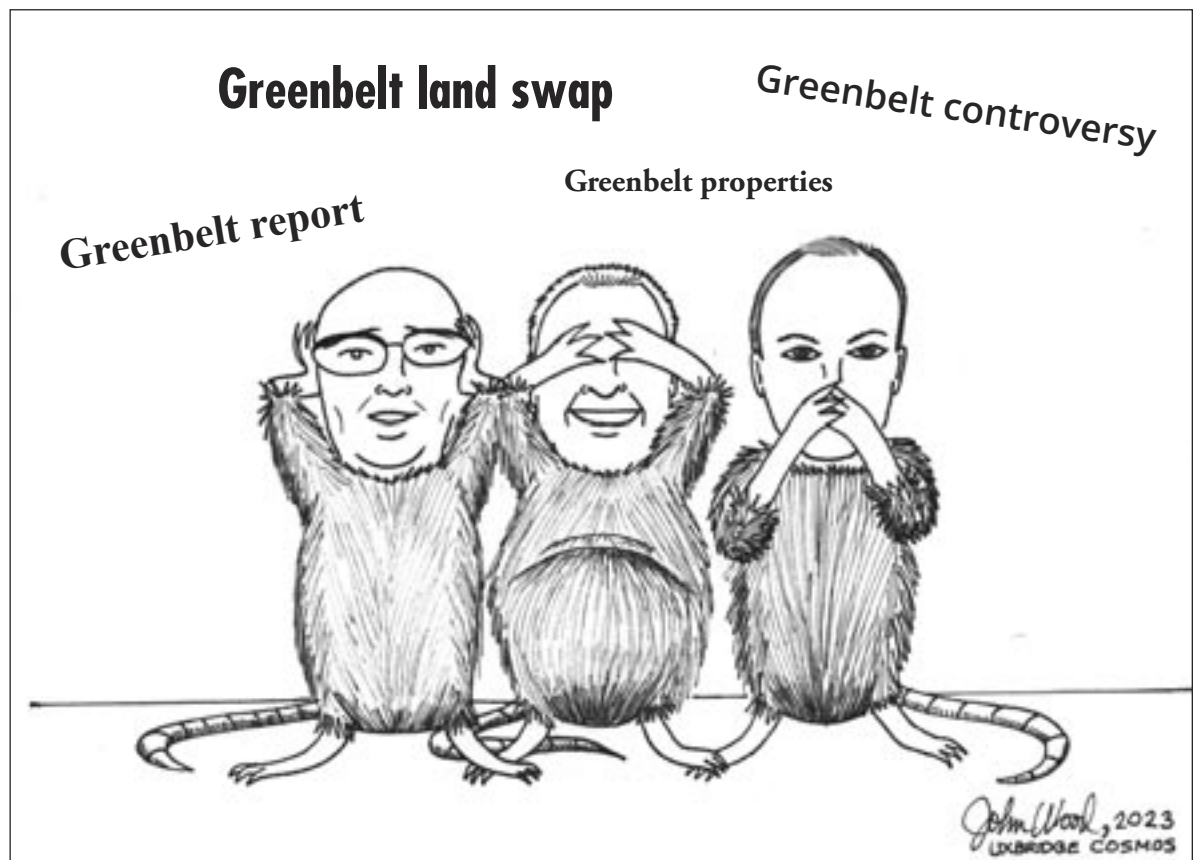
We don't have much to expound upon this week. We think our cartoon, our Letters to the Editor, and our columnists have done a pretty good job of outlining how we feel about the whole Greenbelt controversy. We're watching the whole cluster-fudge unfold daily, and hoping fervently that the end result is thousands of acres of land being returned to the protected status it had before greed and lousy people got in the way. So don't think we're done with that topic just yet.

We are instead going to take a moment to wish ourselves a little Happy Birthday. It isn't a milestone birthday, but at a time when small, local newspapers and news organizations are closing down on an almost daily basis, we think we have cause to mini-celebrate. On Sept. 5, 2005, the very first issue of the *Uxbridge Cosmos* was mailed out via Canada Post to every mailbox in the township. Then-publisher and editor Conrad Boyce felt that Uxbridge needed a hyperlocal, independent voice, and he gathered together many people who felt the same way. They invested time, sweat, tears (likely some blood) and money and created a newspaper whose mandate was to focus solely on the Township of Uxbridge; serve it and serve it well, and never worry about expanding beyond Uxbridge's borders.

Conrad handed over the reins to Lisha Van Nieuwenhove in June 2013, and she has now had the paper longer than he did. The *Cosmos* has stuck hard and fast to its original mandate, and has no plans to change it.

It hasn't been an easy time, though. Facebook, Twitter-X-whatever-it's-called, Instagram, all the social media platforms have taken a huge chunk out of the *Cosmos's* sole revenue source - advertising. We do have an incredible list of loyal local advertisers who know the importance of advertising in a local newspaper. We can't say a big enough thank you to each one of them for ensuring we keep publishing each week.

It's a tough time to be a newspaper, to be sure. Nobody is getting rich here at the *Cosmos*, but we have enough to maybe buy ourselves a cake for our 18th birthday. Here's to celebrating many more.



Letters to the Editor

I felt great sadness and shock when I read last week's "The Barris Beat" ("Signs of development"). The information in it is mind-numbing. Once our Greenbelt is lost, it's lost forever. But at what cost? Housing is needed, but NOT only for the rich! There is no mention of capping the prices.

So who will be buying these homes and renting these apartment-

able rents and houses that our youth, low-income earners and new Canadians can save for, eventually becoming part of the system. Currently there appears to be no answers or considerations being made by the Ford government. There are thousands of people in Ontario who will never qualify, and the Greenbelt will be lost forever.

Shame on you, Mr. Bethlenfalvy.
Shame on you, Premier Ford.

Shame on our political system that is allowing this to happen.

It appears to be a story of the rich getting richer. It is truly disgusting.

*Susan Baird
Uxbridge*

I was absolutely horrified when I recently drove past my mum's old house and saw that her wild flower gardens had been replaced with a

...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

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

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Join us to honour friends and neighbours, past and present!

Kinsmen Club of Uxbridge Community Wall of Fame Inaugural Inductee Ceremony

Friday, September 15, 2023
Uxbridge Music Hall

Honouring residents of the Township of Uxbridge who are being recognized for their leadership and accomplishments.

6:30 p.m. Light Refreshments
7:00 p.m. Inductee Presentations

Tickets \$25 each at the door or at [Starticketing.com](https://www.starticketing.com)
Souvenir programme booklet included



Am I wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Ford should be worried

Premier Doug Ford is looking a little tired these days, and no wonder. It must be extremely tiring to continually try to bluster one's way out of a scandal that won't go away.

The mainstream media - (e.g. the *Toronto Star*, the *Globe and Mail*, CP24, Global, CTV, etc.) - are not about to let this Greenbelt story just slide on by, to be buried and forgotten under all the other news of the day. Their questioning is unrelenting, as is Ford's avoidance of providing anything approaching reasonable answers. No matter what questions the media put to him, his answer is always some version of "we're going to build homes, we're going to build homes."

His whole approach to the Greenbelt scandal has been, in my opinion, to treat Ontario voters like fools. Does he really expect anyone with a modicum of intelligence to buy his argument that neither he nor Stephen Clark knew what was going on? Does he really expect Ontario voters to believe that his developer friends are going to use Greenbelt lands to build "more rental units than we've had before?"

Does he also think the Ontario voter is too dumb to retain facts? At a news conference this week, Ford told the assembled press corp that the auditor general's report "made 14 recommendations," conveniently leaving out the 15th recommendation that he return the subject lands back to the Greenbelt. (twitter.com/CTVNews/status/1699120462863728839/photo/1)

If that's what he thinks, it isn't working. A poll put out by the *Toronto Star* earlier this week showed a significant drop in support for his government. Voters know that politicians will stretch the truth from time to time, especially during an election, and, for the most part, we accept that.

But to treat the voter like a fool is political suicide.

Ford has said a couple of times that he doesn't "micromanage" his government. All well and good, but on a deal like this, separating chunks of land from the legally pro-

tected Greenbelt so developers can build sub-divisions - if we are to take his word that he didn't know what was going on, I'd say he wasn't managing his government at all.

I suspect that Ontario voters, especially in the GTHA and communities around the Greenbelt, are going to deliver Ford a nasty message in the next election. I further suspect that our local MPP, Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, will also receive a nasty message. Given that one of the largest chunks taken out of the Greenbelt - the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve - sits in Bethlenfalvy's Pickering-Uxbridge riding, and given that Bethlenfalvy has not only stayed mute on the whole issue but has actually refused to talk to a reporter from the *Cosmos*, I'd say he will not be enthusiastically received next time he's in town.

Everyone in government, it seems, is using the same line: we have to build affordable housing. But no one can say just what "affordable" means. It certainly isn't the \$949,000 starting price for those houses being built at Brock and Herrema. Just look at the math my colleague Ted Barris did in his column here last week. According to it, the Greenbelt homes will be just as expensive - or more so - than those here in Uxbridge. And why would those houses start at such a high price? Could it be that the developer who first went before council and successfully applied for a zoning amendment, then sold the land to another developer, saw a nice profit because, with the zoning amendment, the property was now worth more? Now that second developer has to make back his outlay and some profit. After being sold and resold, is it any wonder the houses that are eventually built on these developments cost so much?

Just maybe we could achieve more affordable housing if there was a change to the Planning Act that said, if a developer receives a zoning amendment and then places the property for sale, the zoning amendment is null and void?

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

When a ship of state is sinking...

In 1979, I met and interviewed a seaman named Steve Prentice; he was in his 80s then. Just before midnight on April 14, 1912, the ship on which he served, RMS *Titanic*, struck an iceberg 600 kilometres off Newfoundland. As a junior purser, his job was to serve the needs of passengers and crew. That night, he happened to be close to the bridge of the *Titanic*, just as the ship's designer Thomas Andrews told Bruce Ismay, the chairman of White Star, and *Titanic*'s senior officer Edward Smith what he'd seen below decks. "What's her position?" Ismay asked Andrews.

"The position, sir, is that she's going to sink," Andrews said. "The water's coming straight up. The bulkheads won't help her in any way at all."

Young Steve Prentice then spent the next 90 minutes convincing as many passengers as possible to get to the lifeboats. It was his job. Far too many of them believed the "*Titanic* is unsinkable" myth. Only when he'd done his best to get people to lifeboat stations, did he try to save himself.

Steve Prentice understood the term "service." He honoured the fact that with his position came "responsibility." I offer his experience as tangible example of what's missing in the Conservative's handling of the Greenbelt scandal.

Since these are the first few days of a new year - new in the sense that Labour Day signals the return to regular schedules - it's time to pay attention again. That's right, school's back in. Traffic's back. Regular Monday-to-Friday's back. And I'm guessing few have paid much attention to the serious stuff - news, political events and the state of our Greenbelt.

In case you missed it, last Monday midday we learned that Steve Clark, minister of housing quit. In his resignation letter to Premier Ford he wrote, "I realize that my presence will only cause a further distraction from the important work that needs to be done."

It took him 21 days to acknowledge his responsibility in the wake of Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk's condemnation of his department's decision to remove 7,400 acres of protected Greenbelt lands. "The process," she said, "was biased in favour of certain developers (who) could ultimately see more than \$8.3 billion increase to the value of their properties." Worse, it took another seven days for Clark to answer accusations from Integrity Commissioner David Wake that Clark's min-

istry "failed to oversee the process by which lands in the Greenbelt were selected for development."

Former Clark chief of staff, Ryan Amato, waited nearly as long to depart, but when Wake exposed that Amato "was the driving force behind a flawed process which provided an advantage to those who approached him," he finally lived up to his responsibility.

Now the buck that apparently stopped at Clark's desk, has moved up to Premier Ford's desk. Or should we call it the 8.5 billion bucks. No, those dollars won't end up in the Premier's pocket. But we've already seen 104 acres of former Greenbelt that reporters discovered were being "shopped around to other developers" in Ajax, go back to the Greenbelt. In other words, the premier's office wasn't paying attention. Developers were about to flip protected acres for profit, not transform them into affordable housing.

Well, now that it's no longer summer, now that people are paying attention, Premier Ford had a media conference on Tuesday. He pledged his government will conduct a system-wide review. Really? Sorry, Premier Ford. Some of us have been paying attention over the summer. Auditor General Lysyk and Integrity Commissioner Wake have already reviewed those developer deals, those flawed processes, those ethics. Their independent assessments demand that the government put the green back into Greenbelt, put the 7,400 swapped acres back where they came from. That's why checks and balances exist. That's what living up to responsibility of elected office means.

On April 14, 1912, when RMS *Titanic* was vertical in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland, minutes from sinking, and only after he had honoured his service to passengers, did Junior Purser Steve Prentice leap into the frigid Atlantic to try to save himself; he told me that one of the last lifeboats rushing away from the sinking ship had one empty seat, and he was saved.

Why the *Titanic* metaphor? About a month ago the Ford government hit an iceberg, most of which (like an iceberg) was hidden. Nothing, not obfuscating, not denying, not even shuffling deck chairs (i.e. Cabinet or past processes), changes the "unsinkable" myth. And finally, the law of responsibility requires the captain to go down with the ship.

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

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MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

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

The Mystical Mayan trip, won by Mary Ellen Uzzell,
ticket #211, sold by Ginny Slike.

Second place of \$150, won by Greg Hyde,
ticket #098, sold by Dale Hickey.

Third place of \$100, won by James Munro,
ticket #395, sold by Getaway Travel.

Congratulations to our August winners, and best of luck for the September trip, St. Martin Magic, which includes round trip, direct, non-stop flights from Toronto to St. Martin; 7 nights' stay at the 4-star Sonesta Maho Beach Resort Casino and Spa; all meals, drinks, daily activities and nightly entertainment; airport transfers and gratuities.

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



Thank You

Uxbridge Lions Art in the Park 2023

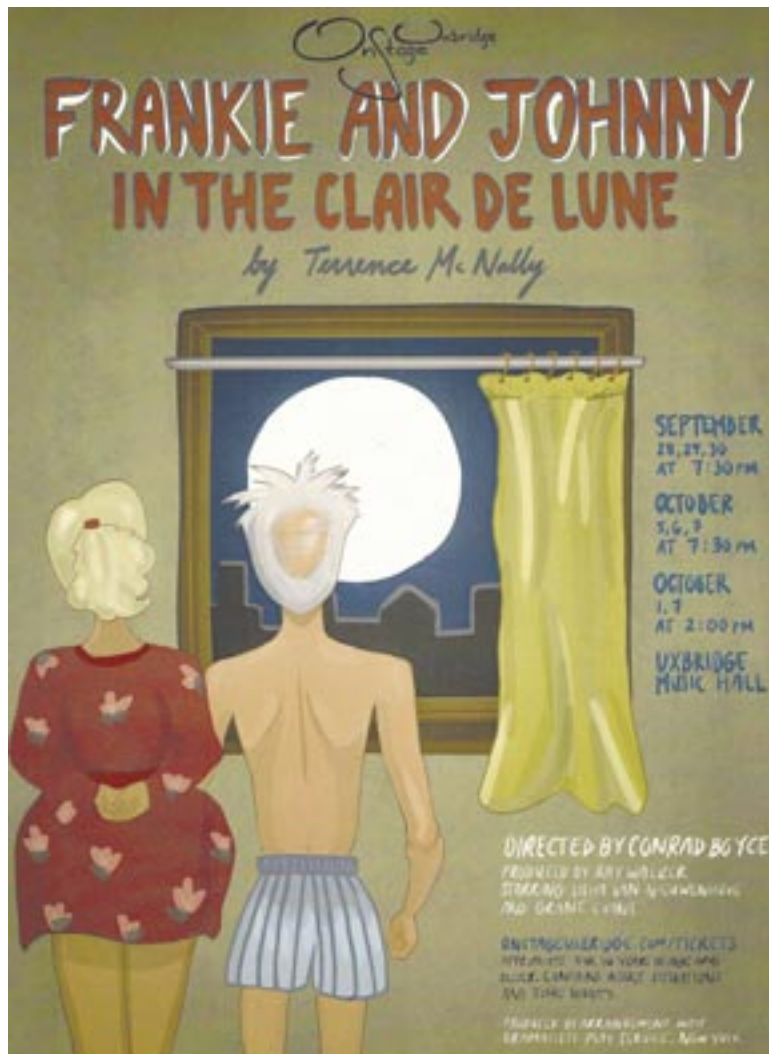
The Uxbridge Lions Club would like to thank all the artists for their talents and their desire to be in this show. We couldn't have done it without you. Nor could we have had such a successful show without the public, and the many volunteers who helped this show to be so well-loved.

Thanks to our sponsors: Pharmasave, Canadian Tire, Roane's Paint & Wallpaper, McDonald's, Williamsons, HitsFM 105.5, James Campbell Insurance, Zehrs, Brian Evans Financial Services, Boston Pizza, Stouffville Toyota, Vince's Market, the Uxbridge Cosmos, Pet Valu and Rutledge Jewellers.

Thank you also to the help we received from: the 1st Uxbridge Scout Group, the Uxbridge Optimist Club, Uxbridge Township Steve & Darlene Morgan & Family, & Vanessa Campbell for her work with the children's art area.

Through the generosity of the artists, we were able to raise a record \$4,000 at the silent auction for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

Putting on Art in the Park is a big job, and we need more volunteers to give of their time in helping organize next years show. We already have 40 artist applications for AIP 2024. If you would like to help us make next year's show a success, please consider helping out in any way you can. Email us at uxbridgelions@gmail.com or call us at 416-271-5139 for more information.



Letters, from page 4

sterile, useless lawn. Over the past 28 years, her gardens have nurtured millions of bees and butterflies, a.k.a. pollinators. Tame it perhaps, but sterilize it?

Uxbridge can look to the city of Guelph as an example of forward thinkers. Its citizens understand the importance of flowers and embrace gardens with their beautiful wild gardens packed with colour and interest, and they understand how crucial they are.

It was quite devastating to my mum to see that the bee and butterfly sanctuary she created is gone. It's quite shameful that people are still uneducated or disregard the importance of pollinators.

*Rachel Hickling
(née Cowley)
Uxbridge*

I would like to thank the churches, businesses and individuals who have been taking such good care of their lawns and flower gardens. I have enjoyed them as they have grown and flowered at different times. Now the flower gardens are full and gorgeous in their wonderful settings. It gives me a lot of pleasure as I go about my business up and down Toronto Street every day.

Thank you all.
*Cynthia Nidd
Uxbridge*

Uxbridge Studio Tour 2023

Sep 16 10-6
Sep 17 10-5



61 Fabulous Artists. 22 Unique Studios.

Draw for 5 Gift Certificates! Collect five stickers from five different Studio Artist's sites and ONE sticker from one of our 12 listed sponsors. You can collect and complete more than one ballot. First prize is a voucher for \$500 towards the purchase of artwork from the Tour. The remaining vouchers are for \$250.

New! Free Trolley stops between downtown studios, and shuttle bus tours on Sunday. Call 1-800-979-2913 to book your tour.

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Local youth earn top scouting award

Craig Marlatt

On August 31, three local youth earned the Chief Scout's Award - the highest honour that can be earned in a Scout Troop.

Colin Donahue, Kathryn Marlatt, and Calum Paterson exceeded the expectations for the award, which include earning 18 outdoor adventure

skill levels, 30 hours of community service, participating in personal progression reviews, leading activities, and the completion of a capstone project to benefit the community.

(A photo of the three award winners can be found online at thecosmos.ca)

Collectively, these three youth have earned 89 outdoor adventure skill

badges and accumulated 165 community service hours, in addition to jointly working on 10 environmental projects, spending 56 nights out camping, and completing 75 hours of hiking among many other activities (the Scouts and Venturers in Uxbridge engage in activities 52 weeks a year).

In addition to receiving a plaque and certificate signed by the Chief Scout of Canada himself, Terry Grant, they also received written congratulations from: the Township of Uxbridge, the Region of Durham, Pickering-Uxbridge MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy, Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Pickering-Uxbridge MP Jennifer O'Connell, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. This impressive roster of names highlights the significance of the award. These youth will find that this award will open doors for them with employment opportunities and post-secondary institution applications

Joining them at the presentation of their award were members of the Scout Troop, Venturer Company, 1st Uxbridge Scouters, family members, councillor Gordon Shreeve and regional councillor Bruce Garrod.

Following the Chief Scouts award presentation, other youth were presented with badges that they have earned in the previous year in Scouts and promotions were given to certain youth for demonstrated leadership. Everyone then enjoyed a campfire of songs and camaraderie to help celebrate the end of the Scouting year. Registration for the new Scouting year is now open, subject to space availability.

The 1st Uxbridge Scout Group helps develop leadership, community service, and outdoor and adventure skills for youth in senior kindergarten and higher, regardless of gender or experience. They do this through volunteers, aged 14 and older who successfully complete screening and training procedures by delivering a wide range of activities.

For more information, check out their website at 1stUxbridge.ca, follow them on social media @1stUxbridge, or email them at uxregistrar@gmail.com



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Heading to the Uxbridge Fall Fair? Here's what you need to know

Back to school means it's time for the Uxbridge Fall Fair. The Fair happens this weekend at Elgin Park, beginning on Friday evening and running through the weekend until late Sunday afternoon.

The theme of this year's fair is "We've Got A Good Thing Growing" to reflect the major role agriculture plays in the township of Uxbridge.

World's Finest Shows is again providing the midway. Daily passes may be purchased in advance on the World's Finest Shows website at worldsfinestshows.com/product/uxbridge-fall-fair/ The rate for a ride-all-day pass is \$40. These passes will be available to purchase online until Sept. 7.

One major change to note for this year's fair is the new "No Backpacks" policy, which was created, according

to organizers, "in the interests of public safety and well being of (our) valued patrons. Our overriding priority is the presentation of a family friendly event."

The popular Celebrating Agriculture is returning and has one new feature. After several years absence, a poultry display will be presented on Sunday.

Organizers also promise a full slate of entertainment, scheduled to take place at the Rotary Bandshell. Illusionist Lucas Wilson will give three performances on Saturday, and a new youth talent show will begin Friday at 5 p.m.

Shuttle bus service has been expanded to both Friday and Saturday. The Town Trolley will provide service on Friday from 5 – 10 p.m., and on Saturday from 5 – 11 p.m. Stops will be made at Body Fit, Uxbridge Sec-

ondary School, Herrema Fields and at the Uxbridge Arena.

Admission prices to the Uxbridge Fall Fair include adult and child rates, along with daily family rates.

On Friday and Sunday, adults (14+) are \$15, children 6-13 are \$10, and a Family Pass (two adults, two children) is \$40. On Saturday, adults (14+) are \$20, children 6-13 are \$15, and a Family Pass (two adults, two children) is \$60.

Children five and under are free. Sunday is Seniors Day with a discounted admission of \$10.

Volunteers are always welcome for any amount of time. If you are interested and available, please contact secretary@uxbridgefair.ca

For more information on this year's Uxbridge Fall Fair, please visit uxbridgefair.ca



UXBRIDGE


EST. *Fall Fair* 1864

We've Got a Good Thing Growing

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, September 8, 9 & 10
Elgin Park

<p>Friday, September 8</p> <p>Fair Opens5 pm</p> <p>Youth Talent Show5 pm</p> <p>Antique Farming and Agricultural Display</p> <p>Free Shuttle Bus5 - 10 pm</p> <p>Body Fit, USS, Herrema Fields & Arena</p> <p>Tractor Pull7 pm</p> <p>Buildings Close8 pm</p> <p>Saturday, September 9</p> <p>Antique Farming and Agricultural Display</p> <p>Chain Saw Carver</p> <p>Bandshell Entertainment</p> <p>UHA Horse Show & Gymkhana8:30 am</p> <p>Soper Creek Wildlife Demo10 am & 2:45 pm</p> <p>Celebrating Agriculture Tent10 am</p> <p>Buildings Open10 am</p> <p>Sheep Show, Goat Show10 am</p> <p>Midway Open11 am</p> <p>The Illusionist (Lucas Wilson)</p> <p>.....11:30 am, 1:45 pm & 4:15 pm</p> <p>Open Dairy ShowNoon</p> <p>Durham West 4H & Open Lawn</p> <p>Tractor Pulling Club1 pm</p> <p>Youth Talent Show Winners3:30 pm</p> <p>Dance Academy4 pm</p> <p>Free Shuttle Bus5 - 11 pm</p>	<p>Body Fit, USS, Herrema Fields & Arena</p> <p>Demolition Derby7 pm</p> <p>Buildings Close8 pm</p> <p>Sunday, September 10</p> <p>Antique Farming and Agricultural Display</p> <p>Chain Saw Carver</p> <p>Bandshell Entertainment</p> <p>UHA Western Speed Events8:30 am</p> <p>Heavy Horse Show9 am</p> <p>Celebrating Agriculture Tent10 am</p> <p>Buildings Open10 am</p> <p>Soper Creek Wildlife Demo10 am & 3:15 pm</p> <p>Midway Open11 am</p> <p>Cruise-in Car Show11 am</p> <p>Princess sing-a-long11:30 am & 2:15 pm</p> <p>Beef ShowNoon</p> <p>SuperHero Fun with Spidey12:30 pm</p> <p>Pedal Tractor Pull1 pm</p> <p>Princess Friends Sing2:30 pm</p> <p>Horse Pull2:30 pm</p> <p>Local 80's Band "RAD"</p> <p>Fair Closes5 pm</p> <p>Evening Schedule for Midway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiddies rides close at 10:00 pm • Ticket booths close at 10:30pm • All rides & attractions shut down promptly at 11 pm
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Admission


- General admission (14 & over) \$15 - \$20
- Children 6 to 13 - \$10.00
- Children 5 & under - Free
- Daily family rate available
- Sunday - Seniors \$10.00

General admission provides free admission to all events

Conditions of Entry to The Fair

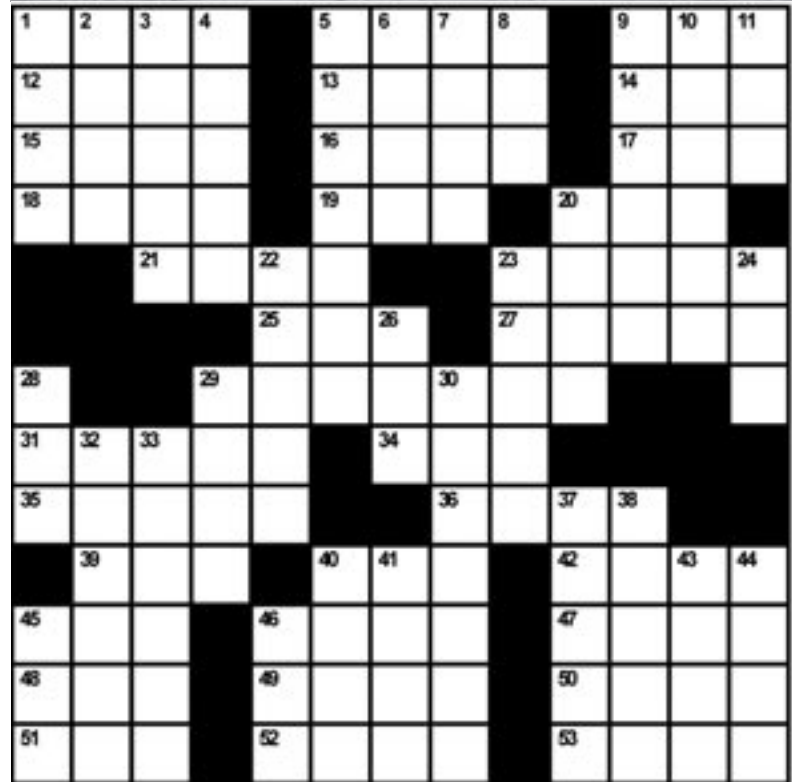
- No backpacks allowed
- All bags subject to search
- No skateboards
- No Bicycles
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- No alcohol, smoking or vaping
- No dogs allowed except those in service
- Parking and seating not guaranteed

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Across

1. Zero, on a court
5. Opening
9. Pledge of Allegiance ender
12. Department
13. Main web page
14. "What'd I tell ya?"
15. Staffs
16. Where India is
17. Stetson, for example
18. Downhearted
19. NY baseballer
20. Agree
21. Rebuke
23. Ventured
25. Pantheon member
27. Partner of each
29. With self respect
31. Matter of debate
34. Notable period
35. Record points
36. Ophthalmologist's study
39. Common verb
40. Be my guest!
42. Place that allows "eggs-tradition"?
45. Public hanging?
46. They can be sweet
47. Leaves home?
48. Settle a deal
49. Facilitate
50. Unbroken
51. Wine color
52. Song and dance
53. Landlord's payment

Down

1. "Silence of the ___s" movie
2. Like some vaccines
3. Da Milo
4. Stand for a portrait
5. It's optional with a haircut
6. Ditch
7. Fail to mention
8. Steeped beverage
9. On land, not asea
10. "Take me to your ___!"
11. Give permission
20. Fleet
22. Come to terms
23. Annoying flight hold up
24. Turn red, perhaps
26. Ready
28. Greetings
29. 24-karat
30. Cleans and stuffs tom
32. Scant
33. Separated into categories
37. Stage direction
38. Wait on
40. Sabbatical period
41. Sunrise (dir.)
43. Caught in the act
44. Campsite sight
45. Broadcasting, with on the
46. Vegetable that rolls



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The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

Wasps - why are they such pests?

It's so nice to sit outside on a patio, enjoying these fresh autumn days while catching up with a good book, or chatting with friends over a refreshing beverage and snacks. Suddenly, there are wasps buzzing around - landing on you, or your food, and possibly stinging you! What the heck is going on?

Earlier in the summer, these worker wasps gathered protein-rich food for the larvae back in their hive. They picked aphids from your flowers, caterpillars from your veggie patch, and flies from just about everywhere, all to feed to the growing colony. Workers can't digest these insects, but larvae can. The larvae then secrete a sugar-rich liquid that feeds the workers.

Shorter days signal changes in the colonies. The queen stops producing larvae, so the workers must find new sources of sugary liquids to feed upon. Ripe, fermenting fruit makes them drunk, clumsy, and aggressive. Our ice creams, sweet drinks, saucy barbecues and snacks all become items of interest, as wasps seek an easy meal.

When these uninvited yellow and black party crashers show up, it's important to stay calm. Swatting or flailing your arms around makes them more aggressive. Keep your food and drinks covered. Put trash into a covered bin. Clean up spills promptly. Any over-ripe produce you've grown needs to be picked up and disposed of safely.

Cooler autumn weather gives us a few more opportunities to meet friends. Don't let wasps spoil your get togethers, but plan your snacks

to minimize your chances of getting stung.

Of course, wasps have homes, and sometimes they're not in the most convenient of places. Try natural remedies to remove wasp nests. Always try these methods after sundown when the wasps are not active. You can try these methods for eliminating ground wasp nests, too. In addition, avoid stings from threatened wasps by always wearing protective clothing, gloves, and eye-wear so you have as little skin showing as possible while you treat a nest.

One website suggests mixing boiling water and 1/4 cup dishwashing soap in a hose end sprayer. Stand as far away as possible and spray the nest until it's soggy. Or try mixing 4 cups of water and a tablespoon of peppermint essential oil in a hose end sprayer and douse the nest. For a ground wasp nest, try flooding it with undiluted white distilled vinegar.

Nancy Melcher is The Nature Nut. Send questions about the natural world to: general@melcher.cx

Monday Morning Singers invites choristers to join

Joanne Mulholland

Monday Morning Singers, a vibrant women's choir, under the direction of Anne Mizen, is starting rehearsals again on Monday, September 18, and they're looking for voices!

This group of around 30 singers has been entertaining Uxbridge audiences for over 20 years. Twice a year - at Christmas and in the spring - the choir presents interesting and creative concerts, and is regularly joined by guest soloists, actors, singers and instrumentalists. Some of these guests have included the late Kenneth Welsh, organist Ian Sadler, and percussionist Beverley Johnston. This Christmas, Uxbridge native and soprano Leslie Higgins is choir's special guest.

Monday Morning Singers concerts include repertoire from across many centuries, from Antonio Vivaldi's baroque-era *Gloria*, to modern choral works like *Heart Songs* by contemporary Canadian composer Timothy Corlis. The choir enjoys

singing folk songs and popular Christmas compositions.

In 2024, the choir will celebrate its 24th anniversary with a special commission by Canadian composer Sarah Quartel.

Women who love to sing are encouraged to sit in on a rehearsal to see if they would be a good fit for the group. The choir is particularly looking for sopranos, but second soprano and alto voices are also welcome.



Submitted photo

Rehearsals take place at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Uxbridge from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, commencing Monday, September 18. The Christmas concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 3, at 3 p.m. Visit Mondaymorningsingers.com for more information.

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