A report to council on the washroom facility to be built at the Fields of Uxbridge has essentially posed new aquatic centre, is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2018.

In discussing the soccer club’s recent request for storage space, Mr. Ferguson said if the club can come up with the funds, the facility could be enlarged.

Councillor Pat Molloy, addressing the report’s recommendation that Budrevics and Associates be sole sourced for engineering and landscaping, said he was uncomfortable with taking that route instead of tendering out the project. However, Mayor Gerri Lynn O’Connor said government grants provide tight timelines for spending the money, which limits the town’s ability to put out tenders.

“We can’t afford to give up $366,000,” she said. In other council news, Uxbridge wants more gravy for gravel. Mayor O’Connor received approval from council to send a letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources asking that royalties paid to municipalities for aggregate by increased to as much as 52 cents a ton.

She said a recent announcement that the current six cents a ton will be increased to 12 cents “is a step in the right direction,” but added that that amount does not come close to covering the cost to the township of maintaining the roads over which gravel trucks travel.

Finally, the site of a statue is up in the air. After receiving a deputation from Stuart Blower of the Arts and Visual Enhancement Committee last week regarding the placement of a sculpture in Centennial Park, council put Mr. Blower’s preferred site on hold.

AEGC had proposed placing Fly Freeman’s sculpture - An Uxbridge Story in Stone - on a circular plaza in the southeast corner of the park. But on Monday, Councillor Pam Beach offered that the sculpture would be better situated in front of the township offices. Councilor Gordon Highet concurred, saying the area already is well lit and has security cameras.

Mayor O’Connor asked councillors to provide locations they thought would be good places to put the sculpture.

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by Shelagh Damus

There was nothing amateur about OnStage Uxbridge at the ACT-CO Gala & THEA awards held in Vaughan on Saturday night to celebrate community theatre in the Central Ontario region. The local theatre company was nominated for 12 awards and took home three THEA statuettes. This is no small feat considering the ACT-CO Festival includes theatre groups from Toronto, York, Durham, Peel, Halton, Dufferin, Simcoe and Muskoka.

The Festival is split into three categories: comedies, dramas and musicals. An adjudicator attends the entries in a specific category and then compiles the nominees and chooses the winners.

The January production of Arsenic and Old Lace, produced by Rita Irwin and directed by Jonathon Keith and Sam Smilovec, was one of 21 Festival entries in the comedy category. It was honoured with four nominations: Dorothy Partridge, Best Performance by a Female in a Leading Role; Imre Szabo, Best Performance by a Male in a Leading Role; Cheryl Atwood, Comedy Adjudicator’s Honourable Mention Award; and Donna Jamieson, Dorothy Partridge and Nancy Melcher, Best Costume Design of a Comedy.

This month’s production of Little Shop of Horrors, one of 18 musicals entered, racked up three wins out of its incredible eight nominations. The nominations were for: Cheryl Atwood and Tanner Ferris, Best Production of a Musical; Jay Da Costa, Best Performance by a Male in a Leading Role; Christine Scott, Best Stage Management of a Musical; Steffan Brunette, Nancy Mellow, Elena Damus, Dave Mordak, Cassandra Jones, Rob Wells, Kristie Hunter, Sarahs-Lynn Batten and Karl Damus, Outstanding Orchestra; and Michelle Charette, Best Musical Direction. And the three THEA awards went to: Michael Winn Johnson, Best Direction of a Musical; Tanner Ferris, Best Sound Design of a Musical; and Robyn Leigh Coughlan, Best Performance by a Female in a Supporting Role in a Musical.

Dorothy Partridge has been involved with community theatre for 40 years, 30 of them with OnStage Uxbridge, and while she has had “nice adjudications before,” these were her first nominations.

“Something happened between the two of us; a little bit of magic,” says Dorothy of herself and Kathy Tomlinson, who played opposite her in Arsenic, “and I got to be the best I could be because of her.”

According to Dorothy, “the caliber of community theatre has steadily come up over the years.” She recognizes nominations are “a small thing in the scheme of things,” but for her “to get that kind of recognition after all these years is very satisfying.” Imre Szabo, who has been involved in community theatre for seven years, enjoyed the challenge of maintaining the “psychotic overbearing character” Jonathan character for which he received his nomination. For Imre, community theatre offers the opportunity “to showcase the immense amount of talent in the region.” It is “very encouraging for performers to see the response of the audience and in turn the adjudicator. When you put a lot of yourself into the character and it comes across, it feels great.”

Tanner Ferris, 22, has done a lot of theatre including community, youth and professional productions. The sound design for Little Shop grew out of a set designed with a “perspective meant to draw focus to the band” strategically placed behind the actors so they could hear the music directly and not through a monitor. The band levels were set, so Tanner could “live mix the actors throughout the show to create balance between the vocals and the band.” Live mixing three actors, who kept switching harmonies, to make the three into one consistent sound was the greatest challenge.

“In community theatre one works with fewer constraints than professional companies, albeit with a fraction of the budget. But that allows for greater creativity and as much responsibility as you are willing to take on.” The award nomination is a “validation of everything [he] is doing.” Generally, “the payout is seeing your vision come to life,” and since Tanner has his sights set on professional theatre work, the award “is a validation of everything that says [he] can do this, and serves to release the feeling of self-doubt.”

Jay Da Costa’s first show was a high school production of Little Shop of Horrors. The songs, and his desire to play Seymour, stayed with him throughout his 26 years in community theatre. The “cool thing” for Jay was the teacher who directed him in that first show came out and saw this performance.

Michael Winn Johnson sees his best director award as “a testament to all the people [he] worked with.” For Michael, “directing is just trying to put all the best pieces together. It is a true collaboration. It is an award for everyone’s hard work.” He sees his involvement in community theatre as a “fantastic way to do something creative” and provide an awesome live theatre experience locally.

Community theatre is sometimes perceived as being substandard to big professional productions. Tanner Ferris calls this “an opportunity for surprise and success.” The one comment that came from Dorothy, Imre, Tanner, Jay and Michael was that “people don’t realize the quality of shows we put on,” and that they are often told “these productions are as good as or better than what you would see downtown.”

Next year’s OnStage Uxbridge season has just been announced. Look for The Mumberley Inheritance (comedy), The Wedding Singer (musical) and Done to Death (comedy). For more information and tickets, visit www.onstageuxbridge.com.

Do You Have Seasonal Allergies?

We survived another winter. However, if you suffer from seasonal allergies you may be dreading the start of spring. The pollen will be in the air soon and that means runny noses, itchy eyes and lots of sneezing.

We have allergies. The cause in susceptible people is their body overreacting to an antigen. Allergies can be caused by many things, both organic and inorganic. Hayfever, for example, is caused by ragweed. Dust allergies are now gone too!

Allergies can be caused by many things, both organic and inorganic. Hayfever, for example, is caused by ragweed. Dust allergies are now gone too!

However, if you suffer from seasonal allergies you may be dreading the start of spring. The pollen will be in the air soon and that means runny noses, itchy eyes and lots of sneezing.

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Thursday, April 13, 2017

The Uxbridge Cosmos

OnStage Uxbridge closes curtain on season with gala wins
Downtown Business Survey
Another chance to have your say

The Cosmos received 87 responses to the Downtown Business Survey when it ran at the end of 2016 and earlier this year. However, it was only run twice in the newspaper. Response to our “Results” piece in the March 23rd edition revealed that many people had wished they had seen the survey in the newspaper more (which proves that people DO read newspapers)! In light of this, The Cosmos is running the survey every week during April.

We ask you to take a couple of minutes to fill in the following survey. The results will be examined, and may even be sent along to the Township of Uxbridge to help with its economic development strategies. Thank you for reading The Cosmos and taking time to complete the survey!

1. How often do you shop in downtown Uxbridge?
   - Every day
   - Once a week
   - Occasionally
   - When there is a sale
   - Never

2. What businesses in downtown Uxbridge do you most frequently visit?
   - Shop
   - Restaurant
   - Other

3. What types of shops or businesses would you like to see in downtown Uxbridge?
   - Stores
   - Restaurants
   - Shop
   - Other

4. Do parking issues ever deter you from doing business/shopping in downtown Uxbridge?
   - Yes
   - No

5. What could downtown Uxbridge businesses and retailers do to attract you to their business/store?

6. Do current downtown Uxbridge business/store hours meet your needs?
   - Yes
   - No

7. Would you like to see the downtown Uxbridge business/shopping area expanded?
   - Yes
   - No
   - No opinion

8. Would you like to see more special events held in the downtown Uxbridge area?
   - Yes
   - No
   - No opinion

9. Do you think the township should offer incentives to attract new businesses/retailers to the downtown Uxbridge area?
   - Yes
   - No
   - No opinion

Comments and Suggestions
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Drop off completed surveys at 38 Toronto St. N., Uxbridge, on or before April 28.

To patients of the Uxbridge Hearing Centre
Sue is retiring and Jordanna is joining our clinic.
Please join us at a patient appreciation luncheon being held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 170 in Uxbridge
April 25, 2017
11:00 - 2:00
109 Franklin Street, Uxbridge
RSVP by April 17th to 905-852-4722
Our two cents
If you love us don’t let us go

The annual conference for the Ontario Community Newspaper Association, of which the Uxbridge Cosmos is a member, was held last Friday, and we were there. We went hoping we would get an energetic boost and come away inspired, ready to take on another year of publishing a community newspaper. It’s very easy to think you’re the only one fighting your battles and feeling your fears when you’re sitting alone in an office, distanced from others in the industry, and there’s nothing like a good conference to bring everyone together to swap stories and compare notes. This year felt odd, though. The numbers of publishers and editors was down drastically from previous years, and we hope that it was only because of scheduling conflicts, and not because there aren’t as many community newspapers to represent - an unfortunate reality nowadays. An editorial we came across on Monday, written by Troy Media publisher Doug Firby, confirmed what those of us who did attend the OCNA conference had discussed the week before - community newspapers are facing a lot better than the “big guys,” but we, too, are struggling for reasons that the communities who say they love us need to understand.

“Community newspapers have held true for a number of reasons,” writes Mr. Firby. “Unlike other media, these newspapers tell stories about their communities - stories you can’t find on a news wire. Readers cannot find their mix of local news, events and advertising anywhere else. If they don’t like a story, they can call up and complain. Editors and owners belong to the same social clubs, churches and hockey leagues as their customers.”

The Cosmos is the only game in town where all of the above is completely true. In a time when people are, more and more, tuning out, this little newspaper is one of the best places to get connected again.

Supporting and being local is a big deal to community newspapers, both in terms of mandate, and in terms of advertisers. “Local businesses view community newspapers as the best bet for effectively reaching consumers in these small markets,” says Mr. Firby. He goes on to say that smaller communities aren’t well served by corporations that move in and try to present a “local” paper when the “‘local’ paper doesn’t even live in the community it represents.”

“When a corporate paper puts virtually nothing into a community (and yet expects to take its profits through advertising revenue), it’s not really that hard to provide a better product,” in the form of an independent paper.

We conference attendees spoke of the many worries that keep us awake at nights, including ongoing trouble attracting advertisers at all levels (local, regional, provincial and even national), and adapting to the digital age in which a solid web presence and social media strategy are essential, but difficult to maintain when staff is small and goals are lofty. But we all agreed that we weren’t going anywhere anytime soon, despite corporate and digital pressure.

“It’s hard to imagine a future without a community newspaper in some form,” says Doug Firby, and we’re inclined to agree with him.

“They will survive because nobody else is going to tell the stories they do - about local births and deaths, local heroes and hooligans, the wise and foolish decisions of the local council and prospects for the minor hockey teams. The heartland has shown, time and again, that they will support a local news paper when the ‘‘local’’ paper doesn’t even live in the community it represents.”

“Community-oriented newspapers have held true for a number of reasons,” says Mr. Firby. “Unlike other media, these newspapers tell stories about their communities - stories you can’t find on a news wire. Readers cannot find their mix of local news, events and advertising anywhere else. If they don’t like a story, they can call up and complain. Editors and owners belong to the same social clubs, churches and hockey leagues as their customers.”

As a grand-nephew of J. Earle Lockerby, a fallen World War I sol dier whose name is inscribed on the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, and after whom I am named, I take my hat off to the 11 students of Uxbridge Secondary School who are currently visiting Vimy Ridge and other battlefields of the Great War.

Their participation in the various ceremonies being held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the iconic Battle of Vimy Ridge will, I am sure, be a wonderful learning experience, make a deep impression on them and prove to be a highlight of their lives. They studied and saved for months to be able to stand in the shadows of this great memorial as our country stopped to reflect and remember.

All of the residents of Uxbridge Township can be truly proud of these youth who are such worthy ambassadors for our municipality, our province and our country. Much credit is due to teacher Tish MacDonald for her leadership and uniting efforts to inspire these teenagers, to help them with special studies relating to the War and to soldiers from our area who served, and with the requisite planning and fund-raising.

E. Earle Lockerby

Sandford

Letters to the Editor
Re: Notes from the April 3 Council Meeting, April 6 edition

I am quite incensed by the comments attributed to members of Uxbridge Council in this article. I have searched the minutes of the April 3 council meeting and found no reference to these comments so I can only respond to the article, written by Roger Varley. It seems to me some council members feel they occupy an exalted position of privilege, immune to criticism. I see, for one thing, Heritage Uxbridge has every right to comment on features around town that they feel do not enhance the town’s Quaker heritage. Quite frankly, the sign at the southern entrance (to the town) is a hideous monstrosity, and for Councillor Molloy to say that Heritage Uxbridge only has a mandate to comment on designated heritage sites is ridiculous.

Also, why should Heritage Uxbridge apologize to Walmart for saying they dominate the vista - of course they do.

Then there is Councillor Ballinger’s veiled threat to “tax them on it (their opinion).” Do those of us expressing an opinion now have to worry about our taxes increasing at his whim? Perhaps the apology should come from the councillors who approved the sign in the first place!

Robert Callcott

Zephyr

After reading the Letters to the Editor in the Thursday, March 30, edition of The Cosmos, I would like to apologize to Agnes Lobbezoo for missing out on a copy of the (Downtown Business) Survey.

As a business owner in the downtown core, I am very enthusiastic about improving all things Uxbridge. I took it upon myself to make 100 copies of the survey to encourage shoppers, both local and from out-of-town, to have their views heard. The survey was placed on my counter and made available to everyone, whether shopping, browsing, dropping off donations or just stopping by for a chat.

I am sorry Ms. Lobbezoo or any other person missed the opportunity to fill out a survey. Perhaps her visit was after the 100 copies were gone.

With the blessing of The Cosmos, I will make copies of the second run of the survey available to anyone interested in having input into improving the downtown area.

Mary Taggart

M.T. Hangars

Uxbridge

SOFA Smiles with Gerry Roberts

The SOFA and SOFA+ leagues finished their final playoff games on April 9 and 10. For the first time, the four teams ended with their banquet (brunch) in the arena parking lot, catered by ‘The Country Caterer’ Ray Hamlin, one of our go-to gals on the DL. The food was great and so was the weather - a fitting end to a great year of hockey.

On the following day the ReaChview
Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Buttercups unite!

A few weeks ago, following my experience travelling to Regina, I wrote that I would never again take a commercial air flight. In a reply to that column, Ross Colby wrote a letter to the editor stating in part: “Suck it up, Buttercup!” I believe Mr. Colby’s response was intended as a good-natured poke in the ribs, with no malice attached. However, just maybe it’s time for all of us Buttercups to unite. It would be almost impossible for anyone not to know about the recent incident involving the brutal assault of a United Airlines passenger who refused to “voluntarily” give up his seat on a flight where he was already on board and buckled in. That particular Buttercup ended up bloodied and distressed. Following the incident, it seems a lot of Buttercups decided not to suck it up, because United Airlines’ stock plunged in value anywhere between $250 million and $1 billion, depending on what source you read. United Airlines, by the way, was in the news just recently because it would not allow two 12-year-old girls to board a plane while wearing yoga pants. Such apparel did not fit the company’s image, said UA. So much for the company’s image. Apparently, there are a lot of Buttercups in Quebec as well. When it was disclosed not long ago that Bombardier executives had increased their own bank balances significantly after receiving government funding, while laying off thousands of workers, an angry backlash by vocal Quebecers forced the executives to change their minds, at least temporarily. It would not be right or even accurate to describe Rosa Parks as a Buttercup. Yet then, Buttercups sit docilely in the sun, bending whichever way the wind blows. Perhaps it would be better if they were roses: still lovely to look at, but watch out for the thorns! “Tell me, am I wrong?”

The Barris Beat

Never again

They all looked sharp in their specially tailored commemorative jackets. They responded to the atmosphere of being away from home on a field trip with not unexpected exuberance; they looked pretty pumped. But when several of them spoke publicly the other night in Ypres, Belgium, I could tell these teenagers had changed even in the few days we’ve been away. One of them, Sam Futhey, a Grade 10 student from Uxbridge Secondary School, noted a visit to one of the Great War cemeteries. “When I saw the number of grave stones,” he said “I don’t know. It just hit me.” It was Day Four of the Vimy 100th commemoration trip I’ve been hosting since last Thursday, when 55 adult travellers and 51 students from Uxbridge Secondary School began our pilgrimage (in two buses) to battlefields of the First and Second World Wars. For the adult group, mostly retired Canadians, this tour, as one of them put it, “is a chance to say thank you to veterans for the good life I’ve enjoyed.” For the students, however, it may be the most important 10 days of experiential learning they’ve ever known. After studying wartime battles Canadians endured in north-western Europe, it was time to view them, walk them, experience them where they actually happened, not in a classroom or on the Internet. One of the highlights occurred Sunday, when about 25,000 Canadians young and old descended on perhaps our most famous Great War monument – the Vimy Memorial. Here on the military position known as Hill 145, between April 9 and 12, 1917, Canadians for the first time serving as an independent corps liberated Vimy Ridge from the Germans. It was the first significant Allied victory of WWI and some say a turning point in Canada’s coming of age as a nation. But on Sunday, exactly 100 years after the battle, U.S.S. students witnessed a dazzling ceremony attended by such dignitaries as Princes Charles, William and Harry, French President Gérard Hollande and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. “As I see the faces gathered here – veterans, soldiers, caregivers, so many young people — I can’t help but feel a torch is being passed,” Trudeau said in his speech. “One hundred years later, we must say this, together. And we must believe: it’s ‘Never again.’” I couldn’t help thinking that the prime minister’s call to action fell on attentive ears. I learned that Uxbridge students not only look the part – with their Vimy commemorative jackets and somber demeanor in Common-wealth cemeteries, but they’re also intellectually prepared. Sam Futhey had visited a Royal Newfoundland Regiment cemetery to honour a family relative, Ambrose Stride; Grade 11 student Scarlett Minshull paid tribute to Uxbridge local Walter Gould, who served at Vimy; and Grade 11 student Emma Runnalls brought her knowledge of Uxbridge native Sam Sharpe, who saw his Ontario County battalion first bloodied at Vimy – when 10 troops were killed and 30 wounded simply repairing communication wire on the first night of the battle. “I’m thankful to have had the chance to come here and do this,” Emma told last night’s dinner group. One might sit at home in Canada and criticize these pilgrimages as just another field trip where young people of some means get a chance to zip off to exotic places, blow off some steam, and give the impression that they care. Well, I found evidence to the contrary. And I found it right in front of me. Following the Vimy 100th observance on Sunday, and as the crush of 25,000 spectators made its way to shuttle buses under the watchful eyes of Gentelman security forces, a young man approached me. “Are you Ted Barris?” he asked. “You probably don’t remember me, but we met here on the Vimy hill 10 years ago.” Robb Phillips, now a 20-something adult, reminded me of our first encounter at Vimy in 2007. Like the current group of U.S.S. pilgrims, Phillips, a decade earlier a high school student from Pickering, Ont., had saved and studied to get to Vimy to commemorate one Cpl. Joseph Kennedy of the 161st Huron Battalion. He still felt an attachment to Kennedy, wounded by shrapnel and gas but still active during the Canadians’ last 100 days of the Great War. He admitted the whole experience had changed him. “I’m here out of respect and love of history,” he said. And on Sunday, for the 100th, Phillips wore the same green khaki army shirt he had worn in 2007. “I just had to come back!” There’s no guarantee that any of the Uxbridge high school teenagers, or even history-smitten Vimy returnees Robb Phillips will ever live up to Trudeau’s plea of “Never again!” But walking here among these battlefields and war memorials, they’ll have a greater chance of success than those who dare to ignore war history all together.
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April 14, Good Friday Service at 10:00 a.m. Joint Choir community service
April 16, Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 8:00 a.m. Celebration Service 10:00 a.m.
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**Legion. Contact Len Cole at 905-852-7633.**

**Food and refreshments available.**

**4/27**
Moms Little Getaway
30 Minute Massage
Hot Stone Pedicure
Camillen Gift Pack - Wellness Care

$149.00 + hst

The Revitalizer
Revitalized Facial to Go
Hot Stone Pedicure
Camillen Gift Pack - Wellness Care

$149.00 + hst

The Stress Reliever
30 Minute Hot Stone Massage
Hot Stone Massage Pedicure
Camillen Gift Pack - Wellness Care

$169.00 + hst

Above packages while quantities last.

30 Wilson Street Ste 201 in the heart of old Markham Village. Exceptional area close to Highway 7. Offering price $399,900.

My family and I have recently moved to Uxbridge and are looking forward to meeting many of you!

We love RUFFerals!

Halle Berry
Angelina Jolie

Free Easter basket raffle! Specials!
Easter Bunny! Cookies & Refreshments!
Treats for the kids! Colouring contest!

“Seasons” store
Grand Opening

“Seasons” carries an array of unique gifts, seasonal items, toys, baby products, books, cards and items from many local artisans, including a good selection of items from “Little Acre”!

Where: 26 Brock St West, Uxbridge
(at Heart to Heart Healing Centre)

When: Saturday April 15th

Time: 10 am to 3 pm
Ribbon cutting 2 pm

SALE
Patio & Home Décor

Fri., April 28
Sat., April 29
Fri., May 5
Sat., May 6

10am - 4pm

Chances Are
20 Bascom Street, upper level