

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 48

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, December 7, 2023

Back from Ghana • Cancelled play a go • Bruins are picking it up

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YOU'VE GOT A BAG ON YOUR HEAD, CHARLIE BROWN - VIP (Vocally Inspired Performers) brings Charles Schulz's classic Peanuts characters to life in its production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, which opens next Wednesday evening at the Uxbridge Music Hall, playing only until Dec. 10. Directed by Marisa Hachey, the musical features all the beloved Peanuts names - bossy Lucy, blanket-toting Linus, piano-playing Schroeder, Sally, and of course, Snoopy in his big red doghouse. Tickets for *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* are available through starticketing.com *Photo by John Cavers*

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Uxbridge trustee named vice-chair of DCDSB

Conrad Boyce
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

About three years ago, one of Richard Damianopoulos' daughters came running into the living room with a copy of the *Cosmos*. There was a story that north Durham's long-time trustee on the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB), Kathy LeFort from Port Perry, had decided to retire and move elsewhere.

Damianopoulos had run against LeFort in both the 2014 and 2018 civic elections, placing second each time. Now there was a vacancy for that seat. The school board had two options; they could hold an expensive by-election, or

take applications to fill the seat by appointment. They chose the latter, he applied, and likely because he had demonstrated his commitment to serve by running twice for the seat, he was chosen. In 2022, after two years as an appointee, he was officially elected to the seat. And last week, he was named vice-chair of the DCDSB board by its other seven members.

Interestingly, Damianopoulos' own six children don't attend St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary here in Uxbridge. Instead, he and wife Pamela have chosen to home school them, a choice Damianopoulos says suits the lifestyle of their large family. Pamela bears most of the teaching load, although Richard, a provincial employee with the policy division of the De-

partment of the Environment, works from home frequently and contributes his share to their education.

The family are strong members of the local Sacred Heart parish, where Richard often serves as the lector (reading from scripture) and his older children help with the ceremonial events of the service. And in the Damianopoulos classroom, Richard and Pamela not only closely follow the provincially-formulated general curriculum, but also the religious content prescribed by the Catholic Church. Richard derives his strong Catholic roots from his Italian mother, while Pamela's family comes from Goa,

...continued on page 8

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for December, 2023

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

Employment Opportunities

Complete details of all open positions are available at

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

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

Winter Parking Reminder

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



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Local healthcare practices featured in Ghana

Submitted by Jodi Bussiere

A group of brave healthcare professionals and volunteers travelled 8,500 km to northern Ghana in mid-November as part of a mission to partner with healthcare workers at the Leyaata Hospital in the small village of Carpenter. The hospital was built during the COVID years, and is now a fully functional hospital and outpatient facility, which brings crucial healthcare services to the northern region of Ghana.

The 33 individuals on this mission included 28 Canadians, most of them from Uxbridge and surrounding communities, and five individuals from the UK. The travel to and from Carpenter took two and a half days each way, including three planes and a long bus ride. They worked for two weeks at Leyaata Hospital, and everyone who attended had to raise the funds to pay for their own trip, as well as take two and a half weeks away from home to be part of this mission.

Uxbridge physician Dr. Jennifer Wilson started these missions in 2007, when the group carried out very different assignments. There was no hospital back then, very limited supplies and limited resources. The group would go out on a bus to villages and provide health services and surgeries on site, then bus back to base camp every night. Building the Leyaata Hospital was always the goal. Finally they have helped reach this objective, and now the team is continuing to develop a world-class facility with up-to-date practices for the Northern Regions of Ghana. Many healthcare workers from Uxbridge have attended these missions numerous times over the years.

Jodi Bussiere, a registered physiotherapist and owner of Uxbridge Physiotherapy, and Dr. Ellen Chin, a chiropractor from Axis Chiropractic, were asked to join the mission this year, and support Leyaata's Physiotherapy Technician, Ahmed, who has been working at the

Leyaata Hospital since it opened. Bussiere and Chin's roles were to work alongside and mentor Ahmed, help expand his clinical skills and bring equipment which augmented the clinic he had already established. The team of four (including a local volunteer, Esther, who helped with translation and the flow of patients in the clinic) worked long hours for two weeks, seeing four times the daily number of patients normally seen in the physiotherapy clinic. They also treated inpatients who may have had surgery or various conditions requiring physiotherapy while they were in the Leyaata Hospital.

Due to the limited availability of healthcare in the northern regions of Ghana, people would travel for hours to come to the hospital and for Physiotherapy. Common conditions treated in the physiotherapy clinic included "waist pain" (otherwise know as "back pain") and neck pain, likely contributed in part by carrying heavy loads on their heads for miles and miles, carrying infants in wraps on their backs, and bending over to care for their farmlands and home properties. Some of the locals spoke English, or a translator was used to help assess and treat clients. Bussiere and Chin were able to practice their skills and mentor Ahmed to develop his skills further. By the time the mission was over, the team of four was sad to say goodbye; however, with modern technology, they will be able to communicate via email or Zoom, and perhaps another mission will allow them to work together in the future.

Additional healthcare areas in action on this mission included emergency services involving trauma and emergency pediatric training, orthopedic training, midwifery training, surgery, dentistry, optometry, diagnostic imaging, pharmacy and biomedical engineering. All teams worked with a smile on their faces, sweat often on their brows (the av-

erage daily temperature was 35 degrees) and compassion in their hearts. The lessons they learned and the people they helped will be memories in their hearts for years to come.

Other fun parts of this mission included a talent show, with fun acts performed by our Canadian and UK teams, a beautiful church service on Sunday morning with singing and dancing throughout the program, a tour of the local grounds in Carpenter where we learned about how they grow and harvest most of their own food on site, a football (soccer) match between Canada/UK and Ghana (we tied!) and some tours on our journeys to and from home in Accra, the capital city of Ghana, and Amsterdam. The team of 33 arrived not necessarily knowing each other, and by the end were a cohesive team, who were sad to say goodbye to one another.

Thank you to Dr. Jennifer Wilson for being our tribe leader all these years, and for inviting us to join the outstanding individuals on the Ghana Healthcare Partners Team.



The team at the Leyaata Hospital in Carpenter, Ghana. From left: Dr. Ellen Chin, Ahmed, Jodi Bussiere and Esther. Submitted photo

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Our two cents

From Uxpool to arugula - *The Uxbridge poems*

We've been trying for awhile now to get an article in on Uxbridge resident Bruce Brandon and his poems. But space in the paper disappears, and the piece gets put off another week. So we decided to use this space instead.

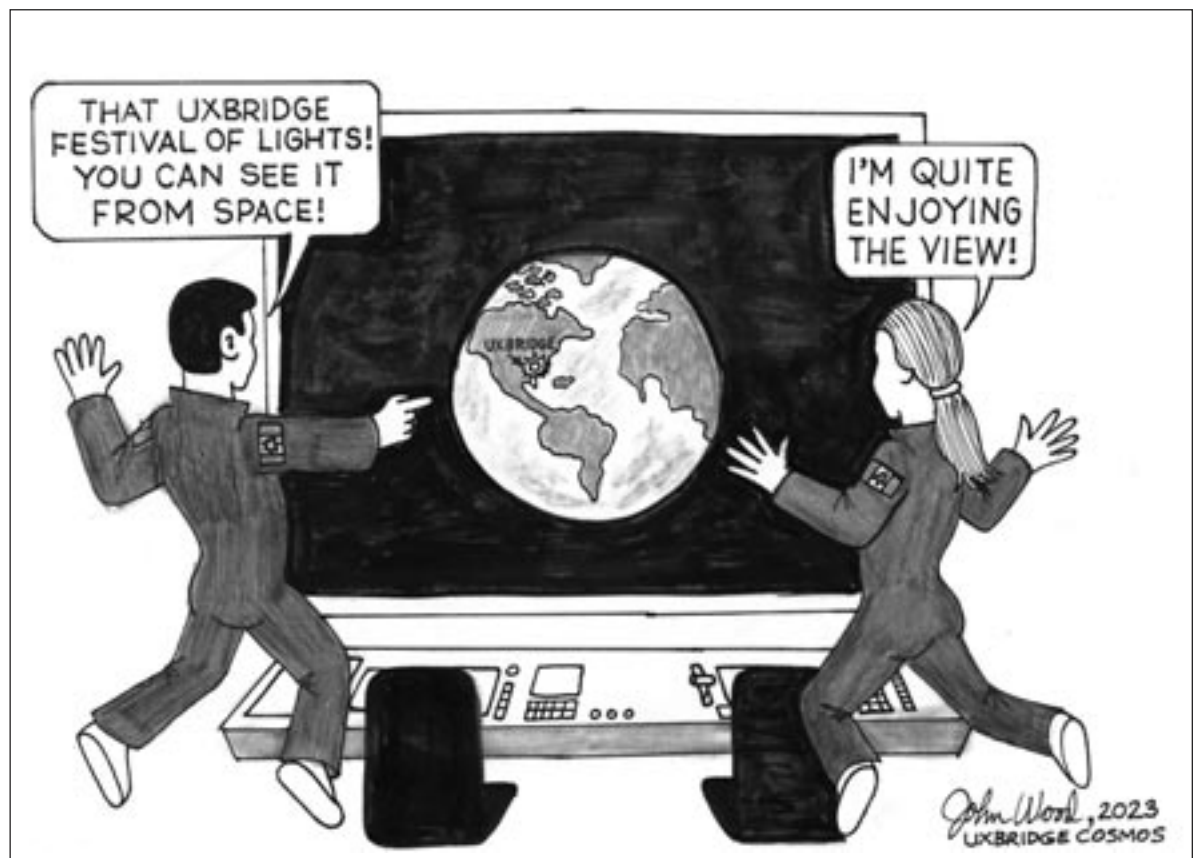
Bruce Brandon says that he has been writing poetry for as long as he can remember. When his family moved to Uxbridge in 1945, he was an infant. By the time he had finished listening to stories told by his grade two teacher, he says he "could see that people and places close at hand were worth writing about."

In 2015, he assembled his first collection in a chapbook (a small paperback booklet that can contain ballads, poems, short tales, etc.) entitled *Pebbles and Crystals*. Since then, he has created six other little books. Most intriguing to readers, however, is perhaps *The Uxbridge Poems*, a chapbook that he released earlier this year.

The Uxbridge Poems contains poems directly about Uxbridge - *There are Three Statues in our Town*, or *Before Uxpool*, or *Coming of Age at Elgin Pond*. It also contains poems about life in Uxbridge that practically everyone can relate to in one form or another. *Waiting for the Dentist*. *Minor Hockey Career*. *Valley Lives*. The poems are insightful, relatively short (*Roxy Moment Three* is only nine lines long), and so easy to read, one can forget they're poetry.

Brandon has also released *Sam Sharpe: Imagined Journals of an Uxbridge Man*, a completely fictional diary written in the voice of Sharpe, but fact-based; Brandon did extensive research into Sharpe's life and career, and wrote these diary entries. Again, Brandon writes with insight, succinctly, yet poignantly. Sharpe is no longer a lofty historical figure - he becomes a neighbour, a friend, someone famous that we get to boast of as our own.

Both these little books are available at Blue Heron Books (if there are any left!) and would make the *perfect* gift for a neighbour or friend who loves to call Uxbridge home. And when you see Bruce Brandon in Zehrs, ask him about arugula (p. 62, *The Uxbridge Poems*. Look it up.)



Letters to the Editor

I saw in the Nov. 30, issue of the *Cosmos* that Uxbridge township staff has hired a marketing expert, Mr. Curtis McAleer, to help promote the downtown to visitors.

Mr. McAleer, I beg you, to make your first recommendation to the town council the following: Council should enact a bylaw whereby business landlords must facilitate removal of any exterior signs for a business, no longer than 30 days after a business has vacated the premises.

I know Mr. Varley has written about this more than once, and there have been multiple letters to the *Cosmos* editor over the years,

stating similar opinions on this topic.

Any visitor to our downtown would wonder why one section of downtown looks fantastic, while some parts of the section just to the east are less than appealing. Upon seeing this section, a visitor's eyes would be drawn to the vertical eight-foot bright white plastic "Rush Photo 1 Hour Photo Service" sign and the yellow and red "Rush Photo" sign below that one. Rush Photo went out of business well over five years ago!

Brian MacIsaac
Uxbridge

On behalf of the Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary and its thrift store, Chances Are, I want to thank you for dedicating last week's *Cosmos* toward highlighting a major problem of dropping off goods that we obviously can't sell. We hire a waste management company to remove all of these unsuitable items to the cost of \$30,000 a year.

Again, your interest and concern is much appreciated.

Nancy Emo
President
Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



Support our local businesses so they can support The Cosmos.

Because without them, we can't continue to deliver the news you want and need.

The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Am I wrong?

column by Roger Varley

No news is good news

There are two ways of looking at that iconic saying in the heading. One way is to interpret it as saying "if there's no news, that's good." The other way is to come to the conclusion that whatever news there is, none of it is good.

Readers will notice a definite absence of what could legitimately be called "hard news" in this week's edition of the *Cosmos*. There has been almost nothing worth reporting on at council for the last two or three sessions. Uxbridge has been awash recently with Christmas craft shows, concerts, music nights and various other holiday happenings, but little of it could be described as "hard" news.

As a newspaperman with over 60 years in the business, I know there are times during the year that are almost guaranteed to be slow news periods. Summertime is such a period. People are off on holiday, school is out, council takes a summer break and actual news is hard to come by, particularly in a small community. Christmas is another time when feel-good items and holiday events dominate. Usually, we jackals in the media dislike these times: we want the hard news, the news that will get people talking, the stories we can get our teeth into. But this time around, at least for this cynical old writer, I welcome the dearth of news, at least on the local scene.

As some of you might know, I've been a news junkie since I was a young boy. I devour the news, from many sources and from many parts of the world. But lately, the news from the rest of the world has all become too much: too much despair, too much horror, too much misery.

Any one who even casually follows American politics soon comes to realize that, whether at the federal or state level, politics has become a clown show. The U.S. judicial system, from the Supreme Court on down, is a three-ring circus. And the prospect of Donald Trump being returned as president is, to me, horrifying.

But things are not much better in Canada. Pierre Poilivre has become a cardboard

cutout of himself, reduced to monotonously chanting about "bring it home" and "powerful paycheques" and blaming Justin Trudeau for everything from the housing crisis to litter on the streets, while offering no plans, policies or direction for any of the myriad problems facing the nation. At the same time, Trudeau continues to blunder from one gaffe to another, Jagmeet Singh has completely lost any chance he might have had to resurrect the NDP, and the other parties - well, they're just other parties.

And while the U.S. congress and the Canadian Parliament dither about aid for Ukraine, that nation continues to battle against an invader that is becoming increasingly belligerent. The Israel-Hamas conflict shows no signs of abating and it's civilians on both sides who are paying the price. Thousands are being slaughtered in Sudan and the world does nothing.

As all this unfolds, big corporations are laying off thousands of workers, homelessness rates grow apace and the mega-corporations that run the grocery business show no signs of reducing prices. Is it any wonder there is such an incredible increase in the number of people having mental health issues?

When the tornado hit Uxbridge last year, that was a news story! Yes, it caused suffering for some of our residents and I was not immune to that suffering, but it was a story that had to be told. And while I felt badly about all the damage, it didn't leave me depressed. The thing is, it wasn't caused by some puffed-up politician trying to make points or some warmonger attempting to gain more power. Those are the stories that leave me depressed.

So, as you leaf through this week's edition, relax, check out the ads from your local stores, consider attending the concerts and plays that are on offer, and read the feel-good stories. Maybe, just for a little while, we can shut the rest of the world out.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Fighting fakery

Have you ever read a story in a magazine and wondered who the reporter was who wrote it? Well, I have, often. More specifically, imagine that you were reading an edition of *Sports Illustrated* a few weeks back. You saw a story that caught your attention written by Drew Ortiz. If you then searched the *Sports Illustrated* website to find out more about Ortiz, here's the message you'd have found:

"Nowadays, there is rarely a weekend that goes by where Drew isn't out camping, hiking, or just back on his parents' farm," the *SI* site said.

Well, the mystery around Drew Ortiz and his *SI* story intrigued reporters at a New York-based science and technology publication called *Futurism*. They did some checking and discovered that the photo of Drew Ortiz could be traced to an artificial intelligence image website with the description: "neutral white young-adult male with short brown hair and blue eyes." *Futurism* further reported that *Sports Illustrated* published pieces called "product reviews" and attributed them to fake author names with completely fabricated biographies. In other words, it proved that neither the reporter Drew Ortiz nor the story Ortiz is supposed to have written were real. Both were generated from AI technology. Both were entirely faked.

When challenged on the apparent fabrication, Arena Group, the owners of *Sports Illustrated*, blamed the suspicious content and the mystery around Drew Ortiz and another writer, Sora Tanaka, on a company called AdVon. Then, Arena Group dug itself into a deeper hole when it claimed the reason for the fake names was to protect the identities of the real writers. The notion that sports writers needed pseudonyms to write product reviews is ridiculous. Worse, the fallout has devastated a sports media brand known for its journalistic excellence for generations.

In any case, the whole episode has outed artificial intelligence as just another name for fake news. So, why should we care whether Ortiz is real or not, or whether *Sports Illustrated* faked the stories? Well, the same reason we should worry that an investigative journalist might invent sources to enhance a career. Or that a columnist might lift material from other columnists without crediting them. Or that a respected book reviewer might steal the words of another critic and present them as his own.

All three have happened.

In September 1980, Janet Cooke, a reporter for the *Washington Post*, told her editor she'd found an amazing story from the streets of D.C. She wrote a sensational series about a heroine addict, who was selling the stuff to other addicts. Cooke alleged that the pusher, Jimmy, was only five years old. The series earned her a Pulitzer Prize in 1981. It turned out that the story was entirely made up. She forfeited the Pulitzer, was fired and disappeared. The case of *Globe and Mail* columnist Margaret Wenté committing plagiarism on several occasions was investigated by Media Culpa blogger Carol Wainio; she pointed to a number of instances in which she said Wenté lifted quotes from published sources without attributing them. But I think the saddest instance was that of Ken Adachi. Among Canada's most recognized literary critics, when challenged in the 1980s, he admitted to plagiarizing three paragraphs from a book review in *Time* magazine; while he stayed on at the *Toronto Star*, he later took his own life.

By coincidence, this week, a journalism student from Centennial College (where I taught news reporting for 18 years) called for an interview about a report she was compiling. She asked if I would answer questions about integrity in journalism. I told her, while I had taught a journalism law and ethics course at Centennial for a few years, my answers were purely my own thoughts on the issue. I cited the cases of Cooke, Wenté and Adachi.

I explained in Janet Cooke's case - fabricating the five-year-old addict story - that there had been pressure on her, partly because she was a person of colour, to produce something sensational to bring her and the paper attention and praise. "Jimmy's Story" hurt them both. Margaret Wenté claimed she had merely forgotten to attribute her sources. Sometimes, delivering columns not just once a week, but every other day, puts a great deal of competitive pressure on a writer; under the gun, she may have slipped up and paid the price. Ken Adachi created some of the most remarkable review copy during a stellar career at the *Toronto Star*; but he was crushed by the intensity of the plagiarism controversy and could find no other way out.

Faking it in journalism hurts its author, its publisher, the profession and most important of all, the pursuit of truth.

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

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One Voice seasonal offering dedicated to accompanist

There is no time more important for traditionalists than the Christmas season, and one of Uxbridge's favourite traditions are Christmas concerts offered by local choirs. Uxbridge is fortunate to have several community choirs, and together they make every December memorable and musical.

One Voice Singers has been part of

this tradition for over 20 years, and are proud to present their favourite music for your enjoyment. This year, the choir is dedicating its Dec. 8, holiday performance to "one of the most important people in our choir," accompanist Deb Thompson.

For over 20 years, Deb has been at the keyboard at all our rehearsals and performances, and has contributed

enormously to our knowledge, fun and success," says a spokesperson for the choir.

First recruited by Angela Wakeford, then continuing to work with Charles White, Thompson's musical talent, "coupled with her intuitive understanding of choirs and their (our) idiosyncrasies, have made all our gatherings joyful and meaningful. Thanks, Deb, from all of us, for all the memories."

One Voice Singers concert, Christmas is Coming!, will be presented Friday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m., and on Saturday, December 9, at 3 p.m., at St. Paul's Anglican Church. The concert will feature new and old music, some familiar, some more unique.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at the door or from a choir member.

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MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

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

The 'Chateau Montebello' trip was won by **Allen Loyst**

ticket #317, sold by Lisa Brooks

2nd place winner, \$150, won by Andrew Vereen

ticket #005, sold by Ahmad Aslam

3rd place winner, \$100, won by Dr. F. Bessay

ticket #112, sold by Dale Hickey

Congratulations to our November winners, and best of luck for the December 2023 draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge Trip of the Month Club. 'Santa's Surprise' trip package includes round trip flights from Toronto to a SURPRISE exotic destination, 7-nights' stay in a 5-star resort, all meals, drinks, snacks, daily and nightly entertainment, and all gratuities. As the December destination is a SURPRISE, here are a couple of hints ... pack a bathing suit, bring sunscreen and get ready for some R & R.

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 in the month following the draw.



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Trustee becomes vice-chair, from page 1

the former Portuguese colony on India's western coast, which is largely Catholic.

In addition to Sacred Heart and

St. Joseph's here in Uxbridge, Damianopoulos also regularly visits the Catholic parishes in Beaverton and Port Perry, as well as attending the DCDSB office in Oshawa for board and committee

meetings; he has served on the finance and audit committees, as well as the parent advisory committee, which works with school councils across Durham to ensure parents have meaningful input into how the board's schools are run.

The DCDSB, although it only has one school in each of the northern townships, is a sizeable board, with 22,000 students and 2,200 teaching and support staff (St. Joseph's in Uxbridge has 325 students and 34 staff). There is no

Catholic secondary school in the north, and although some older students go south to Pickering or Oshawa, others stay close to home by attending the public high school (such as Uxbridge Secondary).

When Richard and Pamela moved north from the city 10 years ago, they deliberately wanted a smaller community in which to raise their growing family.

"We love Uxbridge and all the activities there are for families," says Damianopoulos, "especially all the trails. We spend a lot of time together on them. And shortly after we moved here, I knew I wanted to give back by serving the community in some way."



Richard Damianopoulos, Uxbridge trustee for the Durham Catholic District School Board, was recently named vice-chair to the seven-member DCDSB board.

Submitted photo

Experience the Joy of that First Christmas

Friday, December 15
Saturday, December 16
Sunday, December 17

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Matinée December 16 at 2 pm

Uxbridge Music Hall
Tickets: starticketing.com

Directed by Conrad Boyce
Produced by Ray Walker
Starring Lisha Van Nieuwenhove and Grant Evans
Presented by Ted Barris and Stupefied Theatrical Productions

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Warning: Adult situations & language, including some nudity. Recommended for ages 16+

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Bruins get revenge on Ice

Roger Varley

After losing 3-2 to the Georgina Ice a week earlier, the Uxbridge Bruins gained revenge in Friday's rematch at the arena, downing the Ice 4-1.

In an entertaining, well-played game by both sides, Uxbridge took the lead with two goals late in the first period. With less than two minutes remaining in the opening stanza, Quinn Meek scored on a long shot from the left boards, assisted by Anthony Lamanna and Owen Shier. Then Meek combined with Ty Roberts and Lamanna on a beautiful passing play for his second goal as the period came to an end.

Less than four minutes into the second period, Lamanna was tripped as he raced for the puck behind the Ice net and he slid hard into the boards, knocking a basketball-sized hole in the panel. The game was delayed 28 minutes while arena staff fixed the damage, and when the job was complete, it was almost impossible to tell where the hole had been. Following the delay, Shier put the Bruins three goals ahead after a nifty dippy-doodle at the blue line. Lamanna and Roberts were credited with assists.

It was midway through the third period that Georgina's Mike McCullough spoiled goalie Andrew Cloughton's shut-out bid with a power-play goal. Mark Sifri was handed a charging penalty late in the period and Georgina pulled their goalie to give them a six-on-four attack, but Roberts scored an empty-netter as the clock wound down.

The *Cosmos* selected Roberts as the Bruins player of the game and also gave the nod to McCullough of Georgina.

The win put the Bruins one point behind second-place Georgina in the PJHL's Orr Division standings, but the Ice have two games in hand. Only 11 points separate the league-leading Clarington Eagles and fourth-place Port Perry LumberJacks, setting up an exciting run during the second half of the season.

The Bruins are back in action tomorrow (Friday) night at the arena when they host the Lum-

berJacks at 7:45 p.m. On Tuesday, they travel north to face the Lakefield Chiefs.

Bear pause: A reminder that the Bruins are collecting toys for the annual Uxbridge toy drive. They ask fans to bring toys wrapped in

see-through packages and place them on the table in the lobby. It's not as much fun as the Teddy Bear Toss used to be a few seasons ago, but it still helps youngsters have a gift for Christmas.



For complete season and player information go to
uxbridgebruins.pjhl.on.hockeytech.com

Friday, December 8, 7:45 p.m.
 against Port Perry
 at the Uxbridge Arena

Tuesday, December 12, 7:25 p.m.
 against Lakefield
 at the Lakefield Smith Community Centre




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COSMOS CROSSWORD

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41	42			43	44	45				46	47
48				49					50		
51				52					53		

Across

- 1. Possesses
- 4. Tiny particle
- 8. It may be lent or bent
- 11. "Shoot!"
- 12. Hurried
- 13. Aforetime
- 14. It's not Lady Luck's number
- 16. Stitch up
- 17. Negative alternative
- 18. One of three in Fiji
- 20. Some stay at home
- 23. Wishful place
- 26. Fill the tank, with "up"
- 29. Standards
- 31. Defiantly cocky manner
- 33. Ad word
- 34. Drink garnish
- 35. Military meal
- 37. Tennis score word
- 39. Place to unwind
- 41. Sewer line?
- 43. Approximate
- 48. "You ___ the apple of my eye"
Stevie Wonder
- 49. Glimpsed
- 50. Biblical pronoun
- 51. Darth to Luke
- 52. Caroled
- 53. "Comprende?"

Down

- 1. The Cat was in one
- 2. Krakatau outflow
- 3. It's got you covered
- 4. Enchant
- 5. Little piggy, so to speak
- 6. Tantalite, e.g.
- 7. On the ___
- 8. Oriental
- 9. Bio stat
- 10. Set-to
- 15. Fisherman's buy
- 19. Be in the red
- 21. Pat
- 22. Pro or con
- 24. "I cannot tell a ___!"
- 25. Ordinance
- 26. Break
- 27. Wolfed
- 28. Hot
- 30. Screening
- 32. Down
- 36. The total of something
- 38. Not so much
- 40. Cave dwellers
- 41. Tricked
- 42. Hurler's stat.
- 44. Vast amount
- 45. Popular Downing Street address
- 46. Article
- 47. Observer

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JAZZ IN LEASKDALE CONCERT SERIES, hosted by the LMMSO. Tom Baker and friends return to entertain music lovers. Friday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets by donation at the door.

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2 Cor. 5:1b

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biblesociety.ca/scriptsures-daily-manna/
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1	H	A	S		4	A	T	O	M		8	E	A	R
11	A	S	K		12	T	O	R	E		13	A	G	O
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26	G	A	S		29	C	R	I	T	E	R	I	A	
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Cancelled play finally coming to Music Hall stage

The play that almost wasn't comes to the Uxbridge Music Hall stage next Wednesday, Dec. 13, for five shows only.

Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Terrence McNally, was originally supposed to be at the Music Hall back at the end of September. Local theatre group OnStage Uxbridge had agreed to produce the show, but several members of the group's board demanded changes at the final dress rehearsal, saying the play contained too much nudity for Uxbridge audiences. The OSU board and the *Frankie & Johnny* production team (director Conrad Boyce, producer Ray Walker, and actors Grant Evans and Lisha Van Nieuwenhove) could not reach a consensus on what best suited McNally's original vision for the play, and the show was cancelled.

After Boyce published an account of the situation on his Facebook page, offers of help to mount the production apart from OSU poured in. Four dates at the Music Hall became available, so Boyce quickly booked them. The show is now being presented by Stupefied Productions, headed by Shira Forsyth, and local author Ted Barris.

"We've had an amazing amount of support from the community and

beyond," says Boyce. "This show has been over two years in the making, so we're really looking forward to it finally coming to life on the stage!"

Discussion of this production often leads to the nudity aspect.

"We learned that some people heard it was 45 minutes of Johnny (Grant Evans) naked on stage! It *might* be 45

seconds," explains Boyce.

Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune focuses on two lonely, middle-aged people whose first date ends with their tumbling into bed in her one-room apartment in the west side of Manhattan. Johnny is certain he has found his soulmate in Frankie; she is far more cautious and disin-

clined to jump to such conclusions. As the night unfolds, they slowly begin to reveal themselves as they take tentative steps towards the possible start of a new relationship.

Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de

Lune, Uxbridge Music Hall, Dec. 13 - 16, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 16 matinee, 2 p.m. Tickets \$25, available through starticketing.com Adult situations, 16+ recommended.

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ANDREWS, Jean
(née Harvey)


April 30, 1924 - November 6, 2023



Passed away at the impressive age of 99 ½ years, with family at her side. Beloved wife of the late Wilfred Andrews (2007). Loving mother of the late David Andrews (Bernice), Barbara Small, Shirley Illingworth (Peter), Paul Andrews, Beverly Sakaki (Glenn) and Gail Harrison (Merritt). Grandma will always be loved and remembered by William (Colleen), Wesley (Melissa), Gordon (Jillian), Carolyn (Steve), Lori (Donal), Daryl (Amy), Brandon, Eric (Lydia), Stephanie, Rebecca, Laura (Justin) and Russell, and by her 13 great-grandchildren.

A private celebration of Jean's life has been entrusted to Low & Low Funeral Home, Uxbridge. As expressions of sympathy and in lieu of flowers, donations to the Markham-Stouffville Hospital Foundation, Bethany's Hope Foundation or Variety Village would be appreciated.

Friends are invited to send condolences or make donations by visiting www.lowandlow.ca



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