

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 20 No. 15

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Council gets a raise • Thank a volunteer today • Zephyr library meeting this weekend



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A LIFETIME OF MEMBERSHIP - Betty Aldred, left, receives her Life Membership during the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 170 Honours and Awards ceremony, held on Saturday at the Legion. Presenting to Aldred are Ladies Auxiliary president Marion Low (with flower) and Ladies Auxiliary Zone Commander Eleanor Mason-Beeke. Aldred, affectionately known as 'Potato Betty' for her peeling prowess, has been an active Ladies Auxiliary member since 2004.
Photo by John Covers

Firearms store opening up downtown

Roger Varley

A new store dedicated to the sale of firearms will be opening in downtown Uxbridge this summer.

Owner James Mann said Uxbridge Arms will sell rifles and shotguns, as well as archery equipment, but no handguns.

"We're here to serve local farmers and hunters," Mann said. "There's a significant demand for firearms in the area."

Mann said the store will be able to recommend firearms training courses and give information on how to obtain a firearms licence, but added the store itself will not be handling licensing. No one will be able to purchase a firearm or ammunition unless they have a licence.

The store will be located just west of Keith's Flowers and will occupy the whole building. Mann said he doesn't know exactly when the store will open, but hopes it will be in the summer.

...continued on page 7



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Animal shelter back in planning process

Roger Varley

"We've been waiting a long time for this."

That was Mayor Dave Barton's reaction to a report filed at council on Monday addressing the future of the proposed new Uxbridge-Scugog animal shelter.

The report, created by clerk Debbie Leroux, sought approval from council for township staff to undertake the planning phase for the construction of a new shelter. The report recommended hiring a construction project manager "to help identify a process, potential scope, costing and approximate timelines for the project." The report estimated the cost of the consultant at \$40,000, to be split equally between Uxbridge and Scugog.

Asked by Regional Councillor Bruce Garrod

what could be expected from the consultant, Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey said the consultant would determine what the new shelter will cost.

Barton declared he would like to see groundbreaking for the new shelter some time this year, but Honey said she couldn't make any commitments until the planning phase is over.

Both Barton and deputy mayor Willie Popp indicated that the new shelter, when built, will be less than the original design and less than a smaller version that was adopted by council later.

"We won't be able to build what was proposed," Barton said. "We're going to simplify the design."

Popp said the new shelter will be "simple but fully functional."

Leroux' report said there is now \$2.8 million in the new animal shelter reserve and noted that amount included \$615,000 raised by the volunteers of NASUS (New Animal Shelter of Uxbridge and Scugog) and a \$1.1 million donation made last October by the estate of the late Marlyn Ruth Rennie, who lived in Port Perry. Honey said at that time that the Rennie donation would go towards "a feasibility study" for a simplified design.

Construction of the new shelter was put on hold in 2019 when estimates to build the new shelter came in much higher than expected. The new shelter will be located on township-owned property on Lake Ridge Road, just south of Reach Road. The current shelter sits in the middle of an industrial area on the outskirts of Port Perry.



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Uxbridge at a Glance

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Council & Committees

Meeting Schedule for April, 2024

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



Zephyr Library & Community Hall Open House

In-person meeting
Saturday, April 20th
 10:00am-12:00pm
 Zephyr Community Hall (310 Zephyr Rd.)

Share your ideas on a proposed shared space between the Zephyr Public Library and Zephyr Community Hall.



From The Tax Office

Second Property Tax Installment is due April 26, 2024.

Monthly or Installment Pre-Authorized Payment Plan
Deadline to enroll for the 2024 final property taxes is April 30, 2024.

To find out if you are eligible to enroll, visit our website www.uxbridge.ca/en/living-here/property-taxes.aspx or call the tax office at 905-852-9181 for more information.

Change of Address

If you need to change or update your mailing address, please notify our office in writing or by emailing tax@uxbridge.ca

Would you like to receive your tax bills via email?

To enroll for eSend Electronic Tax Billing, visit the Property Taxes page of our website www.uxbridge.ca to submit the application electronically. The form can also be completed at Town Hall (51 Toronto St. S, Uxbridge) during regular business hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Employment Opportunities

Complete details of all open positions are available at

<https://www.uxbridge.ca/careers>

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

Parks Department – Unskilled Labourer – Grass Cutting, contract, Union - Closes April 24, 2024



We Heard You! - Township Launching New Permit Parking System

Based on user feedback, the Township is launching a new permit parking system this May, offering a more user-friendly experience.

Learn more about these changes at:



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 one of the following committees (term of Council – expiring November 2026):

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 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.

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. 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.

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

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

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

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

Zephyr residents give input on moving local library

Roger Varley

About 30 people gathered at the Zephyr community hall on Saturday to hear about the township's plans to move the Zephyr library into the community centre.

Organized by local resident Janet Betts and a group called Concerned Residents of Zephyr, attendees were told the group has over 400 names on a petition calling on the township to leave things as they are. The township is proposing to move the library out of its current location into the community centre. This would mean taking away some of the floor area of the main hall, as well as one of the two kitchens in the building.

Concerned Residents of Zephyr had roped off an area of the hall that they claimed would be lost in the renovation. Resident Jim Jarvis said the roped-off area matched measurements from the township. Local councillor Gord Shreeve, who attended the meeting as an observer, told the *Cosmos* later that he didn't think the group had the correct

measurements. Betts said the group invited councillors and township staff to attend the meeting, but only Shreeve showed up.

The meeting was given a history of the Zephyr library, which opened originally in 1897. It was rebuilt as a Centennial project in 1967, and re-opened in the 1970s.

Betts complained that moving the library would impact residents who use the library's computers, as well as things such as children's reading programs. She said that if the township proceeds with the plan, the library will be split into two, with the adult section separate from the children's section. She said children would be unattended in their section, citing it as "a huge risk factor."

She said losing the floor space in the hall would negatively affect such events as the annual Breakfast with Santa, dances and shows like Yuk Yuks.

Part of the township's reasoning for moving the library apparently revolves around the United Church, which sits next to the library's current

location. There was talk about the church being sold, but the meeting was told the church is not being sold. It is, however, suspending regular services because of low congregation numbers and will be used only for such things as weddings and funerals. The township has said that the library shares a well that is located on church property, and the uncertain future of the church was part of the reasoning for the move.

Betts had information sheets posted around the hall, including one which showed various township venues such as the Music Hall and Uxpool. She said the township claims the current library needs wheelchair accessible doors, but further claimed the venues shown did not have wheelchair accessible entrances.

Betts said a local general contractor and a well company had looked at the library site and told her changes could be made to the library and a new well installed for less than the proposed cost of moving into the hall. She said both parties had provided the quotes at no charge.

Also taped to the walls were emails Betts received from the township last December informing her that she had been appointed to the Zephyr Community Association and to the Uxbridge Public Library board. But another email, sent in February, informed her that the previous emails had been sent in error. The township said a member of the clerk's department had made a mistake.

Another meeting is scheduled for this Saturday, April 20, from 10 a.m. to noon. This one, which will also be held at the Zephyr community centre, has been organized by the township, and township staff and councillors will be in attendance. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting.



Canadian Navigable Waters Act Project Notification

The Town of East Gwillimbury (the Town) hereby gives notice that an application has been made to the Minister of Transportation, pursuant to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* for approval of the work described herein and its site and plans.

Pursuant to paragraph 7(2) of the said Act, the Town has deposited with the Minister of Transport, on the on-line Common Project Search Registry (<http://cps.canada.ca/>), a description of the following work, its site and plans:

NPP File Numbers 2024-411673 & 2024-411697

Replacement of East Townline Bridge #113 (44.183337, -79.311129) and East Townline Bridge #114 (44.194631, -79.315889) located on York Durham Townline over Mount Albert Creek in the Town of East Gwillimbury, Regional Municipality of York, approximately 1.29 kilometres and 2.6 kilometres north of Durham Regional Road 39 respectively.

Comments regarding the effect of this work on marine navigation can be sent through the Common Project Search site mentioned above under the Comment section (search by the above referenced number) or if you do not have access to the internet, by sending your comments directly to:

Navigation Protection Program – Transport Canada
100 S Front Street, 1st Floor
Sarnia ON N7T 2M4

Transport Canada (TC) will not make your comments on a project available to the public on the online public registry. However, any information related to a work is considered as unclassified public record and could be accessible upon legal request. As such, the information and records provided should not contain confidential or sensitive information. If you want to provide confidential or sensitive information that you think should not be made public, please contact TC before submitting it.

However, comments will be considered only if they are in writing (electronic means preferable) and are received not later than 30 days after the publication of the last notice. Although all comments conforming to the above will be considered, no individual response will be sent.

Posted in The Uxbridge Cosmos this 18th day of April 2024.

Town of East Gwillimbury
Engineering and Public Works
19000 Leslie Street,
Sharon, ON L0G 1V0



NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING

AN APPLICATION TO AMEND THE DURHAM REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN

PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT FILE NO.: OPA 2024-001

The Regional Municipality of Durham is considering an application to amend the Durham Regional Official Plan to permit the expansion of an aggregate pit consisting of a licensed area of about 127 hectares and an area proposed for extraction of approximately 15.4 hectares. The subject site is located at 4900 Concession 4, in the Township of Uxbridge.

PUBLIC MEETING: The Region of Durham's Planning & Economic Development Committee will hold a public meeting to provide the public an opportunity to make comments, identify issues and provide additional information relative to the proposed official plan amendment. The meeting will be held on:

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 9:30 AM
Council Chambers
Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, L1N 6A3

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS? An information report outlining the details of the proposed official plan amendment may be obtained from the Durham Region Planning Division. Contact David Perkins at 905-668-4113 ext. 2571, or at david.perkins@durham.ca for more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights. If you wish to be notified of subsequent meetings or of the decision of Regional Council, you must make a written request to the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development at the address listed above. Please include your address, telephone number, email address and the Regional file number.

DELEGATIONS: If you wish to make a delegation before Committee, please submit your request in writing to delegations@durham.ca by 12:00 PM (noon), on Monday, June 3, 2024. Members of the public who register in advance of the meeting will be provided with the details to delegate electronically.

SUBMISSIONS: Personal information from those who make either oral or written submissions on the application is collected by the Region of Durham under the authority of the Planning Act and will become part of the public record.

Our two cents

In praise of volunteers everywhere

April 14 - 20 is International Volunteer Week, and what a week it should be. All those who volunteer their time for their own neighbours and communities, or for communities far away should be awarded a big, fat gold medal. Copying out "thank you" a billion times wouldn't be enough.

Volunteers make this world really happen. Why? Because a passion for helping humanity drives them, and they *want* to be where they are and give what they can of themselves. They don't need money to justify their activities - they're happy with the incredible sense of joy and satisfaction that (hopefully) comes from what they're doing.

Uxbridge is blessed with so many astoundingly dedicated volunteers. Some are featured on our front pages (including this week). Some work quietly behind the scenes and are content with that. They all make events and occasions happen - Operation Warm Hearts, Rotary, the Optimists, the Lions, the weekly Soup Lunch at St. Andrew's-Chalmers, Scouting, Girl Guides, sport coaches, parents who help the sport coaches, parents who help in schools, the hospital Auxiliary, the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary, Salvation Army, church members, Fall Fair organizers, 4-H - there is no possible way we can name them all here, and please don't feel slighted if your group was omitted.

Every person who volunteers knows they're a part of something larger than themselves, and they want to reciprocate for what they've likely once received.

Thank you to every single volunteer in this township, and beyond. We'd quite literally be nowhere without you.



Letters to the Editor

O. J. Simpson passed away recently. Did you know that there is a tiny connection between O. J. Simpson and Uxbridge?

One spring before the museum opened for the summer, I was working away there when there was a knock on the door. It was a couple from California. The guy said his mother was a James from Quaker Hill, and he had brought his wife to show her where the James homestead was located. I showed them where the farms were, and we talked about local history.

When he was ready to leave, he gave me his business card. It said Los Angeles Police Department, Homicide Division. Then he told me he was one of the investigating officers on the O. J. Simpson case. His mother had gone to school at Quaker Hill.

*Allan McGillivray
Zephyr*

Today we have families struggling to feed their families and pay their rent. On top of this, we have climate change hitting us with storms, flooding, tornadoes, huge snow storms, earthquakes, fires that burn precious trees and family homes, all over the world. And a few Uxbridge farmers decide to rumble through downtown with gas/diesel burning tractors to drum up support for their financial situation.

Everyone feels they need more money, and no one is going to turn down more money if it is offered. But what happened to help-

ing each other or trying not to pollute the air we breathe? Yes, farmers feed families - I get that and appreciate this very much, but when the economy is not healthy due to high costs for everyone, and climate change beating down our doors, why are we creating more pollution or demanding more money?

The World Health Organization declared diesel fuel as the number one carcinogen for lung cancer.

Did you know that if your property is eligible for the farm property class tax rate program, your farmland and associated class are taxed at no more than 25 per cent of your municipality residential tax rate?

Also, there is a carbon tax rebate of \$1.86 per \$1,000 of eligible farming expenses for the fuel charge year. And a bill is currently being considered in the House of Commons that would exempt additional charges for natural gas and propane for farm work.

Most sales in Canada are subject to GST/HST, but many farm products are classified as zero-rated, which means they are taxable at the rate of 0 per cent. And net operating income per farm increased in 2023 by 17 per cent.

Don't misunderstand through your anger in reading this letter that farmers are not entitled to what they receive from discounts or rebates offered for farming. They *are* entitled - they feed us. But when there isn't enough to go around, then everyone pulls together and protects each other and the envi-

ronment.

I hope we can all work together and we can all get breaks. But if we don't, let's try and remember the little guy and how he/she struggles to put food on the table, clothing on the kids' backs and pay the rent for a roof over their head. We all belong to the same program - it is called LIVING.

*Bev Northeast
Goodwood*

Last week, a letter to the editor asked why we have a carbon tax if our trees absorb 10 times the CO2 Canada emits each year. Fair question; however, the commenter also used Google and "simple math" to arrive at this number. Unfortunately, having a look on the internet myself, there's nothing simple about it.

First off, in reporting emissions to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), each country is allowed omissions for one reason or another. Canada currently doesn't report emissions in over 50 categories. Many of these are due to difficulty in reporting, and while numbers are gathered for forestry, I would take them with a grain of salt.

Interestingly, forest fires and logging don't go on our IPCC CO2 balance sheet; if they did, it's possible they alone would wipe out any gains made by the trees that weren't cut down or on fire. And giving a single number for all the trees in the nation says nothing

...continued on page 9

CORRECTION

In an article from last week's edition entitled "Choral music continues to welcome spring," the *Cosmos* said that One Voice Singers was directed by Anne Mizen. In fact, Anne Mizen is the director of the Monday Morning Singers. One Voice Singers Uxbridge is directed by Charles White.

The *Cosmos* apologizes for the error.

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

Put *that* in your pipe and smoke it

It might surprise some of my readers to hear that I am fully in support of a proposal made by a Conservative government.

The government in question is the one headed by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in the United Kingdom and the proposal is to eventually eradicate smoking in that country. That I would support such a proposal might also surprise some people, given that I have been a smoker since I was 14 years old.

The British House of Commons voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday, with the Labour Party backing Sunak, to give second reading to legislation that would prevent anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 2009, from ever buying tobacco products or vapes. That means children aged 15 or younger today will never legally be sold a cigarette in England. The idea being, of course, that after a few decades the smokers will have passed on and there will be no one buying tobacco products legally. But the legislation would not affect anyone who already smokes.

As I said, I have been a regular smoker for 70 years. I enjoy my cigarettes, but in all honesty I wish I had never started. However, smoking was pervasive when I was young. People were allowed to smoke in cinemas, restaurants, stores, offices, doctor's waiting rooms, hospitals and on the buses. Just about every adult I knew was a smoker. When it appeared that the whole world was lighting up around me, it was only natural that I would succumb to the habit. I must admit that, even now, I miss being able to have a cigarette while enjoying a cup of coffee in a restaurant, but, as they say, them's the rules.

The idea behind Sunak's legislation is to make it difficult for young people to even start smoking. I find it hard to believe anyone would think that is a bad thing. But Sunak ran into heavy opposition from within his own party. Even former Conservative prime minister Liz Truss opposed the legislation.

The *Daily Mail* quoted Truss as saying: "We're a free country. We shouldn't be telling people not to smoke and I worry about where it will lead."

Gee, just maybe it will lead to fewer smoking-related deaths or health problems. Maybe

it will lead to savings in health care spending. It will certainly lead to fewer cigarette butts strewn around. (Yes, I'm guilty of flicking my butts on the ground. I shouldn't, but I do.)

I don't support the legislation because I am anti-freedom. In one respect, I support it because I am pro-freedom: freedom from damaged lungs, freedom from bronchial problems, freedom from hacking attacks, freedom from fires. According to a 2019 study by the University of the Fraser Valley, residential fires caused by smoking materials resulted in approximately 85 injuries and 16 deaths each year across Ontario, BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Sunak's legislation recognizes that some smokers would find it near impossible to give up their cigarettes, which is why the ban is phased in. I believe I read somewhere some time ago that kicking nicotine addiction is more difficult than kicking a heroin addiction. I had a friend a few years ago who was required to wear an oxygen mask. She was a smoker. I watched in horror and, I must admit, fascination as she lit a cigarette and I could see small bursts of blue flame every time she took a puff.

So the legislation is not intended to distress anyone who already smokes: it's intended to give future generations a healthier life. Who could argue against that? Well, former cabinet minister Sir Simon Clarke for one, who said: "I think it actually risks making smoking cooler (and) it certainly risks creating a black market."

When it was pointed out to Clark that opinion polls show that two-thirds of people in Britain back a phased smoking ban, Sir Simon said: "I think probably if you were to do an opinion poll on bringing back hanging you'd find that there was a significant proportion of people who backed it: that wouldn't necessarily mean it was the right thing to do." So, it seems he's not in favour of executing murderers but he's okay with kids slowly smoking themselves to death!

It seems to me that if you are against such legislation, you may have been smoking the weird stuff.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Vimy and the value of work

It was nearly the last question I fielded the other night. I'd just told the story of Uxbridge youth Lyman Nichols – how (underage) he had joined Sam Sharpe's 116th Ontario County Battalion in 1915, but when he turned 18 how, as a bandsman, he joined the 116th officially and marched off to the Great War, how he survived the battles at Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele, and how he'd come home wounded among 160 surviving soldiers (of the regiment's original 1,600).

"What had helped the Canadians get through?" someone at my Vimy dinner audience in Peterborough asked.

"They were task-oriented," I suggested. "Perhaps more than all the regular soldiers from Britain and the Empire, the Canadians before the war had been farmers, lumberjacks, fisherman, labourers, even students who all understood the meaning of getting a job done."

Since this past week was the 107th anniversary of the Canadian assault on Vimy Ridge, from April 9-12, 1917, I spoke a number of times to both military and civilian groups, not about glory in war, but about the skill and nature of Canadians under such adverse conditions. Not only did Lyman Nichols' story come to mind, but dozens of others, including Gregory Clark, who left a cub-reporting job at the *Toronto Daily Star* in 1915 to enlist, train and serve in the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles. As only a journalist-turned-volunteer-soldier could have perceived what happened at Vimy, he wrote:

"The grand strategy is all great formations. ... But the minute the battle begins, it is out of the hands of generals. It is the sections of average young men – a little band of brothers – doing the thinking and planning. The battle is won by (corporals) and their five or six boys."

And I'd have left it there. Except that a man in my audience made an even more perceptive observation. "Canada and Canadians have always had a greater respect for work and working people than anywhere else," he said. I later met Alan Wilson, a former Briton who served in the Royal Ulster Constabulary in Northern Ireland during the time of the troubles. Then, he moved to Canada and became a Canadian citizen. "In other countries of the world, in Britain, there is no working middle class. Here, there is a healthy middle class, in large part made up of people whose work is respected."

Not having worked that often as a journalist and broadcaster outside Canada, I hadn't considered labour that way. That said, I've always considered writing as much a task to accomplish as a profession. Writers work with tools – pens, keyboards and wireless devices – always with an objective – delivering news, features, broadcast content on focus, on time and often on budget. Consequently, I've always viewed the work I do the same way a carpenter, a plumber, an electrician, or contractor does. When my father returned from overseas after the Second World War, he might have ended up in the same workshops as his mother and brother, sewing fur pelts into coats (indeed his mother was a respected piecemeal worker in the fur district of New York City). But Dad chose to work as a reporter, then columnist and broadcaster. And above his office desk hung a sign I've quoted here before.

"There's only one way to become a writer," it reads, "by applying the seat of the pants to the seat of the chair." The sign hangs in my office to this very day. And sometimes I imagine my grandmother stitching furs seamlessly at the same time I remember my dad writing newspaper, radio and TV scripts seamlessly. Both forms of work required specialized skill and deserved equal respect.

Another Canadian serving as a volunteer in the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Vimy was (later) renowned political economist, Harold Innis. In March 1916, McMaster University waived the need for honours student Innis to complete final exams so that he could rush off to join Canada's 4th Field Battery first at the battle of the Somme in 1916, then at Vimy in 1917. Initially, he found serving in an artillery regiment difficult. As an intellectual, he said he couldn't relate to his battery mates, men "from industrial communities," men he called "louts" in his diary.

But at Vimy, suddenly tasked with the challenge of delivering the famous creeping barrage (friendly shells as protection retreating in front of the Canadians as they worked their way up the ridge on Easter Monday 1917), his view of his battery mates changed.

"As comrades-in-arms, we had built a deep respect for the job at hand. And we were not fighting for King and Empire anymore, but for Canada and Canada alone."

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Uxbridge council receives a pay raise

Roger Varley

In a report to council Monday on compensation and succession planning, Mayor Dave Barton announced new salaries for all members of council.

The mayor's annual salary will increase to \$53,811, up from \$48,207. Salaries for all councillors will go up to \$34,765 from the previous \$31,268. There will also be increases in stipends paid to members of council for chairing committees. Previ-

ously, the chair of the finance committee received \$2,743, while all other chairs were paid \$1,920. Now, the chairs of the finance, public works, planning and administration committees will be paid \$3,850 while the chairs of heritage, parks and the environment will all get \$2,864.

In addition, the position of deputy mayor will be worth \$400 a month. The new payment schedule is retroactive to Nov. 22, 2022.

Barton said the changes were made "in hopes of continuing to attract and retain elected officials with diverse skills, experience, and backgrounds." He said adequate compensation is needed to attract candidates for office, noting that two positions on council were filled by acclamation in the last municipal election. Councillor Zed Pickering also noted a large number of council positions in other municipalities near Uxbridge were filled by acclamation.

Barton said the changes in compensation should have been made at the end of the last council's term but they weren't made because of the

...continued on page 11

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Firearms store, from page 1

He said he will likely have up to six employees and hopes to be part of the community.

Mann, a farmer himself, says he understands some people have strong feelings about firearms (he prefers that word over guns) but added that the issue of firearms has become political.

"Everyone has to be reasonable," he said. "Hunting and target shooting are part of Canadian culture."

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All-important volunteering still slow after COVID

Justyne Edgell
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

This week is National Volunteer Week, thanking all those who put aside their personal time to help others in their communities.

There are many organizations within Uxbridge that depend on

their volunteers to function and serve their patrons.

Volunteering reportedly took a hard hit during the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving many organizations in a lurch, and unfortunately, it was many of those organizations that were the most in demand, like food banks, community outreach and

service programs.

Here in Uxbridge, there appears to be a level of post-pandemic volunteer revival.

“The COVID pandemic did see a decrease in our volunteer base,” says Sloane Hillis, volunteer coordinator for the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, “but we were fortunate to retain enough of them to see us through the pandemic. We have recovered and now have a full team of committed volunteers.”

Not all organizations seem to be as lucky with a full return to normal. Jen Thorson, volunteer coordinator for the Uxbridge Public Library, reported that they still haven't returned to their pre-pandemic volume of volunteers.

“The pandemic did affect volunteering dramatically, and here at the library, we have not seen a return to previous involvement levels, although I'd say we're getting close,” says Thorson.

Esther Veens, program coordinator at Sunrise Pregnancy and Family Support Services, notes that their volunteer team also hasn't bounced back like they had hoped.

“We were fortunate to have a few of our very loyal and long-term volunteers return to us once we were able

...continued on page 11

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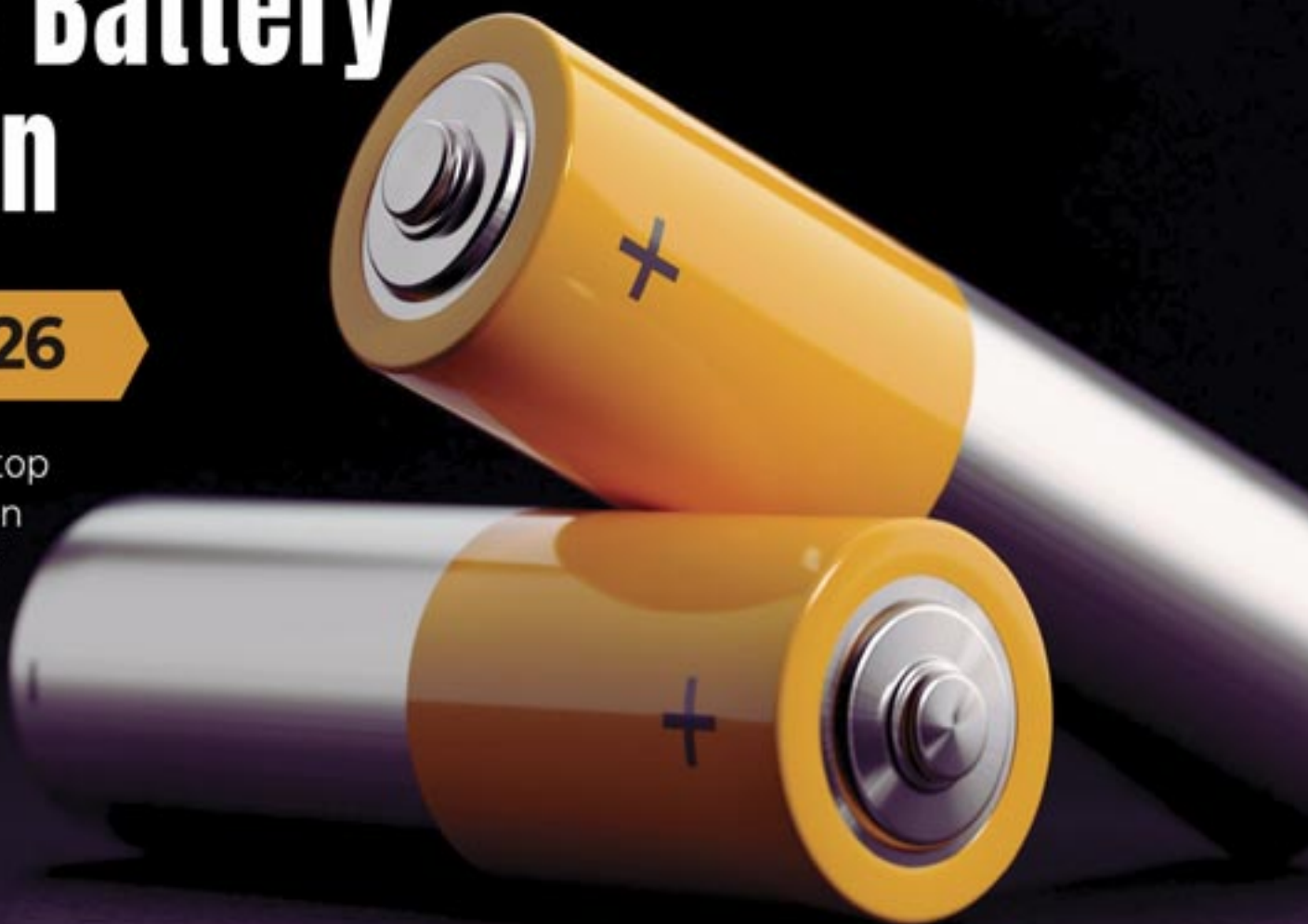
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Letters to the editor, from page 4

about their condition or whether they're a two-year-old seedling or a 150-year-old mature tree.

Separate to that, "international emissions" like maritime transport and any flight out of the country aren't counted. So a flight to Florida and everything in our homes that wasn't made in Canada largely doesn't count toward our emissions.

People like to point to China's CO2 output, but many of China's emissions are just the world's emissions outsourced. We're all in this together.

In conclusion, carbon is an element of contrasts.

*Jonathon Alsop
Uxbridge*

To the Off-Leash Optimists of Uxbridge:

Have you ever gazed into your dog's eyes and wondered what thoughts are behind those puppy

dog eyes? As an Uxbridge newbie and a full-time enthusiast of its forest trails, I'm puzzled by an off-leash phenomenon that has me scratching my head more than my Labradoodle scratches his.

Picture this: A tranquil on-leash walk with my four-legged furball, when out of the blue, a bounding ball of fur charges towards us. The owner's voice echoes, "He's a sweetheart!"

Moments later, my pooch is hiding for his life while fending off "Mr. Sweetheart." The owner's apologies fly as freely as a frisbee, and yet, my dog and I trot away with our tails and spirits a lot lower.

It's led me to a tail-wagging wonderment: Do we truly know our canine companions? Or are we just hopeful they'll play the good boy (or girl) role when the curtain rises?

I've contemplated solutions to this doggy dilemma. Pepper spray? Too spicy and potentially regrettable. A Flexi leash as a medieval

flail? I'd end up in Uxbridge Hospital with a concussion, for sure.

Let's not unleash the hostile rant, where I'd earn the "Karen" badge of dishonor (to all the noble Karens, I apologize).

Instead, let's be honest. If there's a smidgen of doubt about Fido's obedience, maybe the leash isn't such a bad accessory. After all, not every dog is a candidate for "Uxbridge's Top Model: Off-Leash Edition."

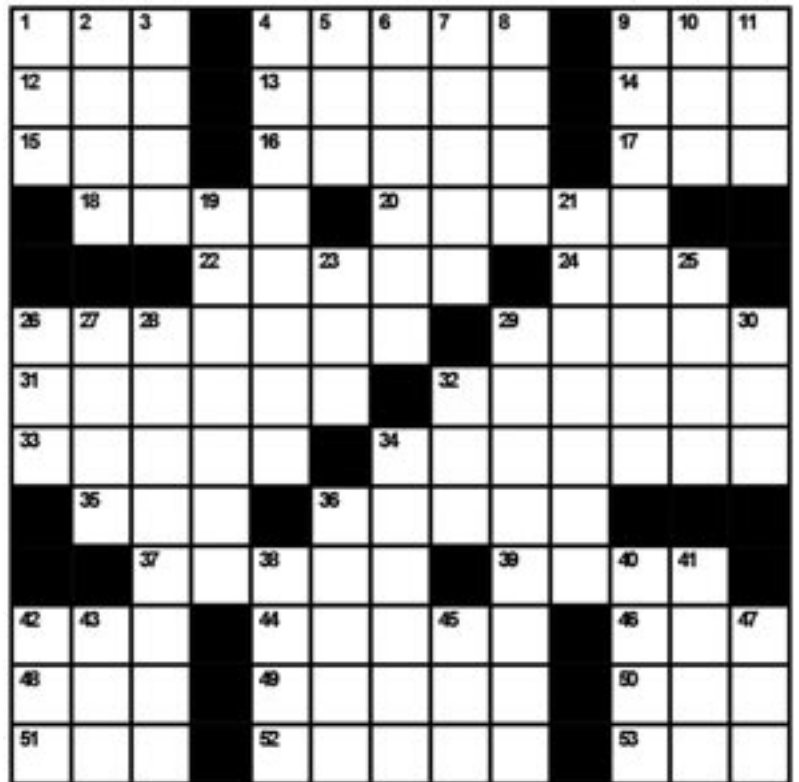
Before we claim our dogs are the epitome of doggy angels, let's take a paw. Are they truly ready for the off-leash spotlight, or are we just enjoying the fantasy of a leash-free life?

To all fellow dog lovers, it's time for a tail-thumping heart-to-heart. Together, let's ensure our strolls remain the peaceful nature walks they're meant to be! Leash 'em if you got 'em. (Dogs, that is)

With a wag and a smile,

*Jennifer Zedic & Wallace
Uxbridge*

COSMOS CROSSWORD



Across

- 1. Moose
- 4. Meat on a stick
- 9. Wrong __ of the stick
- 12. Barbie's beau
- 13. Make amends (for)
- 14. Paltry amount
- 15. Adam's partner
- 16. Roman shields
- 17. Low card
- 18. Right on!
- 20. Puppy-love
- 22. Say cheese!
- 24. Driver's location
- 26. Online sales channel
- 29. Statistic
- 31. Affairs
- 32. Caricature
- 33. Biblical mountain
- 34. Pigeon coop
- 35. You're it game
- 36. Woman who tells fortunes
- 37. Bird homes
- 39. Wildcat
- 42. Show __
- 44. Nigerian
- 46. Vein contents
- 48. Victorian __
- 49. State in India
- 50. Musical aptitude
- 51. Roadside sign
- 52. Young seal
- 53. Caustic substance

Down

- 1. Barely manage, with "out"
- 2. Impose
- 3. Leg joint
- 4. Native a of a region on the India-Pakistan border
- 5. Plus the others
- 6. Fabric of uneven yarn
- 7. Cavern, in poetry
- 8. *Merci* __ *coup*
- 9. Attractive
- 10. This instant
- 11. Twosome
- 19. Allay
- 21. Majestic
- 23. __ in his kiss
- 25. Madrid and Paris cash
- 26. Occupied a certain position
- 27. Give out
- 28. Windfalls
- 29. Miner's light (2 words)
- 30. NY baseballer
- 32. Show grief
- 34. Neglect
- 36. Secret supply
- 38. Irish playwright
- 40. Yuletide
- 41. Bone picture
- 42. Plead for
- 43. Portfolio part, in brief
- 45. Baseball's Maglie
- 47. It comes before long

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

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

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51	G	A	S		52	W	H	E	L	P		53	L	Y	E		

Council gets a raise, from page 6

COVID-19 pandemic, the tornado and other issues.

"The timing was not appropriate," he said.

Councillor Gord Shreeve noted during the discussion that "I was told it was a part-time job. It isn't," while Regional Councillor Bruce Garrod said he wasn't sure that the regional councillor's pay should be the same as ward councillors'.

The same report also made some changes to the various committees. Councillor Willie Popp will move from finance to public works; Garrod will move from public works to administration and Barton will move from administration to finance. All other chairs remain unchanged.

Barton also announced a rotation of the deputy mayor position. Todd Snooks will hold the position effective May 1; Pickering will be Deputy Mayor effective March 1, 2025; and Garrod will take over effective Jan. 1, 2026. However, Barton said that "in recognition of the emergency training undertaken by Councillor Popp and his wealth of expertise," Popp will remain appointed as the Alternate for the Mayor in the sole case of the absence or inability of the Mayor to act in an emergency."

When asked why councillors receive extra pay for chairing committees, Barton said it was to compensate for additional work.

"Most municipalities do the same," he said.

Volunteers, from page 8

to have volunteers at our program again. We had a few whose life circumstances had changed after COVID and were not able to continue volunteering. We have had a hard time bringing on new volunteers this year and little interest."

Many local organizations say they see 'volunteers' as high school students who are looking to fill their volunteer hours requirement, though it appears that the majority of the volunteers tend to be in the senior age demographic; retirees with available time throughout the week, and some note that these are also the most reliable helpers.

"Most (high school students) are quite reliable, a few will cancel last minute," says Ngaan Chan, Uxbridge Farmers' Market's volunteer coordinator. "Our most depend-

able volunteers are those who are retired, and a few that are still working and can book a Sunday shift. It's rare

to have youths offering their time "for fun" or "for community," she adds.



World-renowned Celtic fiddlers Donnell Leahy and Nathalie MacMaster, centre, brought the family along to entertain at the Uxbridge Music Hall last Friday evening, the first of a series of concerts to raise funds for the new hospital. Photo by John Covers

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Peacefully, with her parents holding her hands, Aimee passed away at South Lake Regional Hospital, Newmarket, on Friday, April 12, 2024, at the age of 37 years. Loved by her parents Terry and Marlene Goudie, sisters Shelley, Colleen (Brian), best friend and nephew Brandon, nieces and nephews Courtney, Tyler, Caitlin, Shanna Ryan, Brianna, Faith, Candace, Hudson, predeceased by Arena Brown.

Aimee will be dearly remembered by her friends and staff at New Leaf, her home for many years. In spite of challenges, Aimee faced life with determination and a strong will to make her own choices in controlling her daily life. Aimee found great comfort in familiar routines.

Aimee will always be lovingly remembered for her infectious laugh, sweet personality and the joy she brought to our lives. Given to us by Our Lord, Aimee has returned to His loving care. May she rest in peace.

Cremation has taken place, a burial and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to New Leaf Living and Learning Together Inc., 19601 Leslie St., P.O. Box 230, Queensville, ON, L0G 1R0. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Low and Low Funeral Home in Uxbridge. Friends and family are invited to share their memories at lowandlow.ca

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