

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 20 No. 14

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, April 11, 2024

More choirs • Pickleball in demand • Reflections on the eclipse



THE GRANDE FINALE - A great musical era in Uxbridge came to an end on Sunday afternoon as the Uxbridge Chamber Choir, conducted by Tom Baker, performed a farewell concert to a standing-room-only St. Paul's Anglican Church. The choir, which was founded 42 years ago, welcomed members from the past and present to perform some of the choir's favourite works from years past. *Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove*

New platform coming for paid parking

Roger Varley

Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey announced at council on Monday that changes are coming to the way parking charges are made at the township's trailheads.

The township launched a pilot project for paid permit parking at trailheads and the Fields of Uxbridge in 2021. Honey said assessment of the project - and based on feedback from users - has led the township to switch permit parking systems to make it more user-friendly. This May, the township will switch to a system called HotSpot, which was developed by park-

ing and payment management experts. Once launched, the township's website will have updated information on registration and FAQs and staff will be available for support.

Honey said the change comes about because most users did not like the old system. She added, however, that the parking fees have not inhibited use of the trails, saying there has been an increase in trail visits. She said 100 per cent of the money raised by the parking fees is directed back into the trail system and its amenities such as signage, snow clearing etc.

Also at Monday's council meeting, pickleball was again on the agenda. In a deputation to

council, Roger Stonell of the Uxbridge Lawn Bowling Club asked council to change the terms of its lease to allow the installation of pickleball courts.

Stonell noted the current lease refers to lawn bowling as the exclusive sport for the centre. He said the club wants to turn about a quarter of the lawn bowling area into grassy pickleball courts in an attempt to attract new members to the club, whose membership is currently about 20.

Council referred the request to staff for a report,

...continued on page 3

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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

TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE

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Council & Committees

- Meeting Schedule for April, 2024**
- Thursday, April 11**
TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE @ 10:00 a.m.
 - Monday, April 15**
GENERAL PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE @ 10:00 a.m.
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMM. @ 7:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, April 17**
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT @ 7:00 p.m.
 - Thursday, April 18**
LIBRARY BOARD @ 7:00 p.m.
 - Monday, April 22**
COUNCIL @ 10:00 a.m.
 - Thursday, April 25**
BIA BOARD @ 7:00 p.m.
 - Monday, April 29**
DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION @ 3:00 p.m.
- Proclamations for April**
- April 14-20 - International Volunteer Week
 - April 22 - Earth Day
 - April 28 - National Day of Mourning

Street Sweeping in Progress

Please avoid on-street parking while crews are sweeping.
 More details are available at www.uxbridge.ca



Employment Opportunities

- Complete details of all open positions are available at <https://www.uxbridge.ca/careers>
- Uxbridge Public Library – Summer Program Coordinator, summer student** - Closes April 12, 2024
 - Community Services - Assistant Tourism Development Coordinator, contract**
Closes April 19, 2024
 - Uxbridge Historical Centre - Museum Educators, contract**
Closes April 19, 2024
 - Uxbridge Historical Centre - Museum Preparator, contract**
Closes April 19, 2024
 - Lucy Maud Montgomery Society Of Ontario – Project Assistant, summer student** - Closes April 19, 2024
 - Public Works and Operations – Operations and Capital Project Manager** - Closes April 24, 2024



Board & Committee Appointments 2023 - 2026

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge invites applications from members of the public who are qualified electors of the Township of Uxbridge who wish to have their names considered for appointment (term of Council – expiring November 2026) to the Uxbridge Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee (see detailed description below). The Committee has reviewed their current membership and identified that priority will be given to individuals who are either a youth representative (over the age of 18), or work in a role with youth. Any person interested in offering their services and would accept an appointment (including present members with expired terms), are invited to submit a Volunteer-Committee Member Application Form available on the Township's website <https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/yourlocal-government/boards-committees-and-initiatives.aspx> along with a letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience to the undersigned by **Friday, April 26, 2024**.

Any questions regarding these appointments may be directed to the Deputy Clerk.

Emily Elliott, Deputy Clerk
 Telephone 905-852-9181
 e-mail: elliott@uxbridge.ca
 Fax 905-852-9674
 P.O. Box 190, 51 Toronto Street South
 Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1

Uxbridge Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee

This Committee provides advice and a community perspective on how to achieve the Downtown Vision as it relates to the Downtown Revitalization Strategic Plan and Action Plan. The Committee will seek opportunities that further the implementation of the 2022 Downtown Revitalization Strategic Plan & Action Plan, and the 2022 Downtown Uxbridge Public Consultation and Visualization Report.
 The Uxbridge Downtown Revitalization is comprised of four to ten (4-10) voting community members and several non-voting Township, Regional, and Provincial representatives.

The Township of Uxbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer that is dedicated to an inclusive, barrier-free recruitment and selection process. The Township is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion within its community and organization, and welcomes and encourages applications from Indigenous Peoples, people of colour, women, persons who live with disabilities, people from 2SLGBTQI+ communities, and people from diverse communities. When requested, the Township of Uxbridge will accommodate applicants throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process, pursuant to the Ontario Human Rights Code. These commitments also apply to our Board and Committee recruitment and selection processes. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



Laundry, showers now at North House

Justyne Edgell
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Those in North Durham who are experiencing homelessness are now able to go to North House to do their laundry or have a shower.

North House, an organization that provides a spectrum of housing supports for those who are at risk or in crisis within the communities of North Durham, recently announced that it can finally offer these two services, which were promised when

the organization took over its current location in the Rexall Plaza in October 2022.

During the construction and renovation phase of the new space, they built shower, laundry and kitchen facilities for people experiencing homelessness, as these types of services were not available in north Durham.

“The move to a larger office space allowed us to provide more essential services to individuals experiencing homelessness, but we limited the use

of these services to individuals connected to our caseworkers while we navigated the first year of operations,” says North House executive director, Mona Emond. “We worked through the potential risk factors like pests, biohazards, and substance use, and developed procedures that focused on keeping both the user and staff as safe as possible.”

North House was then able to officially open these services to the North Durham community.

“This means that individuals experiencing homelessness who do not have access to laundry and a shower will be able to come in to use the service, even if they are not a client of ours,” says Emond, who also mentions

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Council news, from page 1

which will also look into the issue of noise from pickleball, which has caused some concern in some municipalities. (For more on pickleball in Uxbridge, see story on page 9.)

Finally, council received seven letters from residents opposed to an application by Henry Eng to continue a soil-generating operation on his farm in the north end of the township.

Almost all the letters pointed out that the operation has not been legal since it started in 2005 and noted an injunction was passed in 2017 limiting the operation. Asked why the injunction did not shut down what was deemed an illegal operation, Honey said the judge who granted the injunction allowed the operation to continue.



Uxbridge at a Glance continued

Board & Committee Appointments 2023 - 2026

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge invites applications from members of the public who are qualified electors of the Township of Uxbridge who wish to have their names considered for appointment (term of Council – expiring November 2026) to the Accessibility Advisory Committee (see detailed description below). Pursuant to legislative requirements, the Committee is seeking a person with lived experience of a disability. Any person interested in offering their services, and would accept an appointment (including present members with expired terms), are invited to submit a Volunteer-Committee Member Application Form available on the Township’s website <https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/your-local-government/boards-committees-and-initiatives.aspx> along with a letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience to the undersigned by **Friday, April 26, 2024**.

Any questions regarding these appointments may be directed to the Deputy Clerk.

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e-mail: elliott@uxbridge.ca
Fax 905-852-9674
P.O. Box 190, 51 Toronto Street South
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Accessibility Advisory Committee

This committee will provide advice to Council with respect to the Annual Accessibility Plan and matters relating to accessibility issues within the Community. Legislation requires the majority of the nine (9) voting members of the Committee to be persons with disabilities including visual, hearing, physical, speech, cognitive, perceptual and mental health. The other four (4) members shall include a Senior Citizen, a Member of Council and persons from the community with an interest in issues relating to persons with disabilities who may be employed by supporting agencies or parents of children with disabilities. Members shall be chosen for their expertise and commitment to the promotion and facilitation of a ‘barrier-free’ Uxbridge.

The Township of Uxbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer that is dedicated to an inclusive, barrier-free recruitment and selection process. The Township is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion within its community and organization, and welcomes and encourages applications from Indigenous Peoples, people of colour, women, persons who live with disabilities, people from 2SLGBTQI+ communities, and people from diverse communities. When requested, the Township of Uxbridge will accommodate applicants throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process, pursuant to the Ontario Human Rights Code. These commitments also apply to our Board and Committee recruitment and selection processes. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



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Wednesday, April 24, 7 - 8:15 p.m.

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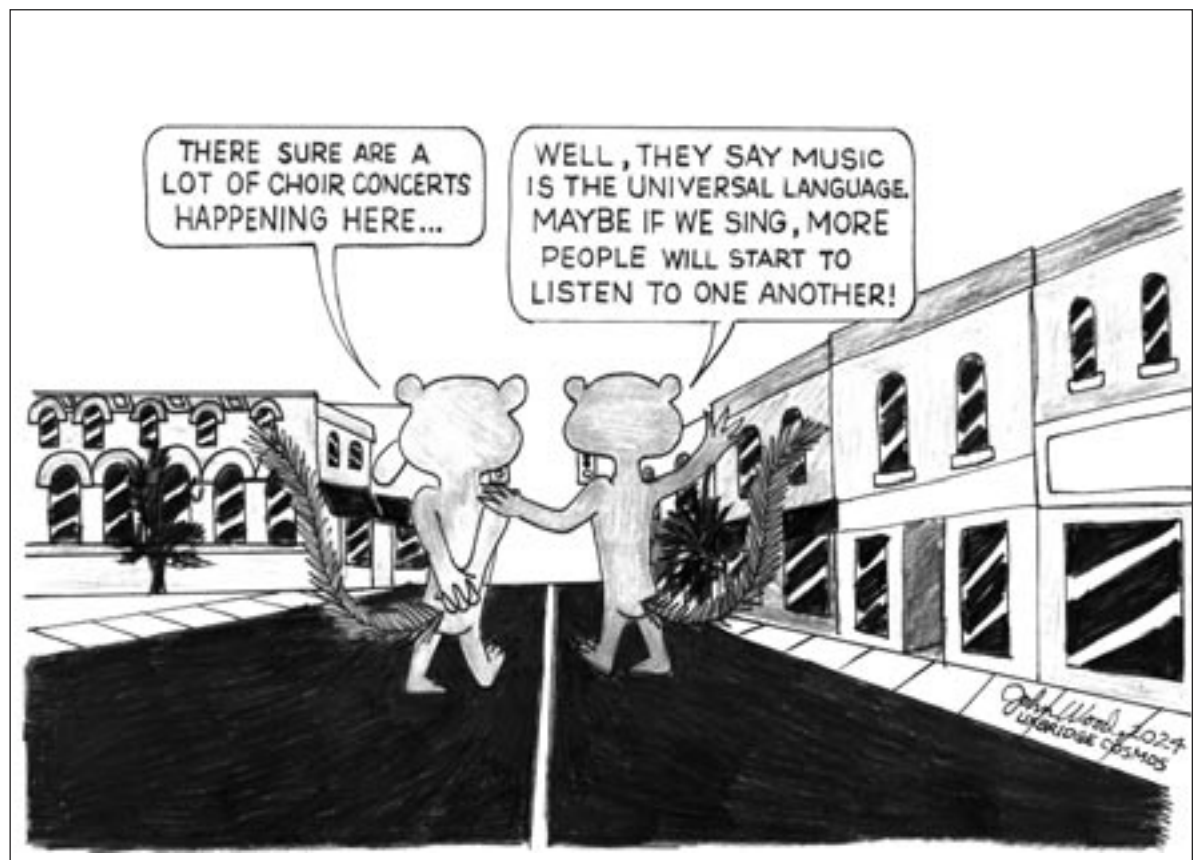
We'd like to teach the world to sing

Sitting in St. Paul's Anglican Church on Sunday afternoon, listening to the Uxbridge Chamber Choir perform some of its favourite pieces from its 42-year history, it was impossible to not *really* understand what the phrase "music is the universal language" truly means. It was a beautiful day outside, the warm sun was streaming through St. Paul's stunning stained glass windows, and glorious music filled the church, right up to the very top of the vaulted ceiling. Some songs made the audience chuckle, other pieces gave goosebumps and chills, which was perfect. That's what music is supposed to do. It's meant to move us (emotionally and physically), make us feel, make us listen. All of us.

Imagine, if you will, that every person on Earth was asked to go to a concert of their choosing and lose themselves in their music for at least an hour, preferably two. If each person came out of their concert feeling as blissed out as those who left St. Paul's on Sunday likely felt, the world would be an incredibly different place. Maybe Russian President Vladimir Putin needs to spend some time with Chopin, or Enya. Or Shakira, even. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu might need a little Vivaldi, The Beatles, or Taylor Swift! Hook up Prime Minister Trudeau with some of The Four Tops, Handel, maybe Nickleback (note that we *are* just picking these composers and artists quite randomly). Donald Trump could certainly use a good dose of Mozart, Chris Spheeris. Sharon, Lois and Bram.

We could go on and assign musical therapy to every world leader out there. Our point is, music really *is* a universal language. It and nature are the only two things in the world that can really make us shut up and take notice of what is going on *in* the moment. People in southern Ontario were never so quiet as when the eclipse passed over us on Monday. They were entranced by what was going on, united in a common experience. When an audience listens to incredible music, no matter the genre, it too is engrossed and united by the common experience.

There are more choir concerts happening in Uxbridge soon. Go to one, and then watch a sunset. The bliss you'll feel will spread, and other people will feel it too. That can only be good for the world. A universal language.



Letters to the Editor

Re: Township speed limits

In an effort to reduce speeding around the town, limits have been posted as low as 40 and 50 km/h. I have suggested that, in town, speed bumps are a much more effective way of getting people to drive safely, because we care about our cars more than our speed. Try doing 40 coming into town from the north on Main St., or 60 south on Conc. 6 from Hwy. 47 - it is dangerous because undoubtedly cars will tailgate you and pass when they can. Speed bumps here would change that.

I have been told that snow plows and fire trucks would be affected negatively with bumps - plows wouldn't work and trucks would have to slow down. East Gwillimbury, Mississauga, and many other locations don't seem to have a problem with this.

My small sideroad, posted at 60 km/h, has speeders going 80 or more just to bypass lights at Coppins Corners. We are residential with young kids, and I offered to pay for bumps last time re-surfacing was done; this was declined.

If we really want to control speeds, let's think about alternatives other than to just keep reducing the more unenforceable limits.

Mike Thomas
Uxbridge

Google "How much carbon does a tree absorb?" On average, a single tree can sequester up to 48 pounds of CO2 a year.

Google "How many trees in

Canada?" Canada has about 318 billion trees, which cover 40 per cent of the country.

Google "How much carbon does Canada emit per year?" Canada carbon emissions for 2020 was 516,873 kilotons.

Simple math: "How much carbon does Canada absorb?" $48 \times 318 \text{ B} / 2240 = 6.814$ million kilotons. Canada ABSORBS 6.814 million kilotons of carbon per year.

Common sense question - if Canada absorbs 10 times more carbon than we emit, why is there a carbon tax? Am I wrong, or missing something?

Ozzie Zante
Uxbridge

Re: 'Am I Wrong?', April 4 edition

As a young sociologist, Professor Dorothy Smith attended the Berkeley protests, which were part of a larger movement calling for free speech in the 1960s. To her dismay, reading the reports of the riots in the news, she didn't recognize the events she'd attended. To my dismay, in April 2024, I see there is nothing new under the sun.

I, too, attended the protest in Uxbridge on April 4, but (in his column) Mr. Varley presents a very different view of the event than my own. I saw a group of peaceful but clearly frustrated citizens, some of them farmers (who thankfully took the helm and spoke out), and some of us ordinary folks with concerns. All the attendees except, evidently, Mr. Varley, are deeply concerned

by the encroachment of an out-of-control government on their rights, and they're really sick and tired of the endless lies, outright looting of their bank accounts, and fear mongering. We see what is going on in this country and it's not a pretty picture.

Mr. Varley described criticisms of the PM and government as "puerile rhetoric" but the only one I witnessed indulging in such talk was Mr. Varley, who shouted, "bull—" to people attempting to talk to make him hear and record their concerns.

Mr. Varley's column title, "Am I Wrong?," is nothing but baiting. He has no interest in hearing the other side of a debate or discussion. He wrote an insulting column about the protest and in the process painted himself as a victim. But it's well known that victimhood often goes hand in hand with the bully.

Evelyn Sommers
Goodwood

To preserve freedom, protect the free press.

I was appalled to read that at the "Axe the tax" protest, a reporter was threatened with violence. Such tactics are unwelcome and unacceptable in our town, province and country. Silencing the press only leads to tyranny, as too many examples in the world confirm.

I am grateful for the courage of the reporter who covered the "rally," and for all good journalists

...continued on page 8

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Am I wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Thankful for small things

To all you parents who take your small children strolling through the downtown: Thank you. To all you dog owners who take your canines walking through the downtown: Thank you.

I thank you all for bringing a little joy into my life. Babies, tots and toddlers are guaranteed to bring a smile to my face. If I receive a smile from a kid when I wave to them, it lifts my heart. My favourite place in town is The Bridge Social (that is NOT a paid advertisement) because that's where a lot of young mothers bring their young charges to chat with friends over coffee. The coffee shop provides toys and colouring books to keep the small fry occupied and, in the summer, there's a sand box outside for the kids to play in.

But wherever I see small children, the result is the same; I smile. And it doesn't matter whether the child is being goofy, shy, petulant or excited, I love watching them as they come to understand their emotions, gradually discovering who they are. I love to watch young children engaging in conversation with their parents. It doesn't matter what the subject is: it might be about superheroes or nursery school or whatever, but this is when they learn and practice all the gestures that they've picked up from adults to make their point. And sometimes my joy is tempered slightly with a touch of sadness by the sight of a youngster learning to deal with some perceived disappointment.

Dogs are the same. They all walk a little differently - some pull, some drag, some skip, some amble - but I've noticed that they all invariably do one thing (and, no, it's not what you're thinking!). At some point, every dog will look up at its human for reassurance. "Are you still with me? Am I being good?"

There's an old saying about wearing your heart on your sleeve. Many dogs look at their humans in such a way that you could swear their hearts are in the middle of their foreheads. I often see dogs waiting outside stores for their humans to reappear and observe their joy when the reunion happens. I

feel the same joy.

I often go to the off-leash dog park just to watch the canines cavorting, also guaranteed to bring a smile to my face. Almost invariably, when a new arrival shows up, some of the dogs already there will race to the entrance gate to greet the newcomer and then join in a game of chase. Would that humans were the same.

And when small kids and dogs interact on the sidewalk it can sometimes be almost magical. Innocents coming together in the knowledge that, at least in this moment, someone is watching over them and they are safe.

I realize it might sound a little creepy when I say I love watching children, but I put that down to the way society has evolved. When I was a child, every neighbour kept an eye on all the kids on the street, both to make sure we weren't getting into mischief and to make sure we were alright. Nowadays, when an old fogey like me sits near a playground watching the kids at play, I'm sure there are people who wonder if I have some ulterior motive. But the only motive I have is, as I said above, to feel a little joy.

Absolutely nothing else in the world brings me joy. I see the world hurtling towards the hot place in a handbasket; I see greed everywhere I look; I see corruption and selfishness; I see a society so wrapped up in itself it can't tear itself away from the cell phones. Something that made me really sad recently was observing a young boy walking along the street with his father. The boy was full of energy, skipping alongside his father, but his father never once looked up from his cell phone for the entire block. How could he waste such precious minutes with his child?

From time to time, I will approach youngsters (but only if a parent is present) and offer to buy them any book they want at Blue Heron Books. They think I'm doing them a favour. But, actually, I am returning the favour: the gift of a book for the gift of joy. It seems to me I'm getting the best of the deal.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

A lesson in public speaking

When I arrived at the meeting, the executive director of the group was at the lectern addressing members. Rob Gill had finished his introductory remarks to the Army Cadet League's annual general meeting, including a few jokes to break the ice. Then he got to the theme of the weekend conference, "Community Engagement," and wisely he chose to focus on the organization's people. Among them, he complimented the outgoing president.

"Rick Brown doesn't say an awful lot," Gill said. "But he's one of the best listeners I've ever known."

I'd arrived early at the AGM, principally to check out the venue where later that night I was to deliver a keynote address. I did a bit of reconnoitering to learn more about my intended audience and the theme of the conference. The Army Cadet League of Canada began in 1971, as a non-profit, civilian organization working with the Department of National Defence supporting young Canadians wishing to take part-time army training. ACLC has a staff of three and a board of 15, but its day-to-day activity depends largely on 1,500 Ontario volunteers. And I met with many of them that day, and learned that past-president Brown's listening skills had helped keep the ACLC functioning through the dark days of the pandemic and sparked a sizable recruitment of young women into its ranks. Before leading the ACLC, Brown (from the Kawartha Lakes area) served for 35 years with various Ontario regional police forces and the OPP. "President Brown's leadership has been a model for all of us," Gill said.

During the dinner that evening I sat with incoming president Charlene Orrell. She admitted to me that she'd paid little attention to army matters until her son expressed interest in becoming a cadet. Many volunteer hours followed to the point that she's now committed herself to three years as ACLC president, all while continuing a full-time job from her home in eastern Ontario. "It's a bit daunting," she said, "but this group of volunteers keeps us all motivated."

Many years ago, when I first set out as a freelance writer and broadcaster in western Canada, I worked for a while with an outreach group at the University of Saskatchewan. Among its mandates was to discover how communities away from the big cities manage to survive, indeed thrive. We travelled for several weeks to prairie towns in eastern Saskatchewan; this was at a time when

transportation giants such as CN and CP were tearing up railway lines and dismantling grain elevators. I interviewed farmers, merchants, teachers, municipal politicians, homemakers, women and men young and old. In a nutshell they all said if a town could keep its farm implement dealership, a place of worship and a sporting venue all open and functioning, it could survive. "But," almost all added, "none of these community pillars can survive without volunteers."

During my daylong visit to the ACLC weekend conference in Markham, I also met Stewart Sherriff, a retired captain from the storied Ontario regiment, the Lorne Scots. Among his volunteer activities, he's helped secure battle honours recognition for the regiment (soldiers with the Lorne Scots served in the War of 1812, the Great War, the Second World War and the war in Afghanistan). He also helped convince the City of Brampton to lease its 170-year-old downtown firehall as new home of the Lorne Scots Regimental Museum. "Our grand opening is coming up on May 11," he told me. "It's another example of army cadet league volunteer work ... helping to ensure young people learn about our military past."

I guess I'm giving away trade secrets here, but after many years of public speaking I've learned how important it is to study and know your audience before you speak to it. I'd spent part of the day picking up clues about how the ACLC functions. Then, I met one the league's beneficiaries. Warrant Officer Ethan Russell, who was recognized by the conference for outstanding "commitment, perseverance and positivity." I picked up on some of those themes as I began my presentation.

"Community means a lot of different things," I said. "Geography, business, neighbourhood, social and spiritual connection. But if anyone were looking for the essence of what makes society function, I'd say it's an expression of service ... and recognizing young citizens like Ethan Russell." The concept of military service has always emphasized what happens at the front line. I suggested to the banquet audience that their behind-the-scenes activity was the service that too often goes unnoticed. Like so much else, true volunteer spirit is the positive work that people do when no one is watching.

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

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Choral music continues to welcome spring

The Uxbridge Chamber Choir has sung its last note, but music will

still entertain Uxbridge. Two more choral concerts are scheduled to

take place before the end of this month.

On Friday, April 19, the Monday Morning Singers hosts “Begone Dull Care,” at St. Paul’s Anglican Church, 7:30 p.m. Parts of “Folk Songs of the Four Seasons” by Ralph Vaughan Williams will be featured, along with folk songs of

other places, from Ireland and Scotland, to Cape Breton and the USA. Guest violinist is Wesley Bells, and local guitarist Chris Saunders joins the choir. One Voice is directed by Anne Mizen, with accompanist Elaine Brandon. Tickets are \$25 at the door. mondaymorningsingers.com One Voice Uxbridge Singers, a

non-auditioned community choir, celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Under the leadership of Charles White, One Voice sings an eclectic repertoire, with a focus on contemporary Canadian composers. On Friday, April 26, the choir is offering a spring concert entitled “I Am Song,” (also at 7:30 p.m., also at St. Paul’s Anglican Church).

This will be One Voice’s first concert accompanied by Jackie Crawford, with special guests Abbey Chevrefils and Jillian Foote, students in the Singer-Songwriter course at Uxbridge Secondary School. The choir will also be accompanied by Jenny Kanis on bass and Mike Raines on drums.

Tickets for the One Voice concert are \$20 and are available from choir members or at the door.

MONDAY MORNING SINGERS

Begone Dull Care

Friday, April 19, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Director: Anne Mizen
Accompanist: Elaine Brandon
Violinist: Wesley Bells

St. Paul's Anglican Church,
59 Toronto St. S., Uxbridge

Tickets \$25.00 at the door

www.mondaymorningsingers.com

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When social media blocks your access to the news, turn to your local newspaper.

Spring Cleaning Event!

**Thurs., April 18
7-9 PM
Uxbridge Showroom**

Presented by our Home Organizing Pro, Jenn

- *Tips and tricks to get your home or cottage organized
- *Learn steps to easy organizing
- * Tools of the trade
- *Make the most of each space in your home

Please bring **\$10 OR a donation** of a gently used/ formerly loved home decor item for the Salvation Army.

Beverages and snacks included

Space is limited. Call **905-982-2119** to book your spot!

Community library meeting this Saturday

Roger Varley

Residents of Zephyr are being asked to attend a community meeting this Saturday to discuss the future of the Zephyr library.

Organized by Janet Betts, the meeting will be held in the Zephyr community centre from 2 - 4 p.m.

Betts said the purpose of the meeting is to provide residents with information they will need if they attend a similar meeting to be held April 20, this one organized by the township of Uxbridge. At issue is the possible relocating of the library from its current quarters to the community centre.

Betts claims the township is withholding information from the residents over the possible move and that the April 20 meeting will be the township's "hard sell" of the proposal. Part of the township's proposal rests on the possible loss of the library's access to the well on the neighbouring United Church property, which is to be sold, and the cost of necessary repairs and renovations. Betts said she had an electrical contractor look at the building and also received quotes on the cost of a new well and automatic doors for the current location.

She said the plan to move to the community centre would see the library split into two sections; the adult section and one for children. She said the librarian would not be able to monitor both sections and the set-up would be unsafe for the librarian.

Betts said the hall will be marked off on Saturday to show attendees how much floor space of the community centre would be lost with the installation of a library. She added that she has a petition signed by 400 people who are opposed to the move.

Committee of Friends Meeting House and The Friends Burial Ground

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 1 p.m.
St. Andrew's Chalmers Presbyterian Church, South Door
40 Toronto Street South

*To amend by-laws as required • To receive annual financial statement and annual report • To elect officers, directors, auditor and lawyer for 2024/2025
To transact such further business as may properly come before the meeting.*

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Letters, from page 4

who labour and put themselves at risk so that the world might know. The rally attendees must know

that their methods will only bring about what they fear - oppression.

*Rev. Stephen Kern
Uxbridge*

As a first generation Canadian, descended from a large Asian family, I am an extremely proud Canadian.

I am an organic vegetable farmer with acres of greenhouses to provide the best quality food for consumers across Canada.

As of April 1, the government has added more carbon tax to fuels. This tax is directly affecting grocery prices, as every item costs more to produce due to the higher cost of propane for heating the greenhouses.

Last week, a group of farmers, all in primary agriculture, got to-

gether and drove our tractors through Uxbridge to bring awareness to the tax's effect on their groceries.

Along with tractors, there were several transport trucks, pickup trucks and cars numbering over 40, including a retired police officer, supporting us. And everyone we passed also gave us thumbs up.

We need taxes to run his great country. The carbon tax was introduced to encourage switching to another source of fuel. For heating greenhouses and drying grain, there is no alternative fuel. In addition, this tax is multiplied every

time the crops are transported.

We do appreciate the press coverage by the *Uxbridge Cosmos*. We hope that there will be more balanced reporting of the issues. So Roger, you are wrong this time.

*Ted Eng
Zephyr*

Re: The carbon tax protest

When will these loudmouthed thugs realize that if they did not already have their "rights and freedoms" they would not even be allowed to protest! Unfortunately, their despicable behavior (re: intimidating the *Cosmos* reporter), gets the limelight and not the true reason for the protest.

Roger Varley was simply doing his job reporting, and there was no need to bring politics, either true or imagined, into question.

I expect these louts will be anxiously looking for the next protest to disrupt.

*Margery Cowley
Uxbridge*

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Goodwood Cemetery Board Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 2024
7:30 p.m.

Goodwood Community Centre

Udora Leaskdale Lions Club 38th Canoe River Run Fundraiser

Saturday May 4, 2024

In past years, The Udora Leaskdale Lions Club have raised over \$100,000 for Community Service

This year the proceeds will be donated to Camp Dorset and Camp Huronda

The Start and Registration is on the Zephyr Road at the Pefferlaw River 2 km west of Durham Road #1 and finishes at the Pefferlaw Dam

Registration is from 8:00 am to 10:00 am

Minimum Pledge / Donation \$30.00 per Paddler

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Please join us to learn more as we explore five critical money questions for women.

Save the date
April 17, 2024 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Location: This seminar is being presented as a webinar

To RSVP and receive webinar details, contact 905-852-1244.

Host:

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Pickleball court demand high in Uxbridge

Justyne Edgell
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Get your rackets ready, it's pickleball season! And while plans are in the works for new outdoor pickleball and tennis courts at the Fields of Uxbridge, Uxbridge's pickleball league, run by Elevation Athletics is still feeling maxed out.

The local league says it has seen great involvement from Uxbridge players, so much so that they are almost constantly fully registered, with a waitlist.

"It's just such a great sport for all ages," says district coordinator Rob Miller. "It's low impact but it gets your heart rate up, and it's just so much fun."

Along with their regular league games, Miller says they run Learn To Play programs.

"People will come in with flat out zero racket experience and within 90 minutes all four courts will be, more or less, playing games."

Miller says that while Elevation Athletics would love to add more programming to facilitate the demand, they have run out of space to add to their schedule.

The league currently plays out of Scott Central Public School and Uxbridge Secondary School gymnasiums, where the courts are already lined, as pickleball follows the same court as badminton.

"We're kind of at the mercy of the school board and what permits they

issue," says Miller. "The Elevation Athletics office is actively pursuing the Uxbridge Township for space at the arena, community centre, and seniors' centre this summer."

When asked about the progress of township indoor courts, councillor Zed Pickering said that once the ice is removed, courts will be set up for the season.

"Jamie and Chris at the arena will be providing information soon on the return of the drop-in programming for pickleball," said Pickering.

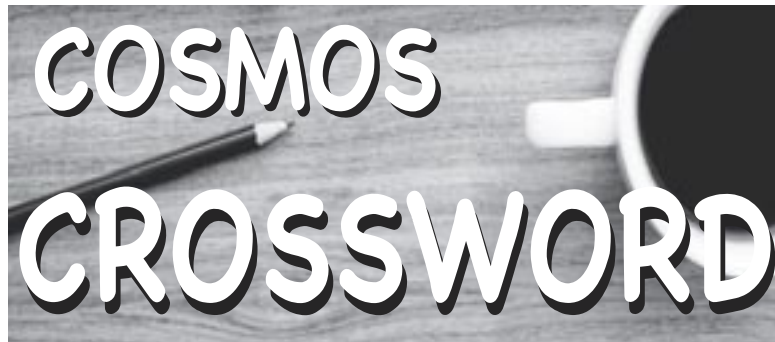
Last week, the Township announced it had approved construction of new pickleball and tennis courts at the Fields Of Uxbridge, estimated to be complete by mid-2025.

"These improvements emerge in response to public feedback requesting the implementation of new permanent courts," says a news release from the Township. "The

Township received positive feedback and participation from the temporary indoor pickleball courts established in the Arena last summer, and the Township anticipates significant utilization of the new outdoor courts."

"Our group doesn't like outdoor courts because we get into issues with rain outs, and if the courts aren't constantly managed we don't want to run into problems with permitting, for example, if we were to get there and the courts were in use by others who we have to kick out," says Miller. "But they're definitely great to practice on. I'd maybe like to see pickleball lines on the current tennis courts so they could be dual purpose."

The Uxbridge programming is currently full, but Miller says the waitlist is open for sign up at elevationathletics.ca



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|--|--|
| Across | Down |
| 1. Fab Four drummer | 1. Messy place |
| 6. Hip-hop | 2. Greek letter |
| 9. Old time Dad's | 3. 1970 Jackson 5 song |
| 12. No-no | 4. Bird of myth |
| 13. Capitalize | 5. Jungle sound |
| 14. Coffee holder | 6. Cuban dance |
| 15. S. American cassava plant | 7. Egyptian snake |
| 16. Gas guzzle rate | 8. Hit the nail on the head |
| 17. Can be open or choppy | 9. Word on a door |
| 18. Swindle | 10. Kind of rug |
| 20. Fellow | 11. Zest |
| 21. Behave affectedly | 19. Select |
| 24. Beeper | 20. Thick liqueur |
| 27. Dry red wine | 21. Involved with |
| 30. First act | 22. Ghana money |
| 34. Some reality show winners | 23. Suppose (old way) |
| 35. Butterfly | 25. Decision to move forward |
| 36. Hindu festival | 26. Grandiose |
| 38. Perfume base | 28. Pack carrier |
| 39. "Get your ___ running....." Steppen wolf | 29. Norway seaport |
| 41. Keats creation | 31. Alliance acronym |
| 42. Finale | 32. Relative of "Oh, no!" |
| 45. "___ show time!" | 33. Character |
| 47. Bother | 37. Player, in tag |
| 48. Peruvian coin | 38. Gallery display |
| 50. ___ and desist | 40. Lubed |
| 55. "Forget it!" | 42. "Out of the question" |
| 56. 5th for one | 43. Skunk's defense |
| 57. Operatic solos | 44. Decayed |
| 58. If at first you don't succeed, ___ again | 46. Lasting effect |
| 59. Protective covering | 48. Fall guy |
| 60. Get a new tenant for | 49. Fertility clinic stock |
| | 51. "Maid of Athens, ___ we part": Byron |
| | 52. Have a bug |
| | 53. Returnable envelope, for short |
| | 54. Approx. |

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Laundry, showers at North House, from page 3

that these services are also available to clients of other agencies or establishments who are not connected to North House.


Emond says that this program also allows the North House team to offer their housing services when unconnected patrons come in for laundry or shower, even though it is not a requirement to work on housing solutions to use these services.

"Our caseworkers will oversee the services being used when on site so it will be by appointment only," says Emond, "and we will be limiting the individual to two loads of laundry per appointment due to the length of time a load takes to complete."

Individuals seeking help with accessing basic needs and supports can be referred to North House through email - referrals@northhouse.ca.

"We will contact the individual within 2 business days to schedule them in for their first appointment and give them the downlow of how it all works."

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EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE: Uxbridge Loaves & Fishes Food Bank will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Focus will be on 2023 activities and results. Main floor gymnasium of St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church, 40 Toronto Street S., Uxbridge. Members of the public welcome.

FREE TREES - Udora-Leaskdale Lions Club is distributing White Pine & Spruce seedlings on Sun., April 20, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Udora Community Hall. Max. 10 seedlings/family, while supplies last. Free, donations to the food bank appreciated.

38th ANNUAL CANOE RIVER RUN FUNDRAISER - Udora-Leaskdale Lions Club, Sat., May 4. Start & registration on Zephyr Rd. at the Pefferlaw River, 8 - 10 a.m. Min. pledge/donation per paddler, \$30. For more information, email ullc.events@gmail.com

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The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

Eclipsed

Wow, what an amazing experience for this space nerd on Monday!

In anticipation of the total eclipse of the sun, my husband, Mark, and I went east, looking for a spot in the path of totality. We checked forecasts and picked the one with the most promise for also viewing the eclipse: "cloudy with sunny breaks."

Sadly there were no breaks in the skies over the hamlet of Lakeport, while the group gathered on the shore of Lake Ontario watched as it got darker and darker, like a storm was coming. Then the clouds on the horizon turned a much darker grey. That ominous band raced towards us and in a minute we were under it.

Everything went dark. Streetlights and solar garden lights came on, as did the cellphone cameras of everyone there! Murmurs of wonderment were exchanged by the crowd. The onshore breeze was already cool so we didn't notice any temperature change. However, looking out

across the water we could see a pink glow all along the horizon. Turning and looking north there was also a bright patch on the skyline up the road.

We marvelled at the spectacle, the speed at which it travelled and the complete darkness it brought. All too soon it passed us, and the sky brightened again just as quickly.

Three magical minutes had passed, and we watched the trailing edge of the moon's shadow pass by out over the lake heading for Kingston.

I'm glad we made the journey and experienced that amazing phenomenon. But ... I wish the skies had cleared a bit, as they did over Uxbridge giving residents here a view of the crescent sun.

Apparently there's a total solar eclipse in Iceland in the summer of 2026. I'll make sure my passport and shots are up to date!

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

Botanist next NDN featured speaker

On Tuesday, April 23, Dale Leadbeater, an enthusiastic botanist, will join North Durham Nature (NDN) to talk about her 10 year adventure examining plants in the City of Kawartha Lakes.

She, along with many volunteers from the Kawartha Field Naturalists, explored and documented plant communities found in water bodies and landscapes of the Kawarthas. Their detailed study resulted in the publication of a guide titled "The Flora of Kawartha Lakes." The public is invited to attend and learn more about the fascinating plants that surround us.

Leadbeater says she has had a fascination with plants and nature as long as she can remember. In grade 4, she joined the Junior Naturalists of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists,

now known as ON Nature. Since that time she has been involved with a range of naturalists clubs, was president of Pickering Naturalists, and on the Board of the Oshawa Second Marsh Defence Association. After a career at the University of Toronto in botany, she moved to a 200-acre wildlife preserve near Kirkfield.

Leadbeater is a member of the Kawartha Field Naturalists, and says she has always found much inspiration from the members.

The Flora of Kawartha Lakes, 7 p.m., Uxbridge Senior's Centre, 75 Marietta Street, Uxbridge.

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Welcome aboard, Cheryl!

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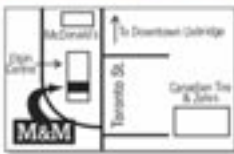


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5⁹⁹ ULTIMATE SAUCE
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