

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 10

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Plans for Huck Finn 2023 • USC makes a splash • Bruins head into playoffs

USS hockey takes over LOSSA, boys and girls take top spots



THE TYING SHOT - Trent Nobes, number 87 on the Uxbridge Secondary School senior boys hockey team, scored the goal that tied up last Friday's LOSSA championship semifinal game against the Brooklin Bears in Uxbridge. The 3-all score saw the two teams face off again on Tuesday afternoon; the senior team took silver in the final. The USS junior boys team won LOSSA gold last week. *Photo by John Covers*

Girls' varsity team takes gold, as does junior boys team, while senior boys skate away with silver.

Justyne Edgell

The Uxbridge Secondary School girls varsity hockey team finished off its season last week, with a LOSSA Tier 2 gold.

The Uxbridge Tigers defeated Bowmanville High School 6 to 1 in the semifinals, and beat St. Stephen's Catholic Secondary School 3 to 2 in overtime for the championship.

Coach Chris McKee says the girls faced a bit of adversity this season because they had a younger makeup of players than usual.

"Uxbridge is usually in Tier 1, but this year we are quite young. Our team had two grade 12s, two grade 11s, and the rest are grade 9s and 10s," says McKee.

Almost a third of the team was made up of players who don't play organized hockey. "We had three AA players, five BB players and five ringette players this year," added McKee.

The girls played 10 games and were undefeated.

Uxbridge 'mini' hoping for big win on CBC elimination series

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Go big or go home – neither are an option for miniaturist Briar Nielsen. Nielsen, an Uxbridge resident, is currently a contestant on "Best in Miniature," an elimination competition series on CBC Gem. She doesn't even *do* big, and she certainly doesn't want to be one of the nine miniaturists sent home.

For those new to the world of miniatures, experts like Nielsen create all the little features that one finds in a dollhouse, from the house itself to the tiny furniture to the special touches inside. The scale is 1:12, meaning they take a real-life object, measure it out and divide by 12.

"It's a mix of calculations and visual speculation," explains Nielsen. "The furniture that I sell – I calculate that and create it to scale; my commissions are exact."

This past Sunday, March 5, marked the third episode of the second season of "Best in Miniature," and Nielsen has successfully made it through all six challenges that have been thrown at her, including creating a 1912 bread factory/warehouse to making a tiny pair of worn-out flip flops and a hat. Casting for the show began in Spring 2022, and although the series is already in the can, Nielsen's tight-lipped about who gets the title "Best in Miniature." Ten miniaturists from across Canada and around the world started on Episode 1, with one 'mini' sent home each week.

"It was so much fun, honestly! It was kind of like going to a miniature camp but more stressful! I got to meet other 'minis', which I'd never had, it's a solitary endeavour. It was fun to see what everyone created. But the time frames are stressful!"

Nielsen explains that, when show host Aba

Amuquandoh says "You have eight hours," contestants really do have eight hours. "At home, I can make one piece in that time, but there, we had to make a whole house!" she exclaims. "Every second counts, we were always running around."

Nielsen says her childhood in Uxbridge was filled with dollhouses, and collecting miniatures was a hobby. She graduated from Uxbridge Secondary School, then headed off to Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson) for business, specializing in hospitality and tourism. During that time, her mother fell ill, and Nielsen says she wanted to keep her mind and hands busy, so she decided to buy a dollhouse kit.

"I challenged myself to make all the furniture, and everything for this house, and I loved it so

...continued on page 6

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OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, March 11
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Uxbridge at a Glance

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for March 2023

Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

Monday, March 20, 10:00 a.m.

GENERAL PURPOSE AND
 ADMINISTRATION MEETING

Monday, March 27, 10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

Proclamations for March

March - Multiple Myeloma Awareness
 Month

March 8 - International Women's Day

March 18 - Transit Operator and Worker
 Appreciation Day

March 21 - World Down Syndrome Day

March 21 - International Day for the
 Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 22 - Crossing Guard
 Appreciation Day

March 26 - Earth Hour at 8:30 p.m.

March 31 - Transgender Day of Visibility

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to
https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/business-and-development/bids-and-tenders.aspx?_mid_=23193

• U23-06 - Supply and Delivery of Granular A – Closes March 21, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

• U23-07 - Pulverization and Hot Mix Paving - Closes March 22, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

• U23-04 - Goodwood Baseball Diamond - Harold Bell Park – Closes March 24, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Road Closures

Visit Uxbridge.ca/roads
 for up-to-date notices.



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

Employment Opportunities

Complete details and qualifications required for these positions are available at uxbridge.ca/careers

Current Opportunities

Uxpool – Lifeguards and/or Instructors, spring
 Closes Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Development Services – Building Inspector/Plans Examiner
 Closes Friday, March 17, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre – Programming and Collections Assistant
 Closes Friday, March 24, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

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

Summer Opportunities

Community Services – Summer Camp Supervisor, contract
 Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Community Services – Summer Camp Counsellors, contract
 Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Community Services – Assistant Summer Camp Counsellors, contract
 Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Parks – Adult Horticulture Worker, skilled, contract (Union)
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Parks – Attendant, unskilled, contract (Union)
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Parks – Grass Cutting Attendant, contract (Union)
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Parks – Horticulture, summer student, contract
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Parks – General Labourer, summer student, contract
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Collections Associate, contract
 Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Uxpool – Lifeguards and/or Instructors, summer
 Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Community Engagement and Programming Associate, contract
 Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Interpretive Guides, contract
 Closes Friday, April 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario – Project Assistant, summer student
 Closes Friday, April 21, 2023.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Community Museum Technician, contract
 Closes Friday, May 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities

Box Office Volunteers – Uxbridge Music Hall
 Interested parties accepted on an ongoing basis

The Township of Uxbridge is an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The Township of Uxbridge will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process to applicants with disabilities and/or needs related to the OHRC. Personal information provided is collected under the authority of The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

UxCamps Registration Now Open
 On ActiveNet
 Visit uxbridge.ca/recreation for camp offerings

Spring Swimming Lesson Registration Opens
 Thursday, March 9 at 9 am
 Register online at www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool or calling 905-852-7831

Effective Mar. 1, 2023
Notice of Weight Restrictions
 Seasonal weight restrictions on Township roads are now in effect.
 Restrictions are in place until approx. May 1st. Weather conditions will determine the actual end to the enforcement season.

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

Did you know...
 Snowmobiles are prohibited on municipal trails, boulevards, in parks, and on sidewalks

Uxbridge at a Glance *continued*

Board and 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 a four-year appointment (term of Council – expiring November 2026) to one of the various Boards, Committees, etc. **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, March 24, 2023.

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

Debbie Leroux
 Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
 P.O. Box 190
 51 Toronto Street South
 Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1
 Telephone: (905) 852-9181
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 e-mail: dleroux@uxbridge.ca

Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee

This committee of volunteers are appointed for the 4-year term of Council; additional members will include one or more members of Council, representatives of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. ESAC serves as an advisory body to Council. The Committee’s focus generally is to protect and enhance the environmental health of the watersheds within the Township, including the implementation of watershed plans. The Committee provides a community perspective on watershed management and work supporting environmental sustainability. ESAC meets monthly and new members and visitors are always welcome.

Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee – 1 volunteer representing the Township of Uxbridge

TAC is a volunteer committee established by the Durham Region Transit Commission and Regional Council in 2006. An overview of the TAC and its Terms of Reference is available for viewing at <https://www.durham.ca/en/regional-government/committees.aspx/#Durham-Environmental-Advisory-Committee>. The goal of the DRT Advisory Committee is to "provide input to the Durham Transit Executive Committee on public transit matters as they relate to the provision of conventional and specialized transit services in Durham". The committee’s Terms of Reference provide for each of the eight area municipalities to nominate one public transit user representing transit stakeholder groups through their use of DRT services and/or through their participation in community groups that access public.

Springtide Music Festival prepping for ‘stellar’ June lineup

Justyne Edgell

Springtide Music Festival returns this June, and early bird weekend passes are already on sale.

The three-day music festival, which showcases live music in small venues across downtown Uxbridge, will be held from Friday, June 9, to Sunday, June 11. Festival organizer and local musician Tania Joy says that “ticket holders can expect a stellar lineup, with a headliner announcement coming on March 20!”

Early bird weekend passes are already on sale, but there is a limited number available. The passes include admission to all three festival days at a cost of \$75. Children 12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. Single day wristbands will be available to purchase closer to the festival dates.

The weekend-long festival supports Uxbridge’s downtown venues and businesses with an extended weekend of music and community, and provides an opportunity to introduce music lovers to up-and-coming Canadian acts.

In 2022, Springtide Music Festival received a non-repayable contribution of \$100,000 from Central Counties Tourism, which was used to attract visitors by showcasing well-known acts Bedouin Soundclash, Alysha Brilla, Boy

Golden and Elliott Brood, and investing in additional stages to expand capacity. This funding is part of the Government of Canada’s Tourism Relief Fund, delivered by FedDev Ontario. Central Counties Tourism received \$8.65 million from FedDev Ontario to help local tourism organizations and businesses recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Submissions are open for volunteers as well as sponsorship opportunities for local businesses.

To purchase festival wristbands and for more information, visit springtidemusicfestival.com

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Winter Ice Conditions

Elgin Pond

The Township of Uxbridge will be testing the ice conditions at Elgin Pond throughout the winter. A flag notification system is in place:

- No Flags** – Testing has not begun
- Red Flags** – Ice is not safe. Please stay off
- Yellow Flags** – Skate with caution

Flags are located at the north end of Elgin Pond, beside Mill St.

Please keep away from water inlets and outlets on the pond, as ice thickness is compromised.

Storm Water Management Facilities

Please keep off of all storm water management facilities.

Water levels fluctuate at these facilities and as such are not safe for skating or other activities.

MARCH BREAK
Public Programs at the Arena

Visit Uxbridge.ca
 for program schedule

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Our two cents

Snowflakes, indeed

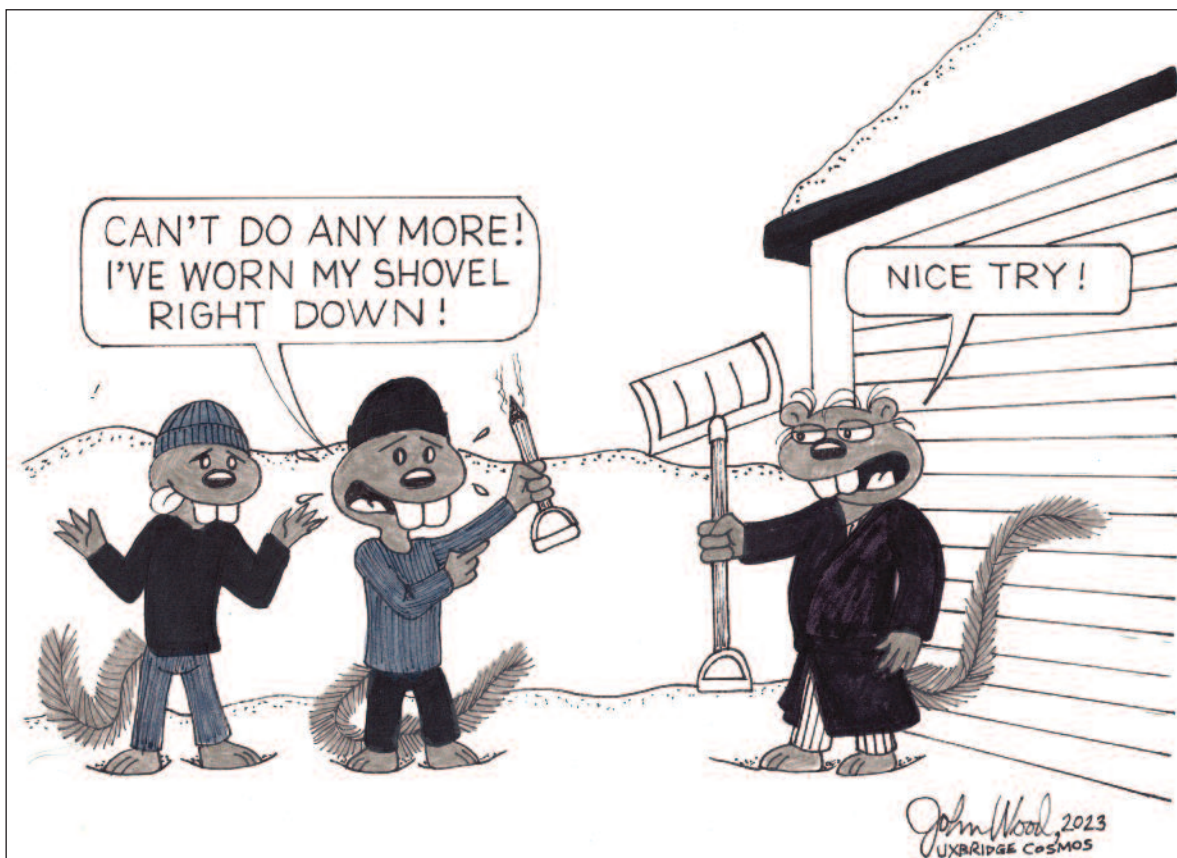
In case you've been living under a rock (or a snowbank), we got a record amount of snow dumped on us last Friday night/Saturday morning. As we write this, much of that dump still lines our driveways, parking lots, sidewalks and roadways. And unless we get incredibly unseasonable hot weather instantly, that will be the situation for a little while longer. So please, fellow Canadians (who should be hardened to this), stop complaining about it!

Oh, complain about the weather, that's fine. That's what Canadians do. But please don't complain about how long it's taking the plows and the trucks and the loaders, etc., to clear away the mess Mother Nature left behind. The people that are working almost around the clock to move all that white stuff around are doing their best.

We are, quite frankly, shocked at the number of people not only in Uxbridge but all over southern Ontario (thank you, various news sources and Facebook) who are just so put out by the fact that the road or sidewalk in front of their house isn't yet completely devoid of snow. One woman on CBC radio quite haughtily protested that her 74-year-old father "should be able to leave his house and not have to worry about falling." Well, on a normal day, yes, he should. But after a major snowstorm? C'mon, lady, let's be reasonable.

The snow and ice are inconvenient. But we folk north of Hwy. 7 know how to deal with it now, don't we? If it's snow, shovel it. If it's icy, salt/sand/scrape it. If it's treacherous, be careful. If you need help, ask for it. If you're able to help, offer it! Get over that sense of entitlement that paying your tax dollars has obviously given you. The public works crew is doing its job for all of us, not out performing miracles just for *you*. It's become so easy to make the *insert level here* government responsible for every little thing in life that isn't going according to *your* plan. And it's totally unacceptable. We *all* need to take responsibility.

We're set to get more snow this Friday. And being the good little Canadians that we are, we'll deal with it. No complaining allowed.



Letters to the Editor

Building good ideas

Developers are now building *up* and not *out*. Many high rise condos are being built across Canada. In Pickering two condo buildings are being built; one is 52 stories high! In Vaughan, three high rise condo buildings are going up, and in Oshawa, another high rise condo is being built.

These condominium buildings will be built close to Go Train stations, so you can leave your car at home. A great idea!

Even in Uxbridge, Trinity United Church will be building a six-storey apartment building on its church property on Main Street North. Twenty per cent of these apartments will be for low income persons.

Great news.

Bob Kirvan
Uxbridge

Another possible market location

I see that the location of the (Uxbridge) Farmers' Market has already been decided, but I toss this idea out as something to consider in the future, as I didn't hear it put forward as an option.

If, as council has articulated, the re-envisioning and energizing the downtown is a priority, an ideal location would be between Toronto and Main Streets. A simple "road closed" barrier with construction pylons at each end would turn this part of the street into a pedestrian mall each Sunday. There's lots of available parking, and it would bring more customers into the stores, restaurants and the market.

Traffic could easily be diverted north around this block. The result would create an inexpensive yet highly visible attraction for both Uxbridge residents and tourists each week to a part of town that could use some assistance.

Kevin Tribe
Uxbridge

Taking a step towards better living

What would Truth and Reconciliation look like at the community level? Older generations taught in the colonialist education system did not learn about the atrocities inflicted upon the Indigenous people of Turtle Island and the multigenerational trauma they experience to this day.

What if we undertake our responsibilities collectively, young and old alike, and see where it takes us? I suggest beginning with *Skoden: Teaching, Talking, and Sharing about and for Reconciliation*. This is a comprehensive, interactive, virtual, educational program, developed by Seneca College. Translated, *skoden* means, "Let's go, then!"

I'd love to do this program simultaneously with others in Uxbridge and see where it takes us from a community perspective... a stepping off point to what's next.

The Indigenous way of living in harmony with each other and Mother Earth is the key to our future. Together we're better.

Let me know if you are interested in joining me – jedavies@bell.net.

June Davies
Uxbridge

Subdivision in Zephyr

Thank you to the residents of Zephyr who supported the "Petition Against the 7-Home Subdivision in the Hamlet of Zephyr," (note: on development drawings there is a possible 2nd Phase of 17 additional homes).

The petition was submitted to the council of the Township of Uxbridge on Feb. 13, which resulted in council waiving the Rules of Procedure to allow the addition of the petition to the agenda. Council received the petition regarding a proposed Zoning By-Law Amendment Application for information, and noted that "a copy of same be referred to the Township Planner and Applicant for consideration."

Following this, council proceeded to receive "Addendum Report DS 6/23," dated Feb. 13, 2023, and then council approved the "Zoning By-Law Amendment Application Part Lot 25, Concession 3, Township of Uxbridge (309 Zephyr Rd)." Council then adopted the implementing Zoning By-Law Amendment, which will "establish specific zones for the residential development and the nitrate dilution block in accordance with the recommendations of the Township." Council also moved to recommend to the Region of Durham the conditions of draft plan approval with respect to Plan of Subdivision, Region of Durham. This was all "moved, seconded and carried" by council on Feb. 13.

All this being said, it seems strange

...continued on page 6

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



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Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Trying to define a Canadian

There has been much talk in recent months about divisiveness in Canada, but such talk has been going on for a long time. People are quick to point to their favourite punching bag on the political scene as the source and cause of such divisiveness and, certainly, politicians are as much to blame as anyone.

However, I would say that a large number of us are guilty of causing this strife without quite realizing it. How often have you heard someone say "I'm a Newfie" or "I'm a Quebecker" or "I'm an Albertan?" How about "I'm an Anglo-Canadian" or "I'm a French-Canadian?" Then there are Chinese-Canadians, Indo-Canadians, African-Canadians and so on. Doesn't anyone just say "I'm a Canadian" anymore?

That's what I say if anyone asks me. I do not identify myself as an English-Canadian, even though I still have a discernible English accent, and I'm not an Ontarian. I am a Canadian who was born in England and who happens to live in Ontario, but I would still be a Canadian no matter what part of the country I lived in. I am Canadian to the extent that, if Canada played England in an international soccer match, I would be cheering for Canada.

There are many in Alberta and the other prairie provinces who, apparently, would be in favour of separating from Canada, to the extent that they actually formed a "Wexit" party. In Quebec, they have the Bloc Québécois, whose main plank in their political platform is the separation of Quebec from Canada. And usually behind all their bluster is the understood, if not outspoken, idea that they should be treated as special. I defy anyone to tell me why some Canadians should be treated better or differently than other Canadians.

Having travelled across this country by road several times, I have seen that, for the most part, we all have a lot more in common with each other than differences. We all worry about our kids, we all complain about the same things, we all pretty much have the same hopes and dreams for the fu-

ture. I'd say 99 per cent of us are just regular folks trying our best to cope in a turbulent world. And to that extent, we're all Canadians.

When the federal government introduces legislation, whether such legislation "benefits" one part of the country more than another is beside the point. If one part of the country is made better because of such legislation, then the whole country benefits. If legislation is passed to help the grain producers in the west, that doesn't mean fishermen in Atlantic Canada should get their shirts all twisted up.

When the federal government came up with protocols and regulations to handle the COVID-19 pandemic, many saw it as an infringement on their "freedoms" without stopping to realize that such infringements affected all Canadians. But if said government is not constantly pandering to their own particular neck of the woods, they claim it is being divisive.

Perhaps the major factor in all this divisiveness is our political system. It is, at best, always adversarial, always "us against them." Rare are the moments when political parties in Parliament or the provincial legislatures come together to work cooperatively to solve a problem. Rarer still are the times a question asked in Question Period is met with a thoughtful, cogent reply. Probably because most questions are of the sniper variety and the responses are return fire. And, once again, we are largely responsible for that because we're the ones that vote these people into office. In any election, if one candidate makes a pitch for votes by attacking one of his/her opponents, that candidate has lost my vote. I want someone to tell me what they would like to do, rather than rail against what someone else did or didn't do.

One last thought. I don't think too many of our politicians are actually "Canadians." If they were, I think we'd hear them say "sorry" a lot more often.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Drinking, more or less

My wife queued up at the grocery store the other day. The cashier began tallying her purchases, but then hesitated. She said she wasn't qualified to process the purchase of beer and had to call on another cashier qualified to check through beer and wine.

"Does it matter that the beer is zero alcohol?" my wife asked.

"Oh, I see," the cashier said.

And the person next in line at the cash behind my wife piped up, "Mine are zero-alcohol too," he said.

Has all this talk about the link between alcohol and cancer sparked change in the habits of casual drinkers? In January of this year, the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) released a study of Canadians' recreational drinking habits. The study dated back to July 2020; so, remember the country was then just four months into the COVID pandemic and most of us were isolating/distancing but not too far from our beer and wine refrigerators. Based on the study's responses and new medical data, the CCSA issued new guidelines for responsible drinking. It recommended Canadians should consume two standard drinks or fewer per week. More than that, it concluded, could cause increased risk of cancer or heart disease.

Right after the announcement, CHCH TV went to the street recording impromptu Q&As with patrons at a St. Catharines beer store. One man was asked how many drinks he normally consumed in a week. "Maybe a couple of beers. Weekends ... maybe five." Then, the interviewer laid out the new CCSA guidelines – minimum two drinks a week – and his reaction went viral on social media. "Come on, man, two drinks a week? What's that going to do for you?"

Since the CCSA's announcement, the debate has descended into a battle of statistics. The negative stats point to 15,000 deaths per year in Canada attributed to alcohol use. Meanwhile, a health sciences professor at Brock University told the *Toronto Star* recently that the CCSA scientists have ignored the fact that responsible drinkers – those using the previous safety guideline of a serving a day – rely on alcohol for healthy stress relief, engagement with community and socialization. Look at our own unique drinking culture – May-24 weekend, Grey Cup Sunday block parties, beer league hockey, and Newfoundland's famous Screech-In ceremonies. Brock's

Dan Malleck told the *Star* that the new two-drinks-a-week guidelines have "created an expectation of behaviour that a lot of people don't want to meet." Or, to quote the man at the St. Catharines beer store again: "That's just not feasible, not in this country!"

Enter no-alcohol beverages! As usual, the marketplace has quickly moved to meet the demand – beer and wine that tastes the way it should, but without the alcoholic drawbacks. Last year, *Forbes* magazine reported that the no- or low-alcohol beverage industry grew globally by more than 7 per cent, or by about \$11 billion. Remember, this windfall occurred during the pandemic, when Canadians turned to their fridges for comfort in isolation. In Canada, however, statistics showed in 2022 that alcohol consumption decreased 1.2 per cent. The *Forbes* stats examined 10 world markets for no- or low-alcohol beverages, including Canada. And here's a fascinating stat: the largest no- and low-alcohol market in the world today is Germany, home of Oktoberfest, the most famous beer festival in the world.

I noticed non-alcoholic beer a few years ago, tried it, and dismissed the whole idea. It tasted too watery, kind of drab in flavour and generally unsatisfying. Alcohol-free beer, I've learned, actually begins life with alcohol in it during the fermentation process. When the concoction is heated gently, however, the alcohol is burned away. Suddenly in 2022, Danish brew masters came up with a solution, literally. They've engineered a yeast, called *saccharomyces cerevisiae*, which in turn produces molecules called *monoterpenoids*. They're found in certain hops, which are added to the non-alcoholic beer at the end of the brewing process, thus putting the flavour back into the beer.

"What non-alcoholic beer lacks is the aroma from hops," Sotirios Kampranis, a scientist at the University of Copenhagen, told U.K. media. "When the aroma molecules are released from yeast, we collect them and put them into the (non-alcohol) beer, giving back the taste of regular beer we love."

I guess if scientists can create a vaccine to combat a killer virus, brewing no-alcohol beer that tastes like the real thing must be elementary.

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Bruins face arch-rivals to start playoffs

Roger Varley

Past performances would appear to favour the Uxbridge Bruins in the opening round of the PJHL Orr Division playoffs, starting at the arena tomorrow (Friday) at 7:45 p.m.

The Bruins will face their long-time arch-rivals, the Port Perry LumberJacks, in a series that could well be decided before The Cosmos' next edition. Following tomorrow night's game, the teams will meet again at the Scugog Arena on Sunday at 2:25 p.m. and return to the local arena on Monday at 7:45 p.m. The fourth game in the best-of-seven series is scheduled for Port Perry on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

In six meetings during the regular season, the Bruins defeated the LumberJacks five times. On top of that, three Bruins players -

Anthony Lamanna, Quinn Meek and Peter Kerr - are among the top 10 point scorers in the Orr Division this season. For the LumberJacks, however, the regular season was a struggle and they finished in sixth place in the seven-team division.

The Bruins finished the regular season in second place, behind the Clarington Eagles. A make-up game scheduled for last Friday against the Georgina Ice in Keswick was cancelled because of the snow storm and, because the result would not have affected the standings in any way, the league decided to leave the game unplayed.

The Eagles open their series against the last-place Lakefield Chiefs tonight (Thursday.) The Little Britain Merchants took a bye in the opening round because both the Bruins and the Eagles opted to play in the quarter-final.

USC makes waves at regional, provincial meets

Submitted by Jamie Houghton

The Uxbridge Swim Club has begun 2023 with a splash, sending 44 athletes to a series of championship meets over the past eight weeks, celebrating 21 finalists, 17 top three finishes at the provincial level, and sending some members to qualify for Canadian Nationals.

At the regional championships, 14-year-old Ethan Sneath skyrocketed his 50m freestyle, surpassing a provincial standing and qualifying for his first Canadian Nationals. Twelve-year-old Chloe Walker represented the club at Ontario Provincials, where she finished with four bronze medals in the 13 and under category as the only 12-year-old finalist. She also qualified for Canadian Nationals in four events. Fellow club members Haseeb Tariq and Mikaela Blake have also qualified for Canadian Nationals.

"We admire the camaraderie displayed by our athletes on the competitive stage," says head coach Sarah Steinke. "The cheers, high fives and smiles that flood the Uxbridge Swim Club on the pool deck - it's the magical team spirit of this club that is feeding the performance of our athletes."

For information on USC, email coachsteinke@gmail.com

'Best in Miniature', from page 1

much. After my mom passed away, I kept with it, and I found a big community on Instagram. The minis there gave a mix of creative ideas, and they were so encouraging, saying "This is awesome!", so I kept making more, and I kept making friends and I haven't stopped!"

Nielsen says she has never taken a formal course in miniatures. She says the mini community shares techniques, and she learns from them, as well as watching videos on TikTok and YouTube.

When asked if there's a particular style she likes to create with her miniatures, Nielsen says that most of her dollhouse minis are light, modern, clean and contemporary. But she also likes what she calls "dark academia" - the opposite of the list above. "I like run-down covered in dirt, rust... I use different techniques to do each, because experimenting and developing the skills is fun. It's a constant evolution of what you can learn."

Her skills caught the attention of Samsung, which, after seeing her work on social media, commissioned

her to create miniature pieces of their bespoke appliance line, and incorporating them into room designs.

"I made the whole interior. I made three miniature tvs, a vacuum, a speaker... it was on their socials and website, and it was all very hard to make!"

The general public tends to think dollhouses and train sets when thinking about miniatures, but Nielsen explains there are many areas of life - model cityscapes, architecture, gaming, toy photography - that use miniatures, and "if you're not into it, or know someone who is, you don't know what's out there." Nielsen recommends watching "Best in Miniature" because she says she feels people think that miniatures are "old and Victorian."

"On this show, all the competitors have very different styles and specialties, everything is so cool!"

The winner of the series receives grand prize worth \$15,000, as well as a residency at the Maine Maritime Academy.

"Best in Miniature" streams online on CBC Gem. Briar Nielsen's work can be found on Instagram @revivemini, and on Etsy.



Briar Nielsen, a competitor on the CBC Gem series "Best in Miniature" works at her station during one of the show's challenges. Photo courtesy of CBC

Letters, from page 4

that all studies and reports are older than the three-year minimum as required in accordance with "Region of Durham Official Plan consolidation May 2020," with reports dat-

ing back 10 years. In the Region Official Plan, it states (9.1.7) "to establish a firm limit to Hamlet development" and (9B.2.4 c) "larger lots that accommodate private services," but the Township of Uxbridge even amended its own minimum lot area requirement of 3,000m² to


2,700m² for the subdivision, when in fact the property is 40 hectares total.

The residents of Zephyr have sent many messages to the Township concerning existing well water, storm water runoff that may cause flooding, potential health and safety ramifications, traffic impact, the environmental protection area on the east side of development with a direct slope to the EP area, existing wildlife currently living on the site, privacy concerns, access to the properties via the old golf course entrance, which is to be both in and out of the sub-division to Zephyr Rd. (at the brink of a hill) and exiting directly across from the Zephyr Park where children will be playing, etc.

What about climate change, global warming and the environment?

Is this how tax-paying residents should be treated?

Marlene Riddle
Zephyr



Be the first to call the Uxbridge Cosmos with the correct answer to this question and win 2 Playoff Passes to the Bruins home games!

In what place did the Uxbridge Bruins finish the 1995-96 season?

Friday, March 10, 7:45 p.m.
against Port Perry at the Uxbridge Arena

Sunday, March 12, 2:25 p.m.
against Port Perry at the Scugog Arena

Monday, March 13, 7:45 p.m.
against Port Perry at the Uxbridge Arena

Wednesday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.
against Port Perry at the Scugog Arena



Paul Tratnik

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Paul Tratnik in his 91st year at Uxbridge Hospital on Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

First born to Paul and Theresia Tratnik in Techanting, Austria, he passed peacefully and is now reunited with his sisters Ursula, Theresia and Maria, and brothers-in-law Dieter, Hansi and Michi.

He will be dearly missed by his wife Ilse, sister Loisi (Dieter), brothers Franz (Edith) and Walter (Roswitha), sons Erich, Michael (Arlene) and Andreas (Sharon), and brother-in-law Uli (Ursula).

Loving Grandfather (Opa) to Mitchell, Jessica, Harrison, Nathaniel, Allan, Alexander, and Matthew.

Paul came to Canada from his native Austria in 1953, immigrating to London, Ontario, where he was a proud member of the German Canadian Club, and over his lifetime enjoyed soccer, curling, golf and gardening. He became a long-time resident of London and Sarnia and eventually retired in Uxbridge.

We are grateful to the staff at Uxbridge Hospital and Markham Stouffville Hospital for their kind, respectful care and compassion.

Visitation will be at Low and Low's funeral home in Uxbridge on Wednesday, March 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral Mass will be at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Uxbridge on Friday, March 10, at 11:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Uxbridge are gratefully accepted.

He will be dearly missed and lovingly remembered.

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Huck Finn spending eight days in Uxbridge

Roger Varley

Last year, after being interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Huck Finn fishing derby returned to Elgin Park, but with a different format. Instead of being a one-day event, the festival was extended over a two-week period.

This year's edition will continue to be a multi-day event, but will be reduced to eight days from 15. Pat Higgins, owner of Canadian Tire Uxbridge, which sponsors and co-ordinates the event, said there were several reasons for changing from a one-day festival. One was the difficulty in obtaining enough volunteers to handle a one-day attraction that could draw thousands. Another was the fact that vegetation around Elgin Pond's shoreline has grown to an extent that it is difficult for anglers to find a place on the water's edge to cast a line. By extending the festival, he said, families can fish for trout at their leisure without battling crowds. In the early

days of Huck Finn, which began in 2002, crowds as large as 5,000 lined the pond's shore.

Opening day for this year's Huck Finn will be 9 a.m., Saturday, April 22, the beginning of trout season. The derby will close at 5 p.m., Saturday, April 29. Before opening day, the pond will be stocked with about 500 trout.

On opening day, the Pickering Rod and Gun Club will return with their free bait and free loans of fishing rods. Free worms will be available at the Canadian Tire store for the duration of the event. Also supporting the event are the Ministry of Natural Resources, Uxbridge township, the Uxbridge Legion, the BIA and the Optimist Club.

Higgins said there will be "significant" daily prizes to be won by children 15 years and younger, including such items as trampolines and bicycles. Entrants merely submit photos of their catch to qualify. Full contest rules are available at uxbridge.ca/huckfinn.

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