

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 47

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, November 30, 2023

The BIA Holiday Shopping Pullout edition



THRIFT STORE DOES NOT MEAN DUMP - Volunteers at Chances Are, the Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary's thrift store on Bascom St., posted on Facebook a photo of the mess that awaited them last Thursday morning. The store is repeatedly asking the public to refrain from dropping off donations outside of working hours, apparently to no avail. For more, see below. *Photo from Chances Are Thrift Shop Facebook page*

Chances Are plagued by junk dumpers

Rogery Varley

"We get stuff that's absolutely broken."

So says Irene Pullki, one of the volunteers at Chances Are, the downtown thrift store that generates thousands of dollars every year for the local Cottage Hospital.

Pullki showed her frustration on Monday as the volunteers worked for hours to clear the deluge of paraphernalia left in the deposit area of their store on Bascom Street. Much of the pile was pure junk: unsellable, unfixable and unwanted, including dead car batteries.

But people depositing their trash at the store means more than just extra work for the vol-

Halloween light show operators charged

Roger Varley

A company which staged a Halloween lighting display in the south end of the township has been charged with two provincial offences.

Chief by-law officer Hilary Williams said Tuesday that the charges were laid against Spooktacular Light Show and Journey Into Enchantment, a GTA company, on Monday. No court date has yet been set.

Williams said the company is charged with failing to have an event permit and with improper use of a property.

The charges arise from Spooktacular's use of a farm property just north of Claremont on Brock Road to hold a drive-through Halloween light show despite the fact that Uxbridge council had denied their request for a permit to put on such an event. Council denied the permit because of concerns expressed by several township departments, including the fire department. Nevertheless, the light show operated for several weekends ahead of Halloween.

Williams said the charges, part of Part Three of the Provincial Offences Act, require the company to appear in court to face the charges. She said the company could face fines of more than \$50,000 if found guilty.

Williams said it took several weeks to get the charges laid because it involved "a lot more leg work."

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for December, 2023

Monday, December 4, 10:00 a.m.
GENERAL PURPOSE &
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Monday, December 4, 11:30 a.m.
PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING

Monday, December 11, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING

Proclamations for December

December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 6: Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

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

Employment Opportunities

Complete details of all open positions are available at

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

Uxpool – Lifeguards / Instructors, Winter Session

Closing date: Friday, December 1, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Uxpool – Aquatic Program Supervisor
Closing date: Monday, December 11, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.



Register for Winter 2024 Swimming Lessons

Registration opens November 30 at 9 am
www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool

Uxpool offers the Lifesaving Society 'Swim For Life' Program



Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park Consultation Closes Dec. 3rd

Ontario is exploring the creation of the province's first urban provincial park in the Township of Uxbridge.

The comment period for this proposal closes at 11:59p.m. on December 3rd, 2023.

To share your thoughts, submit an online comment by scanning the QR code.




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Donations received no later than December 19th would be appreciated.

UXBRIDGE TOY DRIVE 2023

Van generously donated by Williamson's Chrysler/G.M.



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.



Visit with Santa!

NEW!
From 7-7:30pm bring your well-behaved pet for a photo with Santa!

Goodwood Community Centre Nov. 30 4:30-7pm By Donation
For more info call 647-467-3105 Donations support the work of the Goodwood Hall Board



Winter Parking Reminder

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

November 1st to April 1st



The Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter needs Non-clumping Cat Litter

Our kennels are full and the Animal Shelter is in need of non-clumping cat litter for our furry friends.

Please donate today

Open 10am-5pm Mon-Fri
Open 10am-12pm Sat.
1360 Reach St., Port Perry
905-985-9547



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



Uxbridge at a Glance continued

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR A ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

This Notice is to inform you that the Township of Uxbridge has received a Zoning By-law Amendment Application which has been deemed complete in accordance with the requirements of Section 34 of the Planning Act. The Planning Committee of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge will hold a statutory public meeting to make available adequate information to the public regarding, and to consider, a proposed Township Zoning By-law Amendment pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, Phil and Lisa-Marie Kestin.

The statutory public meeting will be held in a hybrid format allowing for in-person attendance or virtual viewing of the public meeting. The Township of Uxbridge will be processing the Zoning By-law Amendment as required by the Planning Act and welcome any comments that you may have.

PURPOSE OF PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT:

- The purpose and effect of this application is to amend the Zoning By-law to permit a secondary unit within an accessory building.
- The subject property is designated "Major Open Space Areas" under the Region of Durham Official Plan and dual zoned "Shoreline Residential Exception No. 2 (SR-2)" zone and "Environmental Protection (EP)" zone under the Township of Uxbridge Zoning By-law No. 81-19, as amended.

LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:

The subject property is located East of Mayfair Drive and South of Mustard Street and is municipally known as 119 Mayfair Drive and legally described as Part Lot 16 Con 7 Scott as in D374155 Except Easements Therein, Township of Uxbridge, Region of Durham. The location of the property is graphically illustrated on the key map below.

FILE NO.: Zoning By-Law Amendment 2023-11 (**ZBA 2023-11**)

APPLICANT: Phillip and Lisa-Marie Kestin

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information relating to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is available for inspection in the Development Services Department between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Township Municipal Office, 51 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge, Ontario. It is preferred that if you require additional information that it be requested by email, mail, or telephone from the undersigned. However, if necessary, the Township Office can be accessed Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by contacting the undersigned.

Jennifer Beer

Permits & Approvals Analyst
Development Services

Township of Uxbridge, 51 Toronto St. S., Box 190
Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1

Email: jbeer@uxbridge.ca

(t) 905-852-9181 Ext. 225 (f) 905-852-9674

PLANNING ACT REQUIREMENTS:

This Notice is being given in accordance with Planning Act requirements. A final recommendation on the application will not be presented until after the Township Public Meeting and all technical comments have been received.

The public meeting is being held in a hybrid format allowing for in-person attendance or virtual viewing of the public meeting. The livestream public viewing can be accessed by visiting <https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/your-local-government/council-meeting-calendar.aspx>

The meeting date and time is as follows:

MEETING DATE: Monday, December 4, 2023

TIME: Public Meeting 11:30 a.m.

REPRESENTATION

ANY PERSON may participate in the public meeting and/or make written or oral representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Township Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment.

1. Written Submissions

Written submissions should be addressed to the Township Clerk at the address shown below. Written comments should be submitted before **Friday, December 1, 2023**. If you wish to be notified of the adoption or the refusal of the proposed Township Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment, you must also make a written request to the Township Clerk before the adoption of the by-law.

2. Oral Submission

Oral submissions may be provided to Council at the meeting on livestream, you must pre-register with the Clerk's office by email at dleroux@uxbridge.ca, or telephone at 905-852-9181 ext. 228 or mail at the address below **before 12:00 p.m. (Noon) on Friday, December 1, 2023**. Please include your full name, address, and a call-back phone number. You will be contacted by the Clerk's office to confirm your participation and receive the online call-in information before the meeting. Technical assistance may be provided to ensure you are able to participate.

PLANNING ACT REQUIREMENTS

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Uxbridge before the proposed application is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Township of Uxbridge to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

If a person or a public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Uxbridge before the application is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

DATED AT THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE THIS 14th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.

Debbie Leroux, Clerk

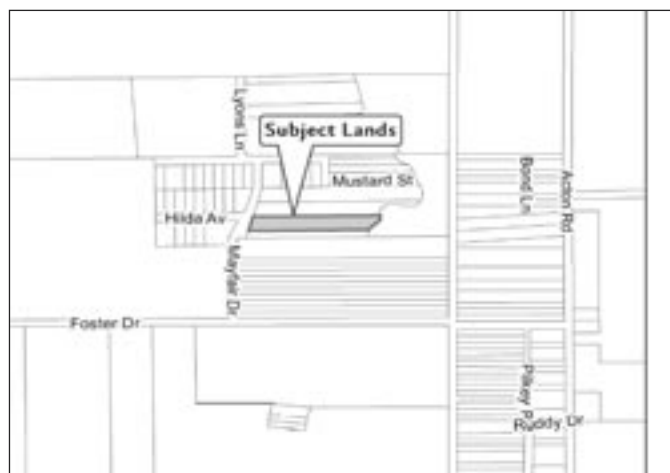
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KEY MAP (not to scale)



...*Thrift store not a downtown dump, from page 1*

of the building equipped with shelving to enable people to bring their donations in and set them down in an orderly, convenient fashion. But almost every Monday, the volunteers come in to find all kinds of items jammed randomly into the space, making it difficult for them to access the area. Sometimes the space is so full, people just pile their "donations" outside, leaving it susceptible to damage from the elements or thievery.

Pullki said there is also the danger of fire.

She said the problem has been going on for years.

Chances Are is run by the Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary and has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years to the Uxbridge Hospital Foundation, which uses the money to purchase new equipment for the hospital.

Pullki said anyone wishing to donate items to Chances Are can make life easier for the volunteers by putting them in boxes where possible. They're also asked to drop items off during store hours, which are Tuesday through to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. No drops off are permitted on Sundays or Mondays.

"And, please, no propane or gas tanks."



Our two cents

The dump *isn't* in town

It would appear that this is the “Chances Are” edition of the paper. The cover photo this week is an image of the donation drop-off location at the local thrift store. The cartoon, right next to this editorial, mocks those who make the drop-off locale look like the cover photo. There’s an article about this abuse, and it’s mentioned in a column on the next page, too. So why are we writing about it here as well?

BECAUSE THE DUMPING HAS TO STOP.

What will it take, short of locking transgressors in the stocks or performing lobotomies, to make people understand that dumping their “treasures” (or trash - we understand that even dead car batteries are being left on the store’s doorstep) willy nilly at the Chances Are door whenever they feel like is simply NOT OKAY.

Chances Are staff (who are all *volunteers*) have written Letters to the Editor in this paper addressing this issue. It’s posted on social media about this problem. And yet it continues. And to make it really rich, some people online actually complain that the store isn’t open on Sundays (drat those volunteers, wanting a day off) to admit donations, or that to drop off during open hours is too difficult for people who work during those same hours.

Cry us a river. Chances are is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (The store is shut on Mondays so that volunteers can don hiking gear, climb the mountain of rubbish that was left on Sunday, go through it all and sort the real treasures that are fit for selling from the detritus that someone didn’t want to dispose of properly.) Surely you have five minutes somewhere in there to make your precious donation. And if you don’t, find someone who can help you out. We’re sure they will - it’s for the hospital, after all.

In case you’re not quite with us yet, let’s spell it out. Chances Are is a store run by the Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary. All the Auxiliary members are *volunteers*. All the money raised from the goods sold at Chances Are goes to the Uxbridge Hospital. All the garbage that is dumped on the floor of the deck (there *are* shelves, people) that was built by *volunteers* has to be sorted by *volunteers*. And the items that aren’t sellable - like dead car batteries, stained clothes, broken furniture, super-huge televisions from the 80s and 90s, actual household garbage - have to go to the dump. The volunteers (whom we mentioned earlier, a couple of times) have to take it there, *and have to pay for it*.

Now let’s unpack that. Chances Are’s sole purpose for being is to raise money for our hospital. Every time they need to pay for a dump run, they take money out of the funds that are earmarked for the hospital and pay for someone else’s crap to be disposed of. That means less money for the hospital.

Chances are, the same Grinches who dump their afore-mentioned crap are people who will need and use the hospital’s services at some point. Heaven forbid they need a machine or procedure that could save their sorry life but, because it couldn’t afford it, the hospital couldn’t help them.

Moral of the story - DON’T DUMP YOUR CRAP AT CHANCES ARE. It could save your life.



Letters to the Editor

The University of Western Ontario believes that merit-based hiring practices should be abandoned because they may be a microaggression against marginalized groups. I’m not sure if I’ve ever read a more narrow minded statement.

If I’m a business owner, my whole business model relies on hiring competent people to execute the business plan. Hire the best and let them do their job. A potential hire is always judged on their merit.

What constitutes merit? Education, experience, character, success as you develop, and respect. These are all earned, not given. Why would you reward laziness, entitlement or apathy?

We see where this is coming from, but equity and equality are not the same thing. Equity is what you bring to the table, your merit. Equality is being given the same chance as anyone else regardless of sex, religion, skin color or race. Students line up to go to school to build their merit, to expand their knowledge and relevance. I’ve seen people struggle to fill out an application form, who couldn’t put their phone down for five minutes, and didn’t have any questions about the job.

A resumé is just a jumping off point. The important intangibles are between the lines. Will they show up on time? How is their work ethic? Can they take instruc-

tion? How well do they work with others? Can they put their phone down for long periods of time?

If I was a part of an alleged marginalized group and saw this statement, from a post-secondary school no less, I would be insulted. Does someone think I am so weak and incapable that I need a decided advantage to succeed?

If we were to follow this twisted ideology to its conclusion, that merit doesn’t matter, then an education would be moot. Which would leave schools like the University of Western Ontario empty.

Keith Inglis
Uxbridge

What exactly is the ‘urban park’ that Uxbridge might be getting?

Conrad Boyce
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On April 22 of this year, then Ontario Environment Minister David Piccini, along with Pickering-Uxbridge MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy and Uxbridge Mayor Dave Barton, made a long-awaited announcement at a news conference on the former Tannenbaum lands just southwest of town, that nevertheless caught everyone by surprise: a proposal was in place to create the first provincial park in decades within the township.

It would be a park very different from any other in the province. It would be an “urban” park where sections of undeveloped land (parts of the park) would be mixed among parcels of agricultural, residential,

commercial and industrial land (not in the park). It would be not one cohesive block of land, but many parcels (which ones are still to be determined), spread over a wide area.

In the intervening seven months, the proposal has stimulated a great deal of discussion in the township, evidenced by the 450 people who attended an open house sponsored by Ontario Parks at Uxbridge Secondary School last month. One of the aspects of the park provoking the most curiosity is its “urban” designation. Those who spoke at the April announcement emphasized the word, and it was repeated when the politicians present spoke briefly at the open house.

So what does “urban” mean in the context of a park? You may well have

heard the term before, since Canada’s only National Urban Park, the Rouge, is right next door to the Township of Uxbridge. It actually has its northernmost section in our township, beginning just south of Glasgow on Conc. 2, and then winds its way through Pickering and Scarborough before reaching Lake Ontario. The *Cosmos* asked the folks at Rouge Park what “urban” meant to them.

“Part of the ‘urban’ nature of the Rouge is the accessibility we offer to people in the Greater Toronto Area,” wrote Sarah Simpson. “Physically, the park is increasingly connected to bike and walking trails, it is accessible by public transit, there are parking

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The **Uxbridge Cosmos**

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Am I wrong?

column by Roger Varley

A missed opportunity

Monday's public meeting of Uxbridge council was likely the shortest one on record: it lasted a mere 15 minutes!

In that time, the councillors made their weekly announcements, six pieces of correspondence were dealt with and three by-laws passed. That was it.

However, in the time given over to announcements, various members of council mentioned such worthwhile initiatives as a gala event which raised tens of thousands of dollars for Markham Stouffville Hospital, donations received as a result of the Movember program, a new program offering support for seniors, locations in town that have gift baskets set up for people to donate to during the holiday season, a call to remember charities on Giving Tuesday, and the fact that local food bank use has increased 38 per cent.

All quite laudable, but when it came to one piece of correspondence there was not a single word of discussion. That missive came from the town of Orangeville in the form of a resolution calling on the provincial government to increase payments to Ontario Works recipients.

The Orangeville resolution said, "poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities (and) undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario." It notes that Ontario Works financial assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 and calls on the provincial government to at least double Ontario Works rates and index rates to inflation.

Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs (ODSP) have been stagnant since 2018. A single person can receive up to \$1,169 a month on ODSP and \$733 on Ontario Works (www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/poverty-odsp-ow-1.6534891). For a single person receiving Ontario Works payments (it used to be called welfare), \$733 a month is to cover basic needs and shelter. Good luck with that!

This was a perfect opportunity for our local council to talk about Uxbridge residents who are going through tough times, who are (as they had just pointed out) increasingly turning to the food bank and sleeping in vehicles. They could have voted to support

Orangeville's resolution: it wouldn't have cost the township a dime, but it would have shown somebody cared. And given that the meeting lasted only 15 minutes, it's not as though they didn't have time to share their thoughts. But there was zip. Nada.

I found that disappointing, to say the least.

Also disappointing is the way some selfish, lazy people use a local charity as a means of disposing of their trash. As is reported elsewhere in this edition, the hard-working volunteers at Chances Are are constantly having to sort through all kinds of junk left outside their premises on weekends. But apart from the extra work involved - (on Monday, the volunteers needed at least four hours to clean up the pile of stuff left in their deposit area on the weekend) - it costs Chances Are thousands of dollars to dispose of the junk. So here we have a charity dedicated to raising funds for our local Cottage Hospital - (it will always be the Cottage Hospital to me) - and offering good, used but not abused merchandise to people who need to watch their pennies, being abused by people who think only about themselves. And the money spent on disposal could be going to the hospital.

Unless you have been asleep for a few months, you will know that many people are hurting financially at this time. Homeless numbers are swelling across the country, food banks are being stretched to the limit, rents are skyrocketing and house purchase prices are beyond the reach of most people.

How we get out of this mess is beyond me: I have trouble balancing my bank account. But I do what I can when I can to help alleviate, in some small way, the hardships that others are suffering. And there are plenty of ways we can all do a little bit to help. I remember an ad of some sort years ago whose message was: "I can't save the world, but maybe I can save one person."

Most of you, I know, do what you can. This is a generous community. But a few words of encouragement from our local council and a lot less selfishness from the entitled few would also help a lot.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

A calling that rings true

I accomplished something this week I've wanted to for probably 50 years. I recently received an email from Lew Gregor, friend and membership chair of the Royal Canadian Legion. He was inviting me to the Branch 170 general meeting Tuesday night.

"I want to welcome you," his note said, "as a new member of the Legion."

It may seem strange that a person who's spent much of those 50 years interviewing veterans, researching Canadian military stories, writing books about wartime history and participating in Remembrance events across the country, would not already be a member of the Legion. It's not that such organizations as service clubs, community associations, boards, societies, or the Legion have never asked. Believe me. They all have. And I've always been grateful. But - with the exception of some charities - I've always refused. Here's why. As a rule, journalists and broadcasters are not joiners. Attempting to be fair - by not holding membership in such organizations - they observe, digest and report and let readers and audiences draw their own conclusions. As an individual, I've always supported the work of Legion branches, contributing to the annual Poppy Fund, raising the profile of veterans' rights, contributing to Legion youth-awareness programs, helping draw attention to PTSD issues, and supporting community events at the branch facility. However, my military historical research has also shown me that the Legion's relationship with veterans has not always been the best. Back in the 1950s, for example, Korean War vets faced huge challenges at the doorstep of the Royal Canadian Legion.

One case involved the homecoming of infantryman Bill Jackson to Brooks, Alta. By October 1952, he'd served a full year's tour with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and witnessed his share of warfare. On his first night in the hills opposite Chinese forces, he had to bury dead soldiers before bedding down in his own slit trench. During Operation Pepperpot, a U.N. offensive pushing north from the Imjin River, a Chinese mortar bomb explosion killed one of his friends right next to him. And many nights in his bunker he woke to see "the nose of a rat inches from my face."

About a month after coming home, Jackson attended a Remembrance Day observance and then joined an evening smoker at the local Legion hall, just 40 or 50 vets sitting, drinking and telling war stories. At one point,

a friend of the Jackson family rose to address the gathering. He and Jackson's father had served together in the Great War.

"Hold it! Hold it!" the man called out. "We've got a guy just back from the trenches in Korea. And we'd like to welcome him."

Jackson slowly got to his feet. But before he could utter a word, a voice boomed from the back of the hall, "Sit down, you a----e. You were in Korea. So what?" The chauvinism of First and Second World War vets at the Legion prevailed and Jackson was never allowed to join.

On the flip side, bombardier Jim McKinny served with the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in Korea. When his outfit returned to Winnipeg at the end of his tour, McKinny recalled marching downtown to the cenotaph marking only the fallen of two world wars. He felt a genuine excitement though knowing that his parents and girlfriend had come in from western Manitoba to welcome him home.

"But I couldn't face my girlfriend," he told me. "We only lived 23 miles apart. I had written to her every day I was away, but I just couldn't put feelings into words. Korea made me a social misfit." Eventually, his family and Lee, his girlfriend (later wife), helped McKinny through the post-traumatic stress disorder. More important, while living in Saskatoon, one day in the 1990s he stopped by the Legion to ask about tickets for a dance. They asked him to fill out a form, including his overseas service in 1952-53.

"Oh," the Legion official said. "You're a Korea veteran?"

"Can't I join?" McKinny asked warily. "Oh sure," the man said. "I was just curious because your group meets here once a month. The Korea Veterans Association."

When Jim McKinny joined Legion Branch 61 in Saskatoon, in 1991, he found a kindred spirit among fellow vets. And finally, thanks in large part to the Legion, he began to address his memories of service in Korea and even began campaigning with fellow KVA members to have local cenotaphs rededicated to include recognition of the Korean War and its veterans.

Through the memories of the women and men the Legion honours every day, I have come to understand with greater respect the importance of service, and have gladly joined its ranks to continue that work.

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

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New township hire to promote Uxbridge

Roger Varley

Uxbridge township has hired a new staff member to promote the town to visitors.

Curtis McAleer has been named downtown events and marketing coordinator. With a background in communications and marketing, McAleer will be working with the Farmers' Market, Tourism Durham, the Business Improvement Area (BIA) and the downtown revitalization committee to boost the downtown to visitors.

McAleer will be a part-time employee on a one-year contract and part of his salary will be covered by a Rural Economic Development grant from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

Community soup lunch looking for more host groups

Every Wednesday afternoon, starting around 11 a.m., incredible smells emanate from the tiny kitchen in St. Andrew's-Chalmers Church hall as a host group puts together a soup lunch for the community. The soup lunches are popular - at least 45 people attend every week. But host groups are needed to feed the masses.

The Community Soup Lunch, which happens every Wednesday from 12 - 1 p.m., from September through to June, has been hosted by various groups of volunteers - church groups, community groups such as the 1st Uxbridge Scout Group, Uxbridge firefighters, the Rotary Club of Uxbridge, and businesses such as Vince's Market. Some groups of friends even get together, having fun in the kitchen together and giving to their community. All host groups report how fulfilling it is working together to give back to by providing a nutritious meal to others.

Operating since 2013 (with a break during COVID), the Soup Lunch is open to everyone. There is no set cost - lunch guests donate whatever they

are able, with all proceeds going to the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank.

A typical meal provided by the host group includes a choice of delicious homemade soups (or chili or macaroni casserole), bread and butter, dessert(s), milk and cream for about 45 - 60 people.

All food must be prepared in a Durham Health inspected kitchen. It can be frozen and reheated in St. Andrew's-Chalmers kitchen, which is also an inspected and approved kitchen. Many groups choose to prepare the veritable banquet on site. Coffee and tea are supplied, but must be prepared fresh before lunch service begins.

Organizers are asking Uxbridge to please consider getting a group together to host one week or even two. There are numerous spots available.

Hosting a Community Soup Lunch would be the perfect activity as a work team building event, or for any small group of 4-6 (think book club).

Contact John Gould, Community Soup coordinator, at 905-852-4753 for more information.

...What's an urban park, from page 4

lots and trail heads the full length of the park. Entry to the Rouge is free, so families can visit the beach, go for a bike ride, or stop by a market garden without incurring entry fees. Visitors can be exploring nature and enjoying the fresh air within a few blocks of the city."

Nature close to home. That seems a common thread in talking to several of the people much involved in the planning of this park. Uxbridge Mayor Dave Baron wrote:

"I envision this park as an extension of our community - a seamless integration weaving around businesses, homes, places of worship, and farms. It will serve as a hub where residents can engage in exercise, find solace, or enjoy a leisurely stroll with a partner, parent, or new friend. Given Uxbridge's distinction as the trail capital of Canada, this park provides an exciting opportunity to enhance that status in meaningful ways. Our goal is for guests and residents alike to automatically associate Uxbridge with profound connections to nature."

"Opening a new provincial park in Uxbridge would give families and people in the community new ways to enjoy the great outdoors all year around," said Uxbridge MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy in April. "A strong Ontario includes a strong provincial park system, made up of the most beautiful and scenic parts of the province, that will be enjoyed for many generations to come."

"The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) supports Ontario's initiative to explore the creation of a new provincial park in Uxbridge, said the NCC's Mike Hendren at the spring announcement. "A new urban park will provide even more opportunities for Ontarians to connect with nature. In the face of rapid biodiversity loss and climate change, nature is our ally. There is no solution to either without nature conservation. At NCC, we believe when nature thrives, we all thrive."

Liz Calvin of Uxbridge, president of Green Durham, one of the conservation organizations on the park's planning group, said her vision of an "urban" park is a place where a city

...continued on page 13



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Inaugural performance for new Uxbridge choir set for next weekend

Justyne Edgell

Uxbridge's newest choir, Northern Trails Vocal Connection (NTVC), is set to delight audiences with its inaugural winter concert on December 9 and 10 at St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church.

If you haven't yet heard of NTVC you are likely not alone. The choir was formed only this fall by choral director Jennifer Neveu-Campsall, a local voice and piano teacher and director of the highly acclaimed *Bella Nove* choral group, who performed their final concert this past spring.

Neveu-Campsall says that NTVC was formed "impulsively and quickly."

"On a Thursday in March of this year, I decided I wanted to bring

things to an end with *Bella Nove* and begin an adult SATB (soprano/alto/tenor/bass) ensemble; a group which would sing high caliber music at a high level of musicality. By the end of the weekend, I had a board of directors in place and a group of like-minded people brainstorming with me to breathe life into the choir."

This winter's inaugural concert combines a few different themes. It does have a winter holiday theme, like most December concerts; however, the bit that sets this apart is that that all the pieces being performed are by living composers, to "show how choral music is alive and well today," says Neveu-Campsall. And sticking with the northern trails connection, there will be pieces highlighting mother Earth.

Neveu-Campsall says that many of the pieces are easily recognizable, "like 'The First Noel' and 'Noel Nouvelle,' but they've been recomposed and arranged by Dan Forrest and Paul Pedersen."

"One of my current favourite composers," says Neveu-Campsall, "Ola Gjeilo, has two works in the program, 'Tundra' and 'Across The Vast Eternal Sky,' which will also include 'The Tost String Quartet.'"

The concert will also feature two *a capella* works (vocal only, no instrumental accompaniment) - 'Earth Song' by Frank Ticheli and 'Lux Arumque' by Eric Whitacre.

"The second half of the program features 'Snow Angel' by Canadian composer Sarah Quartel," says Neveu-Campsall. "Not only is this a beautiful choral work, it also includes a wonderful solo cello feature (Stephen Buck) and three very powerful narratives that draw the whole story together."

Many members of NTVC are already professional musicians, music teachers and music students. Neveu-Campsall says that while they are already such great musicians, they are all open to become even better in the ensemble.

"This hasn't necessarily been a surprise, but I have been absolutely delighted with how quickly my singers have learned all of this music and how open each of them are to learning and growing as singers and musicians."

The ensemble already has a second concert in the works.

"We have an Easter program scheduled featuring the Faure *Requiem*, Friday, March 22, and Saturday, March 23, at St. Paul's Anglican Church," says Neveu-Campsall. Soloists for this concert will include Katie Bottomley and Jonathan Liebich, and William Maddox of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church as the guest organist.

NTVC also has a scheduled spring concert to be held in the beginning of June 2024.

If singing with a high level choral ensemble interests you, Neveu-Campsall says she is opening up the group to additional voices.

"We have an open rehearsal where interested singers can come and 'test drive' the choir, on Wednesday, January 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m., and auditions will be held in the days following." Currently the ensemble is only auditioning altos, tenors and basses.

Tickets for the Northern Trails Vocal Connection's inaugural winter concert are on sale at Threads Boutique (14 Brock St. W.).



Northern Trails Vocal Connections prepares for its inaugural concert on Dec. 9.

Photo by Justyne Edgell

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Baptist Church presents hand-decorated nativity crèche to Township

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Long-time residents of Uxbridge are familiar with the seasonal performances of The Living Nativity and Handel's *Messiah*. These popular events occurred on alternate years - if it was a Living Nativity year, the following year was a *Messiah* year.

2021 was supposed to be a Living Nativity year, but the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic saw it cancelled. In 2022, with social restrictions lessening, Jennifer Wilson of the Uxbridge Baptist Church produced a "Nutcracker-style" performance that was partly attended in person and simultaneously live streamed.

For this unique event, three ladies from Shobrook Gardens, Bev Burns, Mary Harrison and Barb Simmonds, painted a ceramic nativity set that replicated the colours of the church's Living Nativity costumes. As the Lagerquist family told the story of Christmas in their living room on one side of the stage with the crèche replica on the table, these characters

came to life on the opposite side of the stage as church members involved in the Living Nativity performed the story. The video remains on the UBC website and YouTube channel.

When the performance was over, church members discussed what could be done with the Living Nativity ceramic crèche.



Brian Evans, left, along with Bev Burns, Mary Harrison and Barb Simmonds, right, present a one-of-a-kind Nativity crèche to the Township of Uxbridge. On hand to receive the gift from the Uxbridge Baptist Church are councillors Zed Pickering, Willie Popp, Mayor Dave Barton, and regional councillor Bruce Garrod. Centre are Liliانا and Aleksander Lindale, who play Mary and Joseph in this year's Living Nativity production. *Photo by John Covers*

"It seemed only natural to present it to the Township as a symbol of our gratitude for the constant support and encouragement received from our municipal leaders and staff for this longstanding Christmas tradition," explains Baptist Church member Brian Evans.

On November 25, at Shobrook Gardens, Mayor Dave Barton, a former participant in the Living Nativity, along with regional councillor, Bruce Garrod and councillors Willie Popp and Zed Pickering, received this unique crèche.

The Living Nativity has been a tradition in Uxbridge since the first production in 1974. It was the inspiration of Harold Black of the Uxbridge Baptist Church, but has been embraced by the residents of Uxbridge and many surrounding communities.

2023 is a Living Nativity year, and it will be performed in Centennial Park during the evenings of December 15, 16, and 17, with two performances each evening - one at 7:30 p.m., the other at 8:15 p.m.

What's an urban park, from page 6

or town resident can enjoy the respite of nature without having to go far away to a wilderness park.

"When I was at university in Vancouver, Stanley Park was a place I could easily go and forget I was in the city, where I could connect with the trees and the birds, and just breathe the air. Uxbridge is the trail capital, lots of



Photo by John Covers

Toronto and GTA residents come here already to have that kind of experience. A provincial park will give just one more level of protection to the lands containing those trails."

Calvin emphasized that the park is very much still in the early planning stages. Many important decisions, including which lands will be included, what activities will be permitted, and how the park will be managed, remain to be finalized, and will not happen without extensive public

consultation.

But from conversations with those integrally involved in making this new park come to be, two points about the "urban" designation seem clear:

- It has nothing to do with what's in the park, or what will be allowed to happen there. In other words, trepidation about issues such as the park allowing residential development on currently protected lands, or facilitating expropriation of privately-owned property, is groundless. Quite the opposite: the purpose of the park is to further nature conservation, not erode it.

- It has everything to do with the users of the park, urban residents who crave, indeed require, a connection with nature, and the accessibility the park provides. Uxbridge is a bit farther away from Toronto than the Rouge, but not much.

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Bruins split weekend games with top two teams

Roger Varley

It would appear that the Uxbridge Bruins are the only team in the PJHL's Orr Division to have solved the powerhouse Clarington Eagles: the Bruins handed the Eagles their third loss of the season last Thursday in Clarington. The Bruins are the only team to have beaten league-leading Clarington so far this season.

The Bruins downed Clarington 6-5, although they once again appeared to lose their drive in the third period. Quinn Meek opened the scoring within the first two minutes of the game, assisted by Ty Roberts. Luke El-Ayari, assisted by Gavin Graham, made it 2-0 six minutes later, but the Eagles quickly responded with a power-play marker. Jack Davis restored the two-goal lead, assisted by Nolan Winter and Lucas Marshall, only to see Clarington narrow the gap again.

In the second period, the Bruins exploded with three goals in the first 10 minutes, with Graham, Travis Winder and Anthony Lamanna finding the net. Lamanna also assisted on two of the goals. Clarington managed to cut the deficit by one before the period ended.

However, in the third period, the Eagles came close to salvaging the

game with two unanswered goals, but the Bruins hung on for the win.

The following night, the Bruins hosted the second-place Georgina Ice. Roberts gave the Bruins the lead after five minutes when he knocked in his own rebound. Assists went to Lamanna and Meek. The Ice tied the score when Curtis Misener found the net from a sharp angle. A great second effort by Jaxon Koehler, also assisted by Lamanna and Meek, put the Bruins ahead with less than a minute remaining in the period.

Misener tied the game midway through the second and Georgina's Austin Paulmert scored the winning goal with 50 seconds left in the stanza. The Bruins were applying pressure on the Georgina goal when Paulmert took a long pass up the middle and skated in for the score.


The third period remained scoreless, although the Bruins pulled their goalie for an extra attacker in the final minute to try and even the score

The *Cosmos* named Meek of the Bruins and Misener of the Ice as players of the game.

The Bruins are back in action tomorrow (Friday) night when they host the Ice again at the arena at 7:45 p.m.

The Bruins remain in third place in the seven-team division, with the Port Perry LumberJacks breathing down their necks. The relatively close race among the top four teams bodes well for the playoff season.

Bear pause: Once again, the Uxbridge Bruins are holding a toy drive to help the less fortunate. The Bruins ask that gifts be wrapped in clear packaging. A table will be set up in the lobby to receive the toys.



For complete season and player information go to
uxbridgebruins.pjhlhockeytech.com

Friday, December 1, 7:45 p.m.
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The 2024 show will highlight the 30th anniversary of the show with great music, comedy and other fun! Matt Gunn returns as show director, with Eric Speers as co-director, and Christina Enns returns to assist Matt with music direction. Alanah Kemp as skit director and Alyssa Jeffrey as producer are welcome additions to the creative team!

Each year, uxperience members choose a group to receive the show's proceeds. To be considered, groups must be non-profit and complete an application.

Since uxperience began over 29 years ago, it has donated more than \$150,000 to local organizations. The amount donated each year depends on how much the show raises through sponsors, tickets sales and other fundraising events. Last year, uxperience was pleased to present a \$5,000 cheque to the Uxbridge Youth Group.

To have your organization considered as a possible recipient, email uxperience92@gmail.com to request an application. Deadline is Monday, Dec. 18.



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Across

- Beverage
- Credit card enticement
- It may be snowy or spotted
- Battle
- Mideast ruler
- Pastry choice
- Load from a lode
- Whistle it!
- Author's last word
- Wind
- " ___ Duke": by Stevie Wonder
- Frosty
- Loses it
- "Red" seafood
- Discontinue
- All ___
- Group with common interests
- Earth's oxygen producers
- Senior to junior
- Query
- Last Commandment
- Edit out
- " ___ she lovely?"
- Important historical time
- ___ blond
- Not fake
- ___ behind the ears
- "Akeelah and the ___" - spelling movie!
- It may be at the finish line
- Seat of a religious office

Down

- Braces
- Bring in
- What a surveyor surveys
- Discern
- Flightless bird
- Trash can
- Rapunzel feature
- Work
- Gain victory
- Was out in front
- Some chocolates
- Within
- "Absolutely!"
- Honey holder
- Keep watch
- Sanction
- Scull
- Yoga command
- Curtain fixture
- Ranch roamers
- Bypass
- Weather goes with it
- Willow, for example
- An intense emotion
- City transport
- " ___ as directed"
- It may swell or have swells
- Sleep

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42	C	U	T		44	I	S	N	T		47	E	R	A
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EVENTS

MONDAY MORNING SINGERS 'MAGNIFICAT'
St. Paul's Anglican Church, Sunday, Dec. 3, 3 p.m. \$20. mondaymorningsingers.com

FRIENDS' MINISTRY Wed., Dec. 6, 6:30 - 8 p.m., annual Christmas party. Uxbridge Seniors Centre.

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CAR KEYS. Vicinity of Church St. and Toronto St. If found, please call 905-852-1900 with description.

Parade highlights, float winners - and boots full of cash!



Uxbridge Baptist Church won in the Best Service/Spiritual Group category for their Living Nativity float. *Photo by Sierra Miller*



Best Overall Float was claimed by Hilltop Equestrian, as their float had a working carousel on it, drawing gasps from spectators. *Photo by Sierra Miller*



Uxbridge Montessori School won for Best School/Youth Group float. *Photo by John Covers*



Parade judges were so impressed with Douglas Crossing's parade submission that they created a new category for this year - Best Christmas Spirit! *Photo by Sierra Miller*



The Uxbridge Firefighters Association collected \$5,265 at their Boot Drive. This will be equally shared with the Uxbridge Loaves & Fishes Food Bank, the Uxbridge Lions Club, the Uxbridge Salvation Army, and the Uxbridge Toy Drive. *Photo by John Covers*



The Uxbridge Swim Club's 'animal instincts' earned a tie for Best Workmanship. *Photo by John Covers*



JMX Contracting tied with the Uxbridge Swim Club for a Best Workmanship trophy. *Photo by Sierra Miller*



Julien Kelland crooned Keith's Flowers & Gifts, Sugar FX, and Threads Boutique to a Best Business trophy. *Photo by John Covers*



Beach Cheer Athletics tumbled and stunted their way to a Best Sports Organization trophy. *Photos by John Covers*

'Peanuts' come back to life a generation later

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown was last presented at the Uxbridge Music Hall 15 years ago; produced by Uxbridge Youth Theatre, the special script adapted by Michelle Charette allowed for a large cast where many Uxbridge youth could showcase their talent.

Now, with the permission of Ms. Charette, the same script is being presented again, this time by Vocally Inspired Performers under the leadership of director Marisa Hachey and vocal director Renae Wolfesberger, who both performed in that production 15 years ago.

Nia King-Hachey, producer of both shows, says she is delighted to see the material brought to life by a whole new generation of performers.

"This show has something for everyone! It's funny and heartwarming, the music is fantastic and this cast is full of talent!"

King-Hachey says not to expect an actual "story," though. Like the *Peanuts* comic strip, this show brings the audience a series of "days in the life" of the *Peanuts* characters, including Lucy, Linus, Schroeder, Sally

and of course, Snoopy!

King-Hachey says this production features "the qualities that Uxbridge audiences have come to expect from Vocally Inspired Performers: their incredible singing, great costuming

and lots of fun surprises!"

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown runs for five performances only: Dec. 7-10. Tickets are available at the door or at www.starticketing.com

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Uxbridge girl receives Scouting's highest youth honour

Roger Varley

At an awards ceremony at the meeting, Marlatt was awarded the

Fifteen-year-old Kathryn Marlatt of Uxbridge, a member of the 1st Uxbridge Venturers, had no idea she was going to be honoured when she attended Scouts Canada's annual general meeting in Ottawa in mid-November.



Group Youth Commissioner and Scouts Canada - White Pine Council's Youth Commissioner Kathryn Marlatt was awarded the Medal of the Maple - Scouts Canada's highest award for youth members.

Photo used with permission, from Facebook

Medal of Maple, the highest award Scouts Canada can bestow on a youth member. She was presented with the medal and a certificate by national youth commissioner Justin Chenier for her exceptional leadership and commitment to scouting.

The medal design features a maple leaf with an inset fleur-de-lis, surrounded by a rope circle. The medal hangs on a red and white striped ribbon, worn around the neck. The recipient also is given a flash - a stylized bar with elements of the medal - which is worn with all other awards on the uniform.

Marlatt, who was one of six youth members to receive the award, is youth commissioner with the 1st Uxbridge Scout group and with the White Pine Council and is also a national youth councillor.

Because Marlatt knew nothing about the award ahead of time, her parents did not get to accompany her to Ottawa.

Monday Morning Singers chorally celebrate the holidays

Submitted by Joanne Mulholland

The Monday Morning Singers, directed by Anne Mizen, are excited to present their plans for the Christmas choral season - a concert this Sunday, Dec. 3, at 3 p.m.!

The major work for this concert is the hauntingly beautiful *Magnificat* by Norwegian composer Kim André Arnesen. This piece was commissioned by the Nidaros Cathedral Girls' Choir and performed by them in 2010 in the medieval cathedral of Trondheim, Norway.

In this upcoming performance, the choir will be joined by soprano soloist Leslie Higgins, and by the renowned organist Ian Sadler. Higgins grew up in Uxbridge and was drawn to the arts community at a young age. She began voice and piano lessons

at age 8. She has performed in many Uxbridge musical theatre productions as a young student and performed in local recitals.

Now she has a Bachelor of Music degree from Western University and a Masters degree from University of Toronto.

The Monday Morning Singers are thrilled to host her as soprano soloist in the upcoming Christmas concert on December 3.

The concert also includes shorter works by composers such as Bob Chilcott, Mark Sirett and Peter Tiefenbach, with accompanist Elaine Brandon. These guest artists will also perform solos of their favourite Christmas music for organ and soprano. As always, the audience will be invited to join in the singing of familiar and well-loved Christmas carols.

Join the Monday Morning Singers and their guests this Sunday, December 3, at 3 p.m., in Uxbridge at St. Paul's Anglican Church. Tickets are \$20 from choir members or at the door.

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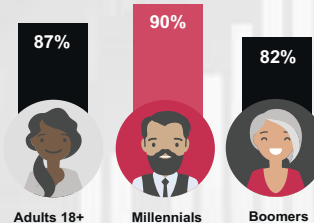
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NEED TO REACH MILLENNIALS?

New survey results show that **nine out of ten** Millennials read newspapers weekly in print or digital formats.



News Media Canada
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Results are sourced from a November 2020 national online research survey managed by Totum Research. Interviews were conducted with 855 English and French Canadians in every province, and results were weighted to be nationally representative.

Beasts of Uxbridge: Birds of a feather

Conrad Boyce
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

“My Opa wanted to retire from his hobby of breeding ring-necked pheasants,” recalls Lukas Volkmann. “He’d sell some for meat, others for training hunting dogs. My dad really wasn’t interested, so Opa was going to get rid of them. But I said I’d like to try raising them. And that’s how it started.”

Sounds like an interesting sideline for a teenager, right? Except that when he said yes to being a poultry farmer, Volkmann was still in kindergarten. Now, a decade further on, he’s a veteran, caring for more than a dozen varieties of chickens and game birds when most of his Grade 11 classmates spend their spare time on a video screen. Here’s his current stock, populating the barns and aviaries behind his rural home northwest of Zephyr:

- standard chickens (Icelandic Rooster, Rhode Island Red hens, Silver Laced Wyandotte hen, Leg Bar hen, also known as Easter Eggers)
- bantam chickens (Black-breasted Red Olde English Game hen and rooster, two black Olde English game hens, one pair Brahma Buff)
- a pair of Indian Blue Peafowl (peacock and peahen)
- a pair of ring neck doves
- a bunch of homing pigeons, grey and white
- three ringneck pheasants

“If you’d come a few weeks ago,” says Lukas a bit sadly, “you’d also have met my small flock of golden pheasants, beautiful birds. But a raccoon got in to the pen and killed them all. Now I have to start again.”

Predators are a constant problem when raising birds free range. The property, once home to a dairy farm, is frequently visited by weasels and foxes, although the coyotes so far seem to have kept their distance. And from the air, hawks and owls are always on the alert for free lunch at the Volkmann place. If Volkmann hears of a hawk in the area, he’ll go out and tether a kite to the backyard fence; the shadow will make the poultry wary.

Some of the birds are pretty good at self defence, though. The peahen’s call is reminiscent of a braying donkey, enough to give a weasel (or a visiting reporter) pause. She once chased off an inquisitive flock of wild turkeys. Her mate, though still young, nevertheless tries hard to show off his tail feathers. A few years from being show-worthy, laughs Volkmann.

A few years ago, a vacant barn on a nearby farm was torn down, and an

infestation of rats was discovered. The rodents had already spread to nearby barns, and when they started to prey on the Volkmann chickens, it didn’t take long for Volkmann and his dad to become expert rat exterminators. Three years later, the infestation lingers, and the Volkmanns will regularly receive a call to bring their traps to the rescue of a fellow farmer.

Apart from predation, however, most birds are fairly hardy creatures. Unless it’s very cold (when space heaters come into play), the birds just fluff up and flock together to stay warm. They’re so self-reliant, in fact, that Volkmann sometimes has to resist the temptation to help them. If a chick is struggling to get out of the egg, don’t interfere, he reminds himself; however long it takes, that’s what nature wants. Most birds have a life expectancy of just a few years, but guinea fowl can live more than a dozen, and pea fowl up to 40 years.

That’s useful, because it can take time to breed the best prize-winning birds. Till now, Volkmann has mostly



Lukas Volkmann and the species that began his fascination with poultry - ring-necked pheasants. Conrad Boyce

shown his birds at the Uxbridge Fall Fair, but next summer, he’ll take them to Markham, and eventually perhaps, to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. Every spring and fall, he’ll go to the bird shows, essentially big tailgate parties where fanciers from across Ontario will bring their best to trade. Volkmann uses the shows as opportunities to experiment with new breeds or species. At heart, he’s still a hobbyist.

“I don’t have the time yet to be an egg or broiler farmer,” Volkmann admits. “The birds pay for themselves through selling to breeders and such, but the eggs we mostly use for the family, and the birds are kind of too fancy to waste for meat.”

Would he ever become a commercial chicken farmer? He ponders, and says probably not. His mom’s a teacher and his father a municipal roads worker, although a generation further back, their families worked the land. “My mom’s grandparents, Ches and Mable Oldham, worked the land and had a farm about a mile south on the concession I live on now, and her parents, Rick and Gerry Oldham, still have a farm. Grand-dad is usually in a tractor on his property a concession over. And my Opa grows soy beans and corn right here on our property.”

But as of today, he’s thinking he might be a utility lineman. Still outdoors, but getting a regular paycheque. So why the continued interest in birds, 10 years on from the curious five-year-old?

“I just love watching them, all the funny things they do. In the summer, we’ll let all of them out in our yard - they hardly ever fly off, maybe the pigeons now and then - and I’ll just go out and be with them. The time goes by.”

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The family of Orval Downs greatly appreciates all of the cards, donations, calls and visits received in Orval’s memory.

To Lakeview Manor (Harbour Wing) in Beaverton for the A-1 care and kindness.

Special mention to Barb, Gloria and Marion of the Uxbridge Legion, Branch 170, for their kindness and support.

To all our family and friends, our sincerest gratitude.
Nancy Downs and family.



Tom Coyle



It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of Thomas Coyle, loving father of Jackie, Geoff, Matt, Nick and Sam, ex-husband and beloved friend of Anna MacKay-Smith, brother to Janice and Lawrence (d.), son to Eunice (d.) and Edward (d.). He left us on November 10, 2023, due to a heart attack and stroke. His absence is deeply felt in our lives.

Tom and his family lived in Uxbridge from 1990 to 2006. Tom was an architect and facility planner who worked internationally, travelling to over 52 countries in his lifetime. He was an active member of the Uxbridge Rotary Club and a staunch supporter of the Uxbridge arts community and the Uxbridge Swim Club.

In honouring Tom’s memory, there will be a memorial in Toronto this coming April. As per his wishes, and in keeping with the Coyle legacy, the event will be inspired by an ‘Irish Wake’—a day to come together, celebrate his life with laughter, share stories, and, of course, raise a glass of beer and whiskey. Anyone who wishes to join us in commemorating his life is more than welcome, and we encourage you to pass this message along. To receive updated information of date, time and place closer to the date, contact Anna at amackaysmith@gmail.com.

For those asking how they can contribute, we have chosen the Heart & Stroke Foundation, an organization Tom supported. If you are able and willing to donate in his honour, you can do so selecting “donate in HONOUR or MEMORY GIFT” and using the email, coyle.sam@gmail.com, if required.

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