# The Land See Cosmos.ca Vol. 19 No. 39 The Cosmos.ca Thursday, October 5, 2023

National Newspaper Week • Uxbridge 50 years ago • Bruins going strong



**TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND** - Several Uxbridge Secondary School students drove their farm tractors to school on Tuesday to honour their friend, Aiden Hulshof, on the one-year anniversary of his passing. Hulshof, who was killed in a motor vehicle accident, was passionate about farming life. *Photo by Mike Kennedy* 

## Teen's death gives life to six others

Roger Varley

While members of the Uxbridge community remain in shock over the tragic death of 17-year-old Lillian Bennett last week, others are celebrating her final gift.

The teen suffered serious injuries at the Uxbridge skate park on Friday, Sept. 22, and was transported to a trauma centre in Toronto, where she succumbed to those injuries on Tuesday, Sept. 26. At the time, witnesses told Durham Regional Police that Bennett was riding a skateboard on the skate park parking lot, located on Main Street North, while holding on to the side of a silver pickup truck near the rear wheel. Police said the girl lost her balance, fell, and was run over by the truck.

According to a GoFundMe website set up by a friend of Bennett's family, Tracee Sheldrake, Bennett's organs were, at her request, donated to six other females. (After receiving her G1 driver's licence, Bennett signed up to be an organ donor.) Her lungs were transplanted into a woman in her 20s; her kidneys went to a teenager and a pre-teen; her liver was donated to a middle-aged woman in serious need; her pancreas went to another teenager and her heart was given to a middle-aged woman.

The GoFundMe page had a stated goal of raising \$25,000. As of Tuesday, more than \$30,400 had been from close to 200 donors raised to support Bennett's family.

The webpage said Bennett had planned to become an orthopaedic surgeon since she was a

little girl

"For a young lady who always dreamt of helping other people, this unfair tragedy has only shifted her goal in the way in which she is doing so," the text said.

The page closes with a quote from Dr. Seuss: "To the world, you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."

The driver of the vehicle involved in the accident remained on scene but police are still asking anyone with information about this incident to call Det.-Const. Dalgetty at 905-579-1520, ext. 5217.

Anonymous information be sent to Durham Regional Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 and tipsters may be eligible for a \$2,000 cash reward.





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music

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The Uxbridge Cosmos Thursday, October 5, 2023



# Uxbridge at a Glance

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge 51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190 Uxbridge L9P 1T1 905-852-9181 info@uxbridge.ca

# The Township of UXBRIDGE

Trail Capital of Canada



#### MORE INFO www.uxbridge.ca

#### **Council & Committee Meetings**

Meeting Schedule for October, 2023

Thursday, October 6, 8:30 a.m. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Monday, October 9 TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED -THANKSGIVING

Monday, October 16, 10:00 a.m. GENERAL PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION MEETING

Monday, October 23, 10:00 a.m. COUNCIL MEETING

TRAIL COMMITTEE MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING 341 HWY. 47, 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 26, 7:00 p.m. BIA BOARD MEETING

#### Proclamations for the Month

- October Women's History Month
- October Breast Cancer Awareness Month
  - October LGBTQ+ History Month
  - October 1 International Day of the Older Person
  - October 8-14 Fire Prevention Week
- $\bullet$  October 11 International Day of the Girl
  - October 21 Take Me Outside Day
- October 16-20 Local Government Week
- October 16-20th Small Business Week
  - October 24 World Polio Day



#### **Road and Sidewalk Closures**

- Bascom Street from Mill to Poplar Streets, road and sidewalk closures from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to Friday, September 22.
- Planks Lane, between Marietta Street and Main Street S., to end of September - road and sidewalk closure
- Victoria Street between Brock Street W. and King Street W., Sundays, May 7 - October 29, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Victoria Street is pedestrianonly during Farmers' Market hours
- 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 Street 500m south of Ravenshoe Road to Zephyr Road closed for bridge repairs to January 2024
- Main Street N. immediately north of Maple Brook Drive sidewalk temporarily closed













#### **OPEN HOUSE**

Proposal to create the Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park



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

Please join Ontario Parks and Partners at a Public Open House to learn more about the proposal, our partner organizations and how to provide your comments. This is a drop in event.

Date: Monday October 23, 2023

Time: 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Location: Uxbridge Secondary School Cafeteria, 127 Planks Lane,

Uxbridge, ON

For more information visit:

https://www.ontario.ca/ page/proposal-createuxbridge-urbanprovincial-park



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

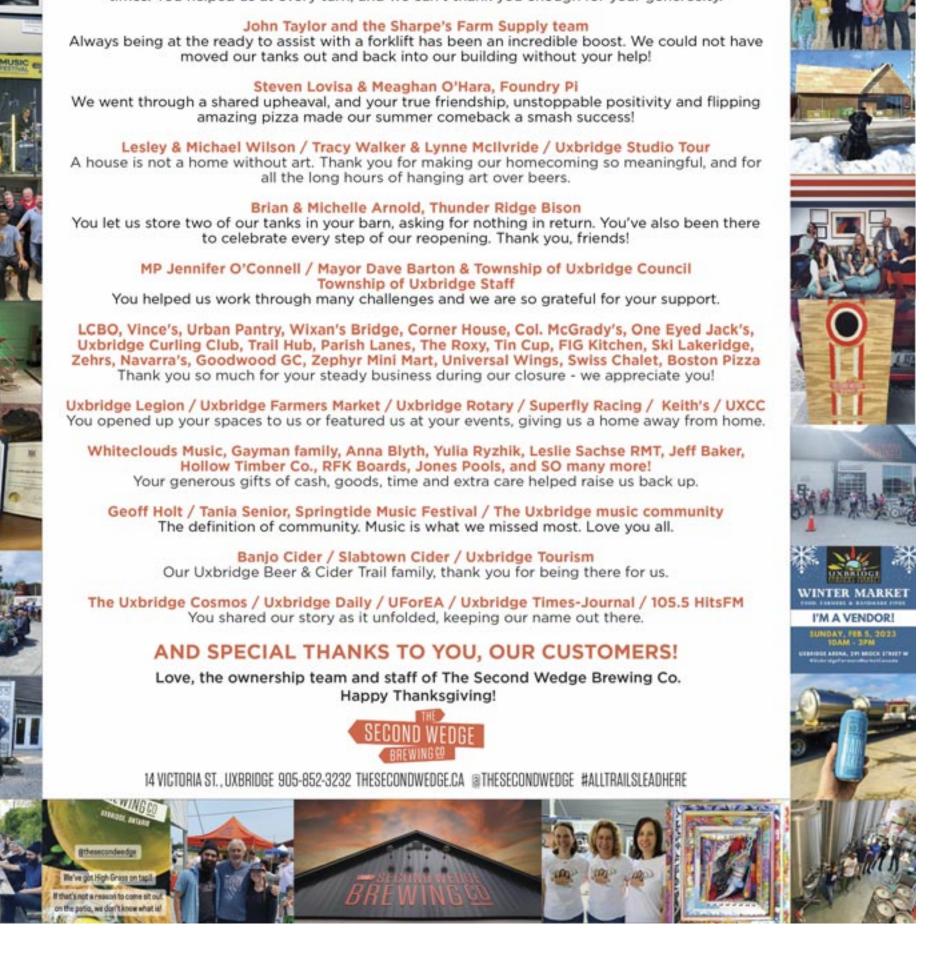


# **GIVING THANKS**

This Thanksgiving season, we want to express our love and gratitude to the Township of Uxbridge community, for helping us get back on our feet

#### Brian Weddle, Ryan Weddle and the Newmarket Precast team

Making room for our refrigerated tractor-trailer on your property let us carry on in our most trying times. You helped us at every turn, and we can't thank you enough for your generosity.



#### Our two cents

#### 'Frighteningly close' to censorship

Normally, the editorial expresses the views of this paper on an issue of community significance. There's an issue currently that must be addressed - that's the last-minute cancellation of a play as inappropriate for Uxbridge audiences. Because the editor/publisher of the Cosmos was one of the two actors, it is inappropriate for her to make any editorial comment. She has, therefore, invited a guest editorial writer - Wynn Walters, active in the Uxbridge arts community, who trained and began his career as a journalist.

The talk of the town this past week has been the abrupt cancellation of a play being presented by OnStage Uxbridge, set to have opened last Thursday. The play was Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune, by acclaimed playwright Terrence McNally. It was cancelled following the dress rehearsal, two days before the opening, because it was deemed "unsuitable for Uxbridge audiences."

The cancellation was an insult to the people of Uxbridge, and an insult to the actors and production team who had put an immense amount of effort into preparation. Particularly galling is the fact that the play was approved by the board of OnStage in June 2022 - which leads one to believe that they had not read the play, or had not done even cursory research to understand the nature of the play, or to see reports from other locations where it had been mounted.

Yes, there's nudity and some sexy banter between the two characters. A reading of the script reveals that McNally's stage directions are very explicit about how the opening scene of the two protagonists making love should be presented. One wonders if the board members read and understood this - and if they objected to loud, explicit and joyous sounds from the bed, why did they approve the play? If members of the OnStage board had pursued it, they would have found comments like this, from a review in the Los Angeles Times: "The nudity was not in the original script just for shock value. It was there to set up Terrence McNally's no-holds-barred story ..." Or this, from the director of the play in Wilmington: "We're trying to do a tasteful nudity where it's natural but not explicit. It just happens: you've been making love, you get out of bed, you don't have clothes on."

The nudity has been in every production since its opening off Broadway in 1987, and has been widely commented on. It should have come as no surprise to the OnStage board members. Yes, the "warnings" in the ads probably should have been more explicit. But there are probably few 16year-olds who don't know the words or understand the meanings of the erotic banterings. The solution for those who don't want to see forbidden areas of skin on stage, or hear brief sex talk - just don't go to the play.

But to have a small group of people decide for a community what they can and cannot see on stage is frighteningly close to censorship. The avalanche of reaction on Facebook reflects the views of an enlightened community well able to handle a gritty, adult play. Almost without exception, people were aghast at the cancellation. As one Facebook post put it: "there are many residents of Uxbridge who would have greatly benefited from sharing in an experience in which the veil of perfection was lifted, and a raw, beautiful, challenging, empowering story was brought to life."

...continued on page 8

### Uxbridge Cosm

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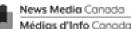
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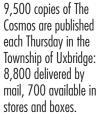












words and support.

Greg Eickmeier & Wendy Dunn Uxbridge

Re: Proposed fee for stormwater pond management

Oh, give me a break! How in the world is the township going to de-

termine how water got from property A into pond B? I've got to think the work to do so would be quite burdensome. There are lots of variables - which way does the property slope, does it slope down to township property or somewhere else, how much of the property is hard surfaced, how absorbent are the lawns and gardens?

And after all that work is complete, the township will determine that most of the water going into the ponds is from rainfall landing on their own roads, sidewalks and parking lots, not from private property.

Don't let this hair-brained idea go any farther.

> Grant Baines Uxbridge

On Saturday, May 21, 2022, a tornado devastated the town of Uxbridge. It destroyed homes, businesses, uprooted trees, and, unfortunately, removed the roof from the Trinity United Church. The church is going to be rebuilt to a smaller facility, along with construction of an apartment building that will take out a family restaurant, a 100-year-old house, and an apartment building (which in the early times of Uxbridge was a foundry).

This construction will also take out a green space with many different kinds of trees, plants and animal habitats (birds, squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, monarch butterflies, bees, etc.).

With all the construction going

on in Uxbridge, with houses going in on every corner, the animals and pollinators have nowhere to go.

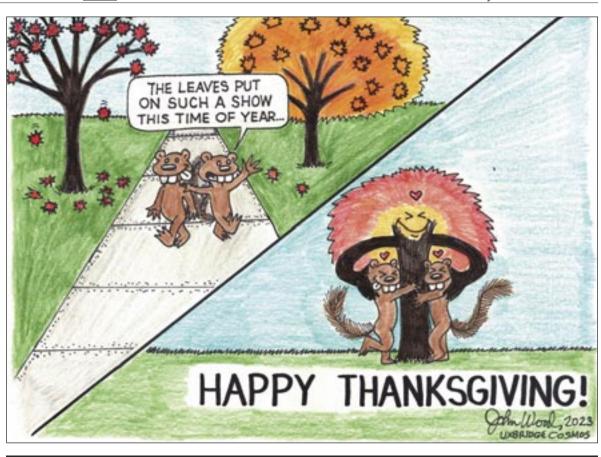
Save some of the green space so these creatures have somewhere to call home. Without them we will not be able to survive.

I have lived in Uxbridge all my life. It is not the same "country town" that it was. It's turning into a "concrete jungle," and animals have to find a new place to live like the people who are currently living in homes that are going to be torn down. Things are very expensive these days, and it's hard to find a place that is affordable and close to where you work to make a living to get by.

Suggestion - build the new church first, before tearing down the restaurant, house and apartment building. Please give the tenants of these buildings more time to find affordable houses. Don't tear them down and leave another hole in the ground of Uxbridge for two or more years. The people making the decision to tear down these buildings already own their own homes, and don't have to worry about finding a place to live.

Instead of building a parking lot for an apartment building, put in a park sitting area, pollinator, vegetable garden and animal habitat so the birds, bees and animals have somewhere to go.

> K. Nicholson Uxbridge



#### Letters to the Editor

We are writing to echo the sentiments and gratitude of our neighbour, Kathleen, about the response to the September 22 explosion and fire at our Planks Lane home.

The fire department deserves the highest accolades for its quick, professional and effective action in containing the fire and preventing it from wreaking further damage to our house and that of our neighbours. Many of the firefighters live in the neighbourhood, and upon hearing the explosion, headed straight to the station before hearing an alarm because they knew it was serious.

We cannot express enough gratitude to the fire department, police officers, neighbours and friends for their caring, support and actions during the fire and in days after. So many dropped by or contacted us to make sure we were safe and offered any assistance they could... cars, rides, meals, shelter, clothing, warm blankets and more. Others dropped by with hugs, coffee, treats, kind

We are so thankful to live in a community with so many who offer selfless help, support and caring. It is truly inspiring!

The Uxbridge Cosmos Thursday, October 5, 2023



#### The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

#### 200 years behind the times

There had been demonstrations against the production in various cities around the world, back in the late 1960s. People were all in flap about the profanity, the references to drugs and promiscuity, the antiwar sentiment, and, oh yes, the nudity. As the second act of Hair, the American Tribal Love-Rock Musical opened at the Royal Alex Theatre in Toronto, where I saw it in 1970, the stage was covered in a transparent screen. Behind it, those members of the cast who chose to, removed their clothes, stood still facing the audience behind the scrim and chanted together:

"Beads, flowers, freedom and happiness."

The essence of the scene that nearly had the musical censored in Germany and parts of the U.S., was inspired by two men who'd taken their clothes off during a demonstration by American young people against the war in Vietnam. In the North American productions (I also saw the Los Angeles production of Hair) the nude scene lasted all of 20 seconds. In Copenhagen, where naked human bodies don't seem to cause nearly the furor as here, the actors thought the nudity behind the scrim was too tame, so they walked naked up and down the aisle prior to the show.

All this came to mind this week, as I learned that the OnStage Uxbridge production of Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune had been cancelled because, in the words of some members of the 12person board of directors, "the show contained far more nudity and implied sexual activity than was expected by the warning, 'brief nudity." In case you were not aware, and I checked with the show's director Conrad Boyce, the show has been on the books for over a year.

Its two principal performers – Grant Evans and Lisha Van Nieuwenhove (actors and in-life husband and wife) – have been memorizing the dialogue and walking through the production for months. They worked with director Boyce and producer Ray Walker to prepare for the show opening last Thursday. However, last Monday, at a dress rehearsal/preview, some members of the board in attendance changed their minds. Oddly, in their cancellation pronouncement last Thursday, those upset by the nudity claimed that, "our board met with the production team and actors to discuss several options ... to better align the production with what was advertised, and with the values of our group and greater community, and the production team decided that the show will not go on."

I checked with the director, the co-stars and with others who attended the dress/preview last Monday, and that's not true. The production team wanted the show to open, as planned on Sept. 28 for eight performances. In other words, it was not a unanimous decision as the board's statement implied. It might help the understanding of the play's morality, to recall what playwright Terrence McNally said about Frankie and Johnny when he wrote it back in 1987.

"It's a romantic fairy tale," Mc-Nally said of the smash-hit play. "I don't think it helps the actors in my plays to lose themselves in the reality of talking to another person. A good McNally actor always knows he's in a play with an audience." In other words, since the play deals with a realistic struggle between Frankie, a waitress at a café in Manhattan, and short-order cook, Johnny, during a contemporary encounter between consenting adults, the nudity is not gratuitous. It helps depict the complexities of two people learning about being in love. And that's why, from the outset the production has had an age rating of

By the way, the tradition for allowing censorship of theatrical productions in the English-speaking world goes back to 1737, when the Lord Great Chamberlain's Office was given authority to "censor parts of a play or forbid performance of a play

altogether, if he does not feel the subject matter is appropriate." At the time, Shakespearean commentator Edward Capell was appointed as "Examiner of the Stage" to censor "sexually explicit themes, nudity on stage and the use of expletives." In other words, privileged people gave other privileged people the right to play god over theatrical content. Censorship by the Lord Great Chamberlain's office did not end until passage of the Theatres Act in the U.K. halfway through the 20th

It took 231 years, but such nonsense finally came to an end on Sept. 26, 1968, not coincidentally the very day before the aforementioned production of *Hair* opened at the Shaftesbury Theatre in Lon-

Wake up, OnStage Uxbridge board members. This is 2023, not 1737. It's time to move on.

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



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#### MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the September monthly draw for the 2023 Trip of the Month Club!

#### The 'St. Marten Magic' trip

won by Dennis Misurka, ticket #150, sold by D. Misurka

#### 2nd place, \$150

won by Barb Murphy, ticket #170, sold by E. deBlicquy

#### 3rd place, \$100

won by Barb Underwood, ticket #042, sold by Cyndie Jacobs

Congratulations to our September winners, and best of luck for the October 2023 draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge Trip of the Month Club for the 'Reggae Sunsplash' package, which includes round trip, direct non-stop flights from Toronto to Montego Bay, Jamaica, 7-nights stay at the 5-star Bahia Principe Grand Jamaica in a superior Jr. suite, all meals, drinks, snacks, daily activities and nightly entertainment. All gratuities and airport transfers are also included.

A gift certificate from Getaway Travel worth \$2,500 or cash of \$2,250 is available instead of the trip. The trip must be taken the month following the draw.



# Norm Goodspeed Drive, Uxbridge email: generalmanager@butternutmanor.com 905-852-6777 ext. 401 \*\*Music Lessons\*\* In Uxbridge In your home or online lessons offered in piano, theory and all band instruments. Beginner to grade 10 RCM. Ages 4 to adult. 35 years experience. \*\*Susan McMullen\*\* B.Mus., B.Ed., ARCT, OCT Royal Conservatory of Music Certified 905-904-0570 susanmcmullen100@gmail.com For more information please visit my Facebook page Susan Jean Thomas McMullen

#### Nude content kills OnStage production

Roger Varley

An internal dispute within local theatre group OnStage Uxbridge regarding nudity has resulted in the Music Hall stage being left bare.

At issue were some scenes of nudity in the play *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair De Lune*, which was scheduled to run Sept. 28, 29 and 30 and Oct. 5, 6 and 7. Following a final dress rehearsal on Sept. 25, to which members of the OnStage board had been invited, some board members expressed their concerns about the nudity involved and demanded changes. Director Conrad Boyce, backed up by actors Lisha Van Nieuwenhove and Grant Evans and producer Ray Walker, balked at the requested changes.



Boyce said one board member demanded no nudity at all, another suggested the actors wear body suits and others wanted the nudity to be less visible. He said the board members' comments were "confrontational, hostile and personal. There was no discussion of the merit of the production otherwise."

Tanner Ferris, vice-president of On-Stage and also the lighting and sound technician for Frankie and Johnny, said the board wanted slight changes to the play's blocking (referring to where the characters place themselves on the stage), saying those changes would not have changed the artistic direction of the show. Although he said he was not personally offended by the nudity, he voted in favour of the changes, adding that the posters promoting the play were "false advertising." The posters stated there was "some nudity and adult situations" and attendance was restricted to those 16 years and older.

"'Some nudity' is not full frontal nudity," Ferris said. "Yes, there was full frontal nudity."

He claimed that Boyce had only talked about "brief" nudity when plugging the show. He also claimed the script does not include any stage directions regarding nudity. However, just a couple of minutes into the script, is the direction "Frankie gets robe out of the closet," and Johnny asks her not to wear the robe because he wants "to bask in (her) nakedness."

Boyce maintains that the nudity is a vital part of telling the story, and is not unnecessary or gratuitous.

Van Nieuwenhove said board members told Boyce he had lied about the

show and its content. She said the cast and crew earnestly considered the changes proposed by the board, including changing the posters to read 18+, but felt they still did not have the encouragement of the board.

"They were censoring us," she said, "and if we had made all their changes, they would have gotten what they wanted, and we would have compromised our show." She also noted that the nudity lasts a total of less than two minutes over the entire course of the show.

At the Monday night rehearsal, one board member said the nudity lasted a half hour, which Van Nieuwenhove said possibly referred to a bedsheet used to cover up Johnny not being properly placed.

"If there was a prop malfunction during the dress rehearsal, they could have gently mentioned to us that we should keep an eye on that, rather than attacking us and the whole show the way they did."

In a Facebook post, OnStage said in part that it sought "minor changes to better align the production with what was advertised, and with the values of our group and greater community."

Laurie Jess, who was president of OnStage Uxbridge when the play was approved - (a brand new board was elected at OnStage's annual general meeting earlier in September) - said that at the time "everyone knew Conrad had good judgment. We never anticipated anything out of the ordinary." He said they believed the nudity would be similar to that presented in the show *Calendar Girls*.

He admitted no one on the board had read the script because "we trusted Conrad."

"OnStage should have been more careful," he said. "There was miscommunication all around. I hope we can put this behind us and produce what people are accustomed to."

Boyce said that, in a meeting with some board executives the morning after the rehearsal, the first thing he was told by OSU president Joanna Purdy-Thornton was, "This isn't on you, this is on us. We weren't prepared for what we were going to see."

Boyce said he has been producing and directing plays for 49 years "and have never had a production cancelled after it was in rehearsal, let alone two days before it was due to open." He said he and the cast are exploring other options to present the play in Uxbridge, noting people have come forward with offers to support such a presentation financially.

"It's a beautiful play," he said. "We were proud of it."



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# Happy Thanksgiving and Thank You from the 158<sup>th</sup> Uxbridge Fall Fair

The Uxbridge-Scott Agricultural Society extends Thanksgiving greetings to our fair goers, sponsors, exhibitors and volunteers.

An army of members and volunteers, both adult and student, gave generously of their time and talents to ensure a quality event.

Thank you all for your enormous contribution to the success of the 158th Fair.

We would be unable to present one of Ontario's best country fairs without the support of the sponsors listed here. Please show your thanks by supporting them this holiday season and through the year.

To any we have missed, please accept our thanks and apologies.

# Thank You!

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**Edward Jones** Optimist Club of Uxbridge Pat and Mike Thomas Pet Hospital on Main Precision Auto Refinishing Port Perry Veterinary Services R. Tindall Produce Queensville Sod Farms Remax Gold Team, Cindy Wood Rick Holtrust Landscaping Roane's Paint and Wallpaper Ross Doble Inc. Savvy Computers Schell Lumber Co. Scugog Equipment Rental Sharpe Farm Supplies Smalley's Produce Steele Carpentry Sunrock Canada Construction Ted Meyers The Bridge Social The Second Wedge Brewing Co. Tom LaRue Trussell Excavating Ltd. Uxbridge Chamber of Commerce Uxbridge Fire Department Uxbridge Horsemen's Association Uxbridge Horticultural Society **Uxbridge Nurseries** Uxbridge Oilies Old Timers Hockey Uxbridge Shoe Sales and Repair **Uxbridge Tutor** Williamson's Uxbridge Wilson's Water Wells Ltd. W. J. Lambert Wood's Dairy Service WP Electric

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This Thanksgiving, please support the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank and shop the Trails of Uxbridge.

See you in the Santa Claus parade, November 18, and at the Fantasy of Lights in Elgin Park, December 2 to January 6.



uxbridgefair.ca

Our two cents, from page 4

One thought that should not get

lost - let's not let anger over the actions of this OnStage board spiral into rejection of everything to

# **QAKTREE**MEDICAL BUILDING

#### Open House!

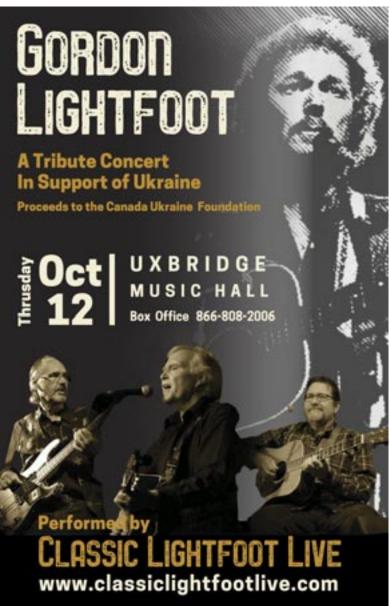




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THE UXBRIDGE HOSPITAL





do with OnStage Uxbridge. This theatre organization has been a mainstay of the Uxbridge cultural scene for many years, and has presented many excellent productions - and given opportunities for theatrical outlet to hundreds of residents. Dozens of people are working very hard on forthcoming productions, and they deserve our support.

The director of this aborted play, Conrad Boyce, and his production team were right in rejecting changes to the play and thus sacrificing their artistic integrity. The board of OnStage Uxbridge was dead wrong in its judgement of the Uxbridge community. Conrad vows that he will mount this play on some stage, at some date, in uncensored form, in Uxbridge. It should be, and will be a sell-

#### Bruins win five in a row

Roger Varley

With three victories last week, the Uxbridge Bruins have now won four games in a row, putting them one point behind the league-leading Clarington Eagles. Those last three wins saw the Bruins score a total of 13 goals, with the scoring spread out among nine players.

Last Tuesday, the Bruins headed north to Lakefield to meet the Chiefs, where they took an early lead with the only goal of the first period. The Chiefs scored two quick goals in the second, but the Bruins responded with three of their own. A late goal in the third was not enough for the Chiefs to overcome the deficit.

Back on home ice on Friday, playing against their Reach Street rivals,

the Port Perry LumberJacks, the two teams traded goals in the first period, with Anthony Lamanna scoring for Uxbridge, assisted by Quinn Meek and Tanner Ryan. Noah Button put the Bruins ahead in the second, followed by Ryan's short-handed marker, but the LumberJacks narrowed the gap as the period wound down.

Meek scored what proved to be the winning goal within the first two minutes of the third. Port Perry had an opportunity to respond two minutes later when they were awarded a penalty shot, but goalie Andrew Claughton made the save. Port Perry came back with their third goal midway through the period, but their attempt to send the game into overtime was stymied by a penalty in the last minute.

The *Cosmos* selected Meek as the player of the game for Uxbridge and Johannes Kalm for Port Perry,

The following night, it was back up north to take on the North Kawartha Knights in Apsley. The Knights racked up a two-goal lead in the first before Alex Hyde scored a power-play goal with less than 15 seconds left in the period. A shorthanded goal restored the two-goal advantage for North Kawartha, but from then on it was all Bruins as they scored one in the second and three unanswered goals in the third.

The Bruins are back in action tomorrow (Friday) night at the arena at 7:45 p.m. to face the Little Britain Merchant and then head down Reach Street on Sunday for a rematch against the LumberJacks.

Bear pause: Prior to the start of Friday's game at the arena, the Bruins paid tribute to former player Mark Boyce. A member of the team from 2002 to 2007, Boyce was the division's leading scorer in 2006-07. He passed away on Sept. 14 at the age of 36.

The Bruins will soon be unveiling their new uniforms, including a third "special occasion" jersey. But the good news for fans is that the new sweaters will feature the players' names on the back.

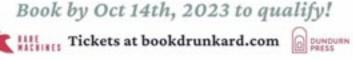




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#### Uxbridge 1973: Life before (and perhaps after?) Durham Region

Conrad Boyce Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In May of this year, Ontario's then Minister of Municipal Affairs Steve Clark (now recently departed), tabled legislation at Queen's Park to dissolve Peel Region in stages over the next two years. At the same time, he announced he would be appointing facilitators to investigate similar moves with other second-tier municipal governments, including the Region of Durham, of which Uxbridge is one of eight members. The purpose of the investigation, he said, was to determine "whether the upper-tier government continues to be relevant to the needs of its communities, or whether the lower-tier municipalities are mature enough to pursue disso-

By "mature enough," it can be presumed he meant not just age - as a municipality, Uxbridge pre-dates Durham Region by a century and a half - but the ability to independently handle the municipal functions currently being carried out by the Region. With that in mind, the Cosmos though it would examine how the township operated 50 years ago (the Region officially came into existence on Jan. 1, 1974), with a specific view to those Region responsibilities: how they were carried out then, and how they might be carried out in future (with the \$40 million per year that is currently contributed to the Region back in Uxbridge's own pockets).

How was Uxbridge municipally organized in 1973? Firstly, it was three in one: the Town of Uxbridge, somewhat smaller than the current urban boundary, with the town hall in the building north of the Shell station on Spruce Street (now demolished); Uxbridge Township, with a town hall above the general store in Goodwood; and Scott Township, north of Davis Drive, with its town hall in the old Sandford schoolhouse. Each of the three municipalities had its own staff. Collectively, they were also members of a second-tier municipality, Ontario County, which had some of the same functions as its successor, Durham Region, but others which were transferred to the province, such as lower-tier courts and property assessment. Hydro was also a municipal responsibility in 1973, but has since been privatized. The three municipalities were amalgamated late in 1973 into the current Township.

#### **Durham Region responsibilities**

- **1.** Policing The Town of Uxbridge had its own police department in 1973. The other two municipalities were patrolled by the OPP. Uxbridge currently contributes more than \$9 million per year to help run the Durham Regional Police Service. Could it run its own police again for that amount, including contracting of special services like forensics to a larger force?
- 2. Water and Sewer The other municipalities, as those areas do now, used wells and septic fields. The town used the current Region wastewater treatment plant on Main Street, and likely would again. The Township would probably also take over the three wells near Bonner Fields and the hospital, as well as the Quaker Hill reservoir. Region employees would transfer to Uxbridge's payroll, as would probably occur in many cases.
- **3.** Transit There was no inter-municipal transit in 1973. A company

called Gray Line operated service to Toronto. A newly independent Uxbridge could investigate contracting service to Durham College or other points south, probably considerably cheaper than our current contribution to Durham Transit.

- **4.** Paramedics This service was privatized in 1973, and could be again, using a station adjacent to the hospital.
- **5.** Waste Collection This is currently contracted out by the Region. The Township could just assume the contract.
- **6.** Road Maintenance Regional roads would be assumed by the Township. Neither of the Region's northern works yards are in Uxbridge, but the Township could perhaps lease space for equipment and supplies in the Brock and Scugog ones.
- **7.** Economic Development and Tourism The Township's current part-time staff person in these areas could become full time. The Township already has cooperative arrangements with neighbouring municipalities, these could be expanded.
- **8.** Public Health In 1973, there was a public health unit at the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital. In the new, expanded hospital, surely room could be found for such a unit again.

**9.** Social Housing - This would be a responsibility new to Uxbridge. The municipality could explore ways to either assume the Region-owned buildings, or privatize them under strict municipal regulation.

Peel Region was given two years to plan for its own dissolution, and its member municipalities for their new independence. The townships in Durham Region may have longer than that, or maybe not. Mayor Dave Barton told the *Cosmos* back in May, "Many members of Uxbridge's senior staff and council came out of the private sector, where major reorganizations happened all the time. We are well equipped to quickly adapt to a changing environment."

Uxbridge thrived before Durham Region. With diligent planning, there's no reason to believe it wouldn't thrive afterward.



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Friday, October 6, 7:45 p.m. against Little Britain at the Uxbridge Arena

Sunday, October 8, 2:25 p.m. against Port Perry at the Scugog Arena

Thursday, October 12, 7:25 p.m. against Clarington at the Garnet B. Rickard Rec Complex





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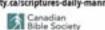
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Classifieds are \$15/week up to 25 words; \$0.20 per additional word (plus HST). Payable in advance by cash, cheque, debit or credit card. Contact Lvann@thecosmos.ca or 905-852-1900 Deadline: Tuesday, 12 noon.

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#### **EVENTS**

SOUP LUNCHEONS at Goodwood United Church. Last Thursday of the month, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Sept. 28. Oct. 26. Nov. 30), \$8.

**UXBRIDGE MINDFULNESS / INSIGHT MEDITATION** is holding in-person meetings at 10 a.m. every other Sunday, Whether experienced or new to meditation. all are welcome. Location is: 2 Campbell Dr., Ste. 201. Email Gail: ghorner550@gmail.com 10/19

#### YARD SALES

YARD SALE Sat., Oct. 7. & Sun., Oct. 8. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lots of great treasures! 11998 Uxbridge/Brock TL. Leaskdale. See you there!

MASSIVE BARN SALE, BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND 589 Old Stouffville Road, Uxbridge. Oct. 7, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. New inventory & some existing mark downs.

#### COMING EVENTS

LEASKDALE LOOP HARVEST CELEBRATION, Sat., Oct. 14, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Pick your pumpkins, buy produce, honey, cider, syrup, baked goods, perennials, pottery, art and woodwork. leaskdaleloop.ca



#### Focus on Finance with Tammy Scuralli, Edward Jones

#### Focus on what you can control: Five steps to deal with rising costs

Many Canadians find today's rising cost of living difficult to manage. If you're on a fixed income, or haven't been able to increase your income, you're probably noticing that the value of a dollar isn't what it used to be.

Focus on the things you can control: Rising interest rates, record high inflation, the ongoing conflict in Europe, and a global pandemic are topics that gather a lot of media attention. But those topics are beyond your control and focusing on them provides you with no additional influence over the situation. Focus on the things you can control, like making changes to your personal finances that will allow you to mitigate the impact of today's financial environment.

Understand where your money goes: You may be like many other Canadians and have a general idea of how much you spend each month. If it has never been a problem in the past, you may have very little interest in tracking your monthly expenses.

This strategy may work during times of financial ease but is less than optimal during more challeng-





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ing times. An easy place to start is to identify how much you're spending on wants rather than needs. A 'want' refers to discretionary spending, such as eating out or going to the movies. On the other hand, a 'need' is an essential expense that supports the necessities of life, such as utility bills and mortgage or rent payments.

Review your debt for savings opportunities: If you're carrying debt, you should review the terms of the agreement and explore any options you may have to reduce the balance. This could mean increasing your monthly payments, which in turn can reduce the amount of interest you pay in total. Another option to consider is consolidating multiple debts into a single debt.

Establish a rainy-day fund: If the last

three years have taught us anything, it's that life is unpredictable. Therefore, it's always a great idea to have some cash set aside for those unpredictable expenses. This is commonly referred to as an emergency fund, and we typically recommend that you have three to six months' worth of expenses available.

Take advantage of compound interest: Compound interest can be thought of as interest on interest and increases exponentially over time.

As an example, assume you have \$10,000 in an account that pays 5% annual interest. In the first year, you earn 5% of \$10,000, which is \$500 interest. That \$500 gets added to your account, and in the second year, you earn 5% of \$10,500, which is \$525. In year three, the interest has grown to \$551.25, and

the process continues.

Plan for the long-term: With breaking news and the latest fads constantly available at our fingertips, it's easy to get caught up in the here and now. However, thinking long-term can raise important questions, such as: When can I retire and how much money will I need? How much will tuition be when my kids or grandkids go to post-secondary school? When should I start taking my Canada Pension Plan (CPP) retirement benefits? How much

should I dedicate to my investments to make sure I reach my goals? Should I contribute to my RRSP, TFSA, or perhaps some combination of both?

Remember, budgeting isn't about doing less, it's about doing the most you can with what you have.

This column, written and published by Edward Jones, Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund, presents general information only. Insurance and annuities are offered by Edward Jones Insurance Agency (except in Quebec).

For more information, please contact Tammy E. Scuralli, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones, at 905-852-1244.



You are invited to celebrate with the Sandford United Church congregation on the occasion of its 161/124th anniversary. Service is at 10 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 15, with the Rev. Wayne Reed as quest minister and special music. All are welcome to join with us on this very special day.

#### Clifford 'John' Dallimore

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved

He passed away peacefully with loved ones by his side on August 3, 2023.

He was a loving partner, friend and parental figure.



Born September 18, 1959, John lived his entire life in Ontario. He studied Veterinary Medicine at the University of Guelph and gave 40 years of his life to caring for and healing animals.

John founded The First Special Service Force Living History Group, working tirelessly for decades to preserve the legacies of World War II

Life's simple pleasures brought great joy to John. He enjoyed taking walks with his cattle dogs, repairing and selling used tractors and most notably making those he cared about smile.

He is survived by those closest to him: Erin, Megan (Justin, Smithen) Graham (Hannah), Eric (Julie), Erin (Andre) and Glen (Jennifer) to name just a few of the people close to his heart.

He is also survived by his father Donald, sister Karen, and dear aunt Barbara.

During his short but vigorous fight against cancer, John was supported by the dedicated healthcare professionals at Sunnybrook, St. Michael's and Southlake Hospitals, and the caring and compassionate team at Home and Community Care Support Services. Their kindness made all the difference.

His passing will be honoured privately by those closest to him in the way that he had requested.

For those who wish to honour John's passing, please make a donation



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