

Wishing the Township of Uxbridge a safe, happy and wonderous holiday season. See you on Jan. 11, 2024!



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN - Or he's already here! This display, sponsored by the Wright family, is part of the Uxbridge Optimist Club's Fantasy of Lights at Elgin Park. The Fantasy of Lights is open at the park every night until Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 6 - 9:30 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to make a cash donation on their way out of the park; debit tap is also available. *Photo by John Covers*

YDHR moves to meet conditions by year-end

Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Last week, Uxbridge town council gave the York Durham Heritage Railway (YDHR), which operates from the yard surrounding the historic Uxbridge train station, a number of conditions. These conditions had to be met in order for YDHR's lease on the station to be renewed on Dec. 31. The principal four conditions were: to pay arrears on its rent; to remove certain structures which didn't meet building codes; to eliminate safety hazards, particularly in the area of fire safety; and to remove four antique passenger coaches, which were eyesores as well as being a health hazard because of asbestos components.

Because the *Cosmos* will not publish either side of the deadline, updates from both parties to the lease were asked for updates. The Township would only say: "The Township of Uxbridge is actively reviewing and inspecting

...continued on page 3

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Local veterans wrapped in appreciation

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove, with files from Tish MacDonald

Six local veterans received a warm gift of appreciation last Friday when Quilts of Valour were bestowed upon them by Quilts of Valour Ontario during the Uxbridge Legion's monthly veterans afternoon.

Norm Goodspeed, Al Bainbridge, Vince Campbell, Heidi Cushing, John Rowarth and Lois Torrance all received handmade quilts from Quilts of Valour Ontario representative Naomi Babineau, and presenter Mike Babineau.

Quilts of Valour, formed in 2006 and a registered national charity since 2009, endeavours to ensure that all Canadian military members, past and present, who are ill or injured because of their service are recognized and honoured with a Quilt of Valour. To date, over 21,000 quilts have been presented to veterans across Canada.

World War II veteran Norman Goodspeed was only 17 when he joined the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve. As with many young men at the time, Goodspeed lied about his age to serve his country. He trained aboard *HMCS Hunter* and later served most of his career in the Supply Division on the *HMCS Saguenay* as a cook.

Former Uxbridge Secondary School student Alan Bainbridge joined the Royal Canadian Signals Corps in 1959 as a radio repair technician. He deployed as a UN Peacekeeper on three occasions, serving in the Belgian Congo in 1962, Cyprus in 1970, and Cyprus again in 1976. Bainbridge was also posted to support NATO Operations in Germany for three years, and last served in Petawawa with the Special Forces Unit from 1978 to 1981.

"I am really proud and happy to have received this beautiful quilt of valour," says Bainbridge. "This has been a very rewarding year. I've done

so many things this 75th Anniversary Peacekeeper year, and this was the icing on the cake. It was nice to be able to talk to so many people and children about peacekeeping."

Vince Campbell served in the Canadian Armed Forces with the 1st Nova Scotia Highlanders as a Master Corporal in the Infantry Trade. He served during peacetime, mostly at CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick, and in Germany as a peacekeeper.

Cushing, Rowarth and Torrance were not able to attend the Legion to receive their quilts, receiving them instead during special individual presentations.

Cushing, a World War II War veteran and now 99 years of age, joined the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service in Toronto in 1942. She completed her naval training in Galt, Ontario, and her training as vehicle transport

...continued on page 3

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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Winter Parking Reminder

No overnight parking on Township streets or in Municipal Lots from 2am -7am



November 1st to April 1st

Snow Removal Reminder

All snow, slush, and ice must be cleared from sidewalks beside properties and roofs adjacent to sidewalks within 24 hours of snowfall



Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for January, 2024

Monday, January 8, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING

HERITAGE COMMITTEE, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 9, 1:00 p.m.
DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday, January 10, 9:00 a.m.
TRAILS COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 11, 1:00 p.m.
DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Monday, January 15, 10:00 a.m.
COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 16, 1:00 p.m.
DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Thursday, January 18, 1:00 p.m.
DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Monday, January 22, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 23, 1:00p.m. – 5:00p.m.
(if needed)

DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Thursday, January 25, 1:00p.m. – 5:00p.m.
(if needed)

DEPARTMENT BUDGET BIA BOARD, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 29, 3:00 p.m.
DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

Uxpool's Winter Break Hours

Closed
Dec. 25, 26 & Jan. 1

Visit www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool/ to view Winter Break programs



Uxbridge Public Library Closed

December 24th-January 3rd
Reopening January 4th

Happy Holidays

Township Office closed

Dec. 22nd at 12:00p.m. – Jan. 1st
Reopening Jan. 2nd at 8:30am.

Arena Holiday Hours

Arena closed
Dec. 24-26th
& Dec. 31-Jan. 1st

The Arena is open for use Dec. 27th -30th. See our holiday schedule at www.uxbridge.ca

Fantasy of Lights

Take a walk or drive through the Optimist Fantasy of Lights

6 - 9:30 p.m. nightly to January 6, 2024

Cash or tap donations gratefully received.



Elgin Pond Ice Is Not Currently Safe for Use

No ice is safe ice. Red Flags at Elgin Pond mean ice is unsafe for use. Yellow flags mean use ice with caution.

Employment Opportunities

Complete details of all open positions are available at

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

Building Inspector/Plans Examiner

Closing date: Friday, January 5, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Road Closures

- Uxbridge-East Gwillimbury Townline from north of Durham Reg. Rd. 39/Queensville Sideroad to south of Holborn Road, East Gwillimbury - closed for bridge repairs to 2024
- Uxbridge East Gwillimbury Townline from York St. 500m south of Ravenshoe Road to Zephyr Road - closed for bridge repairs to January 2024

Arena Programs

Visit www.uxbridge.ca/arena to view current and holiday public skating programs.



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

Quilts, from page 1

driver in Preston Springs. Her postings included Preston Springs, Vancouver, Victoria, and Washington D.C.

Rowarth, also 99, enlisted with the Navy in 1942 for service in World War II when he was 18. During wartime, his roles were varied and included serving aboard destroyers on Atlantic convoys; installing and maintaining radio, radar and navigation equipment and setting up sea to shore communication links following the allied landing in Italy.

Torrance, 102, enlisted in 1941 as one of roughly 50,000 women in the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC) whose service aided the allied victory.

Each quilt was delivered with the inscription "Handmade with love, respect, and gratitude for your sacrifice to Canada. May the hugs stitched into this quilt give you comfort, strength and love."



Vince Campbell, Al Bainbridge, and Norm Goodspeed receive Quilts of Valour from Mike Babineau and Naomi Babineau.

Photo by John Covers

YDHR, from page 1

the status of work being conducted at YDHR."


YDHR's president and CEO, John Perks, said, "The first three of those conditions have been met. Non-conforming structures and safety hazards are gone. Arrears have been paid, were in fact paid before last week's story appeared. As for the four coaches, we are sad to see them go. Long-time residents will remember that earlier in YDHR's 25-year history, those cars were the stars of our rolling stock. But they encountered

problems, particularly with the asbestos. So they were literally shunted aside. It was our hope to eventually restore them, but major vandalism and a tornado damaged them further. Now, by far the least expensive alternative is to abate the asbestos, which is done, and sell them for scrap. One is already gone, the others will follow by the end of the year.

"The conditions set by the Township were, in YDHR's view, entirely reasonable, but the timing of council's ultimatum couldn't have been worse. This pre-Christmas season is very important for


us. We bring 100,000 tourists a year to Uxbridge, and a lot of them in these few weeks. There were inspectors continually mingling with our guests, and now, we had potential customers wondering if our trains and events would even be held. Our daily ticket sales have gone down 70 per cent since last week's council resolution. We think YDHR offers a valuable service to the public, and to Uxbridge's economy. Hopefully, our working relationship with the Township will improve, so the railway can thrive next year and beyond."

Edward Jones



Happy Holidays!

May your days be merry & bright this holiday season and may all that is beautiful, meaningful, and brings you joy be yours today and throughout the New Year.



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CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Christmas tree collection is Monday, January 8 and Monday, January 15 only.

- Place your tree at the curb no later than 7 a.m. on day of collection.
- Remove all decorations, stands and lights before placing out for collection.
- Christmas trees placed in plastic bags will not be collected.
- Natural Christmas trees that are longer than three metres must be cut in half for collection.
- Do not place Christmas trees on top of or behind snowbanks.



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durham.ca/waste



Our two cents

A holiday sing-along

So this is Christmas, and what have you done? Another year over, and a new one just begun. And so this is Christmas, I hope you have fun. The near and the dear ones, the old and the young. A very merry Christmas! And a happy New Year! Let's hope it's a good one, without any fear.

And so this is Christmas, for weak and for strong. For rich and the poor ones, the world is so wrong. And so happy Christmas, for black and for white, for yellow and red ones, let's stop all the fight.

If you're not already humming "Happy Xmas (War is Over)" by John Lennon and Yoko Ono, from which the above lyrics were taken, then you haven't been listening to the radio. Or been in a store. At the risk of giving yourself a serious earworm, read (or sing) those lyrics over a few times to yourself. Really take them in. Because this song, written in 1971 to protest the Vietnam War, rings just as true today as it did then. What *have* we done? What *are* we doing? We're letting wars continue on all over the world, and doing startlingly little to cry for their end. We're talking a lot about climate change and making the world a better place for future generations, but how far along on that are we, really? Food and shelter, considered by most to be basic human rights, have become so astronomically expensive, it may be that soon only the well-to-do can afford these "basic human rights."

To be sure, 2023 was a rough year for many. 2024 may prove to be even more rough (U.S. elections are on the horizon, and it's looking pretty scary at the moment). We can't, however, wallow in the despair of the global situation. The world *is* so wrong, as the song says, but we have it in us to make it so right.

The holiday season couldn't come at a better time. Let's all just pause for a moment and be grateful for all the good we have in our lives, no matter how small the grace. If we carry that gratitude and the peace that comes with it into 2024, we might be able to change the trajectory of our future.

Wishing you peace and blessings in 2024. Let's all stop the fight.



Audubon Christmas bird count looking for local counters

Derek Connelly

Calling all bird watchers!

It's that time of year when we count our feathered friends during the National Audubon North American Christmas bird count.

This year marks Uxbridge's 19th year and you can be a part of it next Wednesday, Dec. 27. If you have a

bird feeder in Uxbridge or Scugog township you maybe in this count circle.

Last year, 55 different types of birds were seen in the Uxbridge circle. This year, a number of our northern finches are expected to come down.

Have you seen a Common or Hoary Redpoll? What about a Pine

or Evening Grosbeak? What new birds will you see visiting your backyard?

Join thousands of people across the country on the roads, in the fields, woods and backyards counting our winter birds.

Contact Derek at ndnature7@gmail.com for details on the Uxbridge CBC.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Wandering the cosmos

column by Conrad Boyce

Let it snow

You've probably heard that no two snowflakes are alike. Really? Of the 346 quintillion snowflakes that have fallen on the planet since the world began, each six-sided little marvel has been absolutely unique? Seems a bit of a stretch, right? Well, turns out you were right to be sceptical. Not very many years ago, a bunch of meteorologists in Wisconsin with nothing better to do decided to actually test the myth, and looked at a few thousand flakes from one particular storm. They actually found two that were identical. So apparently even the god of snowflake design runs out of ideas every now and again.

Despite this crushing discovery, snow is still pretty amazing stuff. Canadians have a love-hate relationship with it. If you're an Olympic Nordic skier, you probably come down on the "love" side. If you're a senior citizen who spent most of your life on a farm in northern Saskatchewan, you may be transitioning into a hater, on the slippery toboggan slope to becoming a "snowbird." Even 10 or 15 years ago, I had trouble understanding why people would choose to live in the heat of Arizona for six months of the year. Now I get it. I have a nice indoor garage for my Nissan Rogue, the condo association has someone plow my driveway and even shovel my sidewalk, but still I get it. On Monday of this week, I made the mistake of muttering to my spouse that it might be nice to have a little snow for Christmas. A little, I said. Well, apparently the aforementioned god of snow was listening, and he over-reacted. Sorry about that, friends. I'll keep my mouth shut henceforward.

Another myth you might have heard is that the Inuit have 50 different words for snow. This one originated with a German-American anthropologist named Franz Boas who studied the folk on Baffin Island a century or so ago, and came to the linguistic conclusion that the locals actually had a different term for each of the many varieties of snow. So do we. We just add an adjective in front of the noun - clumpy snow, crunchy snow, dusty snow, feathery snow, wispy snow - whereas the Inuit combine the two words in one. And that doesn't even include the word we use to describe the stuff when we look out the living room window on Christmas morning, knowing we have to drive 80 miles to grandma's house, and it's going by almost horizontally on a 100-kilometre per hour gale. Meteorolo-

gists apparently have a very detailed scientific definition for what constitutes a "blizzard." For us common folk, a blizzard is whatever doesn't suit our agenda. There's a town in Colorado that once got 75 inches of snow in one day. Apparently, that place is now a ghost town; the entire population became snowbirds overnight, and have now established a nice little Colorado diaspora in Costa Rica.

As you might know, the ladies and gentlemen who look after your lawns and flowerbeds in July are the same ones who attach metallic blades to their pickups, and merrily push snow around in January. Biologists call it ecological adaptation. One of my favourite animals is the lynx. I once encountered one on a snowy path in Whitehorse, and murmured admiring things to calm both it and me during the 60 seconds we stared at one another. And although he had a strikingly dramatic face (like most felines), what most drew my eye then was his amazing feet. In summer, he has strong pads that protect him from the needles and twigs along the forest floor. As soon as his cells sense the nip in the air, they signal his foot fur to grow long and luxuriant, until he has a set of snowshoes that help him glide across a clearing in pursuit of his favourite prey, the snowshoe hare. If you see a video of the two animals engaged in a life and death chase, you can almost imagine that the predacious relationship sometimes disappears, and they just have fun playing in the snow.

I recently had the great joy of singing a seasonal concert with the town's new choir, the Northern Trails Vocal Connection. Our featured piece was by a Canadian composer, Sarah Quartel, called "Snow Angel." It actually featured real angels (whether or not they truly exist is the subject for another column), but of course the magic of living in a northern land is that by merely throwing ourselves backward in a snow bank, we can create our own angels. They don't have snow angels in Louisiana. Probably one of the few negatives about living in New Orleans. That and hurricanes.

In summary, there are plenty of reasons to love snow. Which is a good thing, since we're kind of stuck with it. Around this time in 1992, the city council of Syracuse, New York passed a bylaw banning snow until the new year. There was a blizzard two days later. The snow gods still haven't paid the fine.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Finding the holiday spirit

We'd wandered to the back of the back-40 last Sunday. Almost nobody was there. A bunch of the grandkids ran around as if it were the last day of school. My younger daughter and I walked in silence, scanning the horizon. She spotted one. I spotted one. Then my grandsons figured they'd found a tree. Eventually, I stopped and surveyed a likely candidate.

"What do you think of this one?"

"Sure, Popou," some of the kids said (calling me the Greek word for granddad).

But I waited for my older daughter's youngest son to look and pass judgement. He smiled and said, "That's good." His mom, who usually decides, couldn't join us this time, so the final OK fell to him.

"Let the holidays begin!" I said.

Funny how this time of year has so many rituals - sometimes religious practices, often (because we're fortunate) the foods we prepare, but mostly the habits we share with those closest. Our family is no different, although with two daughters, a few in-laws around, and grandkids all pulling in different directions, there's a greater variety of ways we all celebrate the holidays. But going to the tree farm, hunting for the right one, cutting it down and bringing it home to decorate - for me - marks the start of festivities.

Among my first stops - to try to help out this time of year - is the Loaves and Fishes food bank. Each year, we also listen to *The Sounds of the Season* show on CBC Radio; it's the broadcast that kicks off their support of the Daily Bread Food Bank in Toronto. It's clear that food need has skyrocketed around us. Daily Bread reported a 63 per cent annual increase in just one year. On the upside, more volunteers have stepped up. Loaves and Fishes here in town has more than 45 people volunteering about 150 hours a month to help put food on the tables of about 125 families. So, if that's not been one of your holiday habits, maybe donating this year might just ensure less hunger is the best gift you can bestow.

Part of my annual holiday routine involves catching a few of my favourite movies on the tube. One is Alastair Sim's *A Christmas Carol*. But for sure I'll watch *It's A Wonderful Life*. It features one of my favourite screenplay lines, with Jimmy Stewart (as George Bailey) flirting with Donna Reed (as Mary Hatch) as

they walk along a street in mythical Bedford Falls. Eavesdropping on George's clumsy courtship is a guy on a porch who shouts out in frustration. "Why don't you just kiss her? Ah, youth! It's wasted on all the wrong people!"

Perhaps my favourite holiday habit happens tomorrow. It's a radio moment. This annual ritual involves pouring a glass of eggnog, adding a dash of cinnamon, turning the lights down low and at 6:30 tomorrow evening tuning in CBC Radio's *As It Happens* program (99.1 FM). Each weekday night closest to Dec. 25, since 1979, the show has broadcast a reading by the late Alan Maitland; it's called *The Shepherd*, written by Frederick Forsyth, renowned for his thrillers *Day of the Jackal*, *The Odessa File* and *The Dogs of War*. The time is Christmas Eve 1957, during the Cold War. A Royal Air Force pilot takes off in his jet fighter from northern Germany to fly home to Suffolk, England, to spend the holidays with loved ones. En route, his Vampire jet suffers a catastrophic electrical failure, knocking out all his radio gear and his compass. Worse, as he reaches the point of no return over the North Sea, below him the sea and landscape are covered in impenetrable fog. He becomes utterly and totally lost and thinks he's going to die crashing into the English countryside or the frigid North Sea. His fate that Christmas Eve is the plot of the story. And if you've never listened to it, I guarantee you'll be hooked and return to it, as I have each year. So, gather the family 'round your radio - for something completely different.

Incidentally, *The Shepherd* has never appeared in any other form than Forsyth's novella and the CBC Radio reading ... until now. Disney has just released a short feature, called *The Shepherd*, co-starring Ben Radcliffe and John Travolta. I'm sure it captures some of the magical imagery that for half a century has been delivered by the short story and the radio reading. But I'll probably just stick to my eggnog, low lights and theatre of the mind. For me, the mind and the heart are the best places to find the spirit of the season.

Happy holidays to all!

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Despite two wins, Bruins are struggling

Roger Varley

In the last week, the Uxbridge Bruins won two games and lost one, but even the wins showed the team is struggling.

In Lakefield on Tuesday, Dec. 12, the Bruins opened the scoring in the first period with a goal by Ty Roberts, assisted by Anthony Lamanna. However, the Chiefs came back in the second and third periods

with four straight goals, including one into the empty net. The Bruins managed one more goal with only three seconds left in the game, giving the Chiefs a 4-2 win.

At the arena last Friday, in front of

a crowd of 453 and with Christian Lambert, newly acquired from the Georgina Ice, in the net, the Bruins appeared poised to thrash their arch-rivals, the Port Perry LumberJacks. They completely dominated Port

Perry in the first period, scoring three goals in the first half of the stanza, leading the LumberJacks to take an early time-out. Jack Davis opened the scoring less than two minutes into the game, assisted by Lucas Marshall and Tanner Ryan, who was making his first appearance since being injured early in October. Roberts notched a power-play goal five minutes later, with Ryan and Lamanna assisting and Luke El-Ayari gave the Bruins a 3-0 lead, assisted by Lamanna.

Early in the second, the LumberJacks scored a short-handed goal, but the Bruins stormed back with two more goals. Owen Shier scored on a blast from the left boards, assisted by Roberts and Lamanna, and Quinn Meek made it 5-1 on a beautiful passing play with Lamanna and Shier. Port Perry managed to reduce the deficit with a power-play marker as the period wound down.

The LumberJacks scored another goal on a delayed penalty early in the third and then cut the Bruins' lead to one goal with a marker just past the halfway mark. However, the Bruins

...continued on next page

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Bruins, from previous page

managed to hang on for the narrow win.

The *Cosmos* selected Lamanna of the Bruins and Dale Faubert of the LumberJacks s players of the game.

In Apsley on Saturday, Nolan Winter gave the Bruins an early lead in the first period, assisted by Travis Winder and Trent Underwood, but the North Kawartha Knights replied with two short-handed goals in a row.

Uxbridge re-established the lead in the second on goals by Mark Sifri, assisted by Lamanna, and Noah Button, unassisted.

Winter scored what proved to be the winning goal midway through the third, assisted by Sifri but the Knights made it close with one more as the period wound down.

As the scoring indicates, the Bruins continue to struggle with their third-period performances.

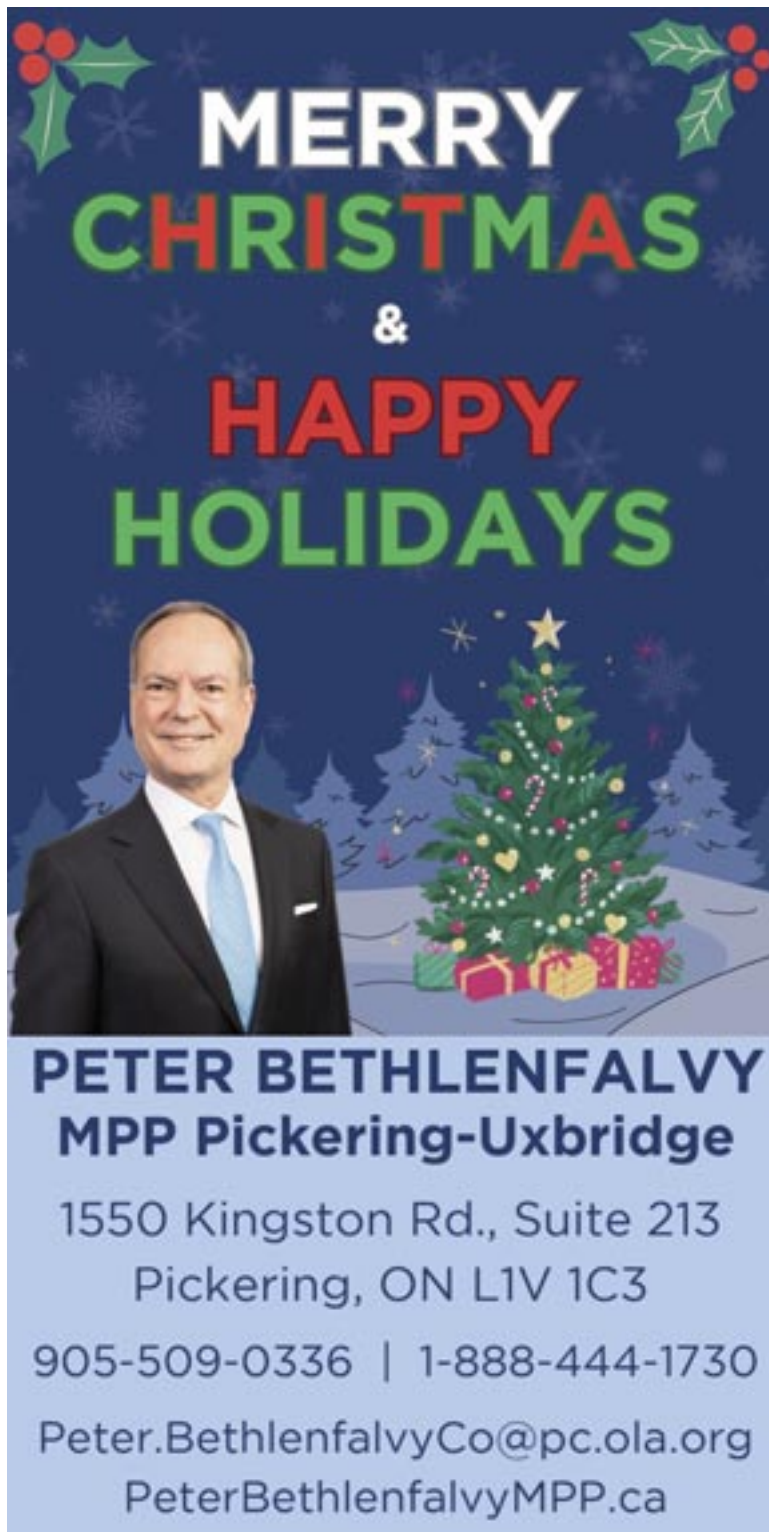
With the *Cosmos* taking a two-week Christmas hiatus, the Bruins will have five games to reported on upon return. Tomorrow (Friday) they host the league-leading Clarington Eagles at the arena at 7:45 p.m. Santa Claus will be making his annual appearance. A week later, they host the Little Britain Merchants to round out the year. On Jan. 5, the Bruins play another Friday night game away against the Georgina Ice, followed by a visit to Port Perry on Jan. 7 and Lakefield on Jan. 9.



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The Uxbridge Cosmos would like to take this opportunity to thank you, all its readers, for allowing us into your mailboxes each week. We strive to bring you local news and events in a timely manner, and are eager to continue covering anything and everything that affects the Township of Uxbridge.

The Cosmos would also like to thank all the advertisers who have been on our pages this year, from those who have taken out a Classified ad to those who take out a full page, to those who run ads on a weekly basis. Your support means everything to us; we wouldn't be here if it weren't for you.

From all of us at the Uxbridge Cosmos to all our readers, advertisers, and supporters - have a wonderful holiday, a Merry Christmas, and we wish you all the best for 2024.



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December 2023/January 2024						
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24 Closed	25 Closed	26 Closed	27 Closed	28 Open	29 Open	30 Open
31 Closed	1 Closed	2 Open	3 Open	4 Open	5 Open	6 Open



For more information, please visit durham.ca/wmf.

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact waste@durham.ca.

Skater 'training hard' for 2024 Special Olympics

Uxbridge's Alicia Smith competed this past weekend at the Stratford Winter Classic skating competition, tying for first place in Ladies Level 4 free-skate and coming first in both of her dances. Smith trains three times a week at the Uxbridge Skating Club, with her long-time coach, Alison Maclean (pictured here, left), and weekly in Orillia with Tracey Zwiers, the head coach for Team Ontario. Smith also volunteers with the USC twice a week, helping young skaters learn to skate. Smith qualified for Nationals last March and is training hard to be ready for the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Calgary, AB, February 27 - March 2, 2024. Her free-skate is performed to "A Thousand Years" and she is excited to perform in a dress made for her by Leslie Buttle, mother of Jeff Buttle, a Canadian figure skating champion. She is excited to represent USC and her province at Nationals. Smith has been skating since she was 12 years old.



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LOST

LOST - Man's wedding band, late November, possibly in Canadian Tire plaza or Staples plaza. If found please contact 416-726-4888. Reward.

EVENTS

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER Monday, Dec. 25, 12 noon, at the Uxbridge Seniors' Center. All are welcome to a full turkey dinner. No charge.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

ST. ANDREW'S-CHALMERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Sunday, Dec. 24, 10:30 a.m. Morning church service with a Christmas Pageant. Sunday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight service with the St. Andrew's choir and Leslie Higgins.

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, UXBRIDGE Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, 10:30 a.m., Sunday morning worship; 4:30 p.m., Contemporary Christmas Eve worship; 10:30 p.m., Festive Christmas Eve worship. Monday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day, 10:30 a.m., Quiet Christmas Day worship. Sunday, Dec. 31 - Sunday morning worship.

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH Sunday, Dec. 24, 10 a.m., The Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love Sunday. At 7 p.m., Christmas Eve service. All are welcome! Services are held at our temporary home - the Uxbridge Seniors Center 75 Marietta St., Uxbridge. TrinityUxbridge.com

ST. PAUL'S LEASKDALE Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve service times: 10 a.m. (nursery available); 4 p.m.; 6 p.m. Find more information at saintpauls.ca

UXBRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m., "The Story of Glory"

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Local theatre, restaurant scene mourns loss of Jill Hanley

Conrad Boyce

A beloved member of Uxbridge's arts community passed away recently after a long battle with a rare form of intestinal cancer.

Jill Hanley was on the board of the Celebration of the Arts and the Uxbridge Music Hall. She was renowned as a props master for dozens of theatrical productions over the years, for the Uxbridge Players, Uxbridge Musical Theatre and experience. No challenge was too great. No matter what you needed for your show, Jill could probably find it. And if it eluded her, she'd build it.

Jill was at the founding of the town's first theatre company for young people, Uxbridge Youth Theatre, in 2002. That's where Karen Higgins first met her, and the two worked side by side on the UYT board for 15 years.



joked about working and jobs. She had no problem when I asked her if she could help sweep and clean in preparation of the Mill opening the next day (we were way behind) and at the end of the day, I offered her a position of hostess, which soon became more of an assistant manager.

She was very organized, friendly

and a loyal team member. I could depend on her to attend to any task I needed assistance with, and quickly learned that she could be quite helpful assisting me with catering quotes. Jill loved food and anything about the restaurant. She had no problem telling us her thoughts about how the menu looked, or how things tasted.

She was a great friend, team member and employee. She will be missed."

A celebration of life will be held in the new year.

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In Loving Memory of
Barbara Jean Beach
(née Brown)

December 12, 1948 -
December 14, 2023

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Barb, with her loving daughter by her side, at Markham Stouffville Hospital, at the age of 75.

Barb was the much loved wife of Frank (predeceased 2009), and cherished mother of daughter Tanya (Kevin). Barb is predeceased by her parents Harry and Jean (Elson) Brown of Goodwood. Loving sister of Ron (predeceased), Gary (Heather), Neil (Bev), Danny (Tracey), Tammy (Jim), Candy and Marty. Lovingly remembered by her nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, many other relatives and her circles of friends "new and old."

She will be remembered for her warm smile and "big" dimples, an Avon brochure, her love of country music (and Elvis, of course) and dancing. She anticipated the opportunity to wear her closet full of cowboy boots and western buckles. Loving to socialize, she was always eager to join a "spur of the moment" cup of coffee or a planned night out with friends or family.

She will be especially remembered for her love and dedicated devotion to her daughter, Tanya, family and friends.

Barb was a resident at Butternut Manor, Uxbridge, due to health concerns. However, in her heart, her home was in Siloam, in the house where she and Frank created their own forever story with Tanya. She loved lazing in her backyard, quiet walks, watching deer and cardinals on the serene property from her kitchen window. She also admired Frank's re-creations of anything old to new again and turning their home into a museum of John Deere green and yellow...she loved it all.

Barb held the secret to the Brown Family Christmas, better known as Mom-Grandma Brown-Farm Nana's Christmas Pudding. No written recipe was left for us - "Our piece of heaven now belongs to heaven."

May you be two-stepping with Frank and boot scootin' and boogying with the dancing angels. Forever in our hearts.

Visitation will be held Friday, January 5, 2024, 2-4 p.m., and 7-9 p.m., at Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Uxbridge. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at 1 p.m., followed by a reception.

As an expressions of sympathy, memorial donations made to Heart and Stroke would be appreciated by the family. Family & friends are invited to send condolences & special memories by visiting www.lowandlow.ca

To place a death or in memoriam notice

Visit thecosmos.ca
Call 905-852-1900
Email Lvann@thecosmos.ca

In Loving Memory of
Elwin (Butch) McClellan
August 19, 1937 - July 17, 2005

Dear Butch,

You held a very special place that no one else could fill in the hearts of your family, who loved you and always will.

Merry Christmas - until we meet again.

Love Marilyn, David, Lorelee, Melissa, Kevin, Karleigh, Megan, Braedyn, Kendall, Emily and Dustin

"What's amazing is that Jill never married, she had no children of her own," Higgins told the *Cosmos*. "Almost all of UYT's volunteers were there because their kids were involved in the shows, but Jill was just dedicated to making sure this opportunity continued to be there for them. She wasn't involved in rehearsals, in the onstage part of the production, but still she had a great connection with the kids, each one of them was special to her."

Jill Hanley was born in Montreal and later lived in Toronto before coming to Uxbridge in 1998. Although her post-secondary degree was in the arts, she mostly worked in finance or accounting jobs in her early career.

Jill was well known to Uxbridge restaurant goers as the face of the Tin Mill restaurant on Toronto Street North. It was her warm smile that greeted you as you walked in the big double doors. But she was so much more to the business than just a happy face, according to the Tin Mill's co-founder, Don Andrews.

"I first met Jill in the line at the LCBO as I was attempting to buy two carts of alcohol to stock my bar for the opening of the Tin Mill. We struck up a conversation, and we



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