

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 20 No. 4

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, February 1, 2024

More nods to Maud • Bird count results are in • Bruins having a bumpy season



THE YEAR OF MAUD - Council (from left: councillors Todd Snooks, Gordon Shreeve, Willie Popp, Mayor Dave Barton, councillor Zed Pickering and regional councillor Bruce Garrod) declares that 2024 be "Lucy Maud Montgomery 150," as it is the 150th anniversary of the famed author's birth. There are several events celebrating Montgomery's birth planned for the year. *Photo by John Covers*

Serious accident sees one dead, several others injured

A two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Sandford Rd. and Conc. 6 has left one woman dead and four others with serious, life-threatening injuries.

According to the Durham Region Police Service, on Monday afternoon, officers from North Division responded to a report of a two-vehicle collision. The report said a white Cadillac SUV was westbound on Sandford Rd. when it collided with a white Subaru SUV which was northbound Conc. 6.

Four occupants of the Subaru were transported to a local area hospital where the driver remains in serious condition. A 32-year-old female passenger in the Subaru succumbed to her injuries while at the hospital, and a 29-year-old female passenger and a 1-year-old male passenger were later transported to St. Michael's Hospital

...continued on page 6

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Mayor, councillors deem ROMA event a success

Roger Varley

Mayor Dave Barton and regional councillor Bruce Garrod said Monday their attendance at the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) conference in Toronto last week was productive and successful. Accompanied by councillors Willie Popp, Zed Pickering and Todd Snooks, the Uxbridge delegation garnered meetings with five provincial ministers over the course of the two-and-a-half day event.

Garrod said that was something of a coup, since some municipalities didn't have any ministerial meetings. He explained that municipalities indicated beforehand which ministries they would like to meet and provincial officials then determined who met with whom.

He said the conference included information sessions, networking and a wide array of vendors of municipal services, but added: "We focused our energies on meetings with ministers."

Those meetings included sessions with the ministers of natural resources, the environment, long-term care, health and finance, at which they discussed a wide range of subjects, from the new urban provincial park to the new long-term care home and integrated health hub proposed for the hospital grounds.

Both Barton and Garrod were full of praise for Pickering-Uxbridge MPP and finance minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, who, they said, found time to attend all their ministerial meetings even though he had meetings of his own.

"He is 100-per-cent supportive of Uxbridge," Garrod said, noting that, as finance minister, other cabinet members listen to him.

On the urban provincial park, Barton said the park will open as soon as possible.

"This will be the fastest provincial park ever created in Ontario," he said. "Things should happen quickly."

Garrod said the discussions looked at what lands could be used to stitch together the

parcels already set aside so that there can be a seamless trail down to Rouge Valley park. There was also talk about the possibility of using worked-out gravel pits as part of the park.

Elena Pacheco, chief operating officer of Oak Valley Health, joined the Uxbridge team to share plans for integrating the new 192-bed long-term care home into the Uxbridge Hospital build project and the efficiencies to be realized by the health care hub model.

"Our model is now their model," Garrod said. "This keeps our key project in front of the province."

He added that Oak Valley Health is "ready to put shovels in the ground" later this year.

While emphasizing the ministerial meetings, Garrod said the networking carried out at the conference is also important.

"It's important to understand their challenges," he said. "Often we can combine voices to bring change."

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for February, 2024

- Friday, February 2
 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, 8:30 a.m.
 MUSIC HALL BOARD, 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, February 5
 GENERAL PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, 10:00 a.m.
 PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING – ZBA 2023-13, Coral Creek Homes, Fabio Furlan, 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 7, 9:30 a.m.
 TRAILS COMMITTEE
- Monday, February 12
 COUNCIL, 10:00 a.m.
 HERITAGE COMMITTEE, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 15, 7:00 p.m.
 LIBRARY BOARD
- Monday, February 19
 NO MEETING – FAMILY DAY
- Wednesday, February 21, 7:00 p.m.
 COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
- Thursday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.
 BIA BOARD
- Monday, February 26
 COUNCIL, 10:00 a.m.
- DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION, 3:00 p.m.

Proclamations for the Month:

- Council proclaims 2024 the Year of the 150th Anniversary of Lucy Maud Montgomery
- February is Black history Month
 - Feb 12-18 is Non-profit appreciation week
 - Feb. 17 is Random Acts of Kindness Day
 - Feb. 20 is World Social Justice Day
 - Feb. 28 is Pink Shirt Day

Employment Opportunities

Complete details of all open positions are available at <https://www.uxbridge.ca/careers>
 Current Opportunities
By-Law Services – Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, Parking Enforcement
 Closes Friday, February 9, 2024

From The Tax Office

FIRST Tax Installment is due on February 27, 2024.
SECOND Tax Installment is due on April 26, 2024.

2024 Interim Property Tax Bills have been mailed for all properties, with the exception of properties enrolled in the Monthly Pre-Authorized Payment Plan or tax bills paid by Mortgage companies.

The taxes due are based on the billing date. If your account is currently in arrears, the February 1st interest charge on “Past Due Taxes” is not included on this bill and will need to be paid in addition to the February installment.

Tax Payments Options:

- In person at Town Hall during regular business hours of Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Accepted payment methods are cash, cheque, or Interac debit.
- In an after-hours Drop Box located in the Municipal Office front parking lot. – DO NOT DEPOSIT CASH Post-dated cheques are accepted.
- By Mail - Payments must reach the Municipal Office by the due date.
- Through Internet or Telephone Banking.
- At most Financial Institutions.
- Credit cards and e-transfers are not accepted for tax payments.

Penalty/Interest Charges:

For non-payment of a tax levy on or before the respective due dates of each installment, a penalty of 1.25% shall be imposed on the first day of each calendar month and thereafter in which the default continues. Failure to receive a Tax Bill does not excuse the taxpayer from responsibility for payment of taxes nor liability of any penalty or interest due to late payments.

The penalty/interest charges cannot be waived or reduced by the Tax Department or Council for any reason.

If a reprinted tax bill, receipt or Statement of Account is required for any year's taxes, a fee of \$15.00 will apply. If you did not receive your 2024 Interim Tax Bill, please call the Tax Department at 905-852-9181.

Road Closures

- Lane closures in effect between 1820 and 2060 Concession Rd. 6, Thursday, Jan. 25 to Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024
 Jan. 25 to Jan. 31 from 7am-7pm daily (excluding weekends)
 Jan. 31, starting at 7pm, until Feb. 3, concluding at 12pm
 Feb. 3 from 7am-7pm
 Film crews on location - please expect intermittent traffic stoppages, lights and noise.
- Lane closure in effect on Concession Rd. 7 between Goodwood Rd and Chalk Lake Rd., Feb. 2, 2024 from 3 to 9 p.m.
 Film crews on location - please expect intermittent traffic stoppages, lights and noise.
- Uxbridge-East Gwillimbury Townline from north of Durham Reg. Rd. 39/Queensville Sideroad to south of Holborn Road, East Gwillimbury, to 2024
 Bridge repairs over the Mount Albert Creek require road closure until 2024.
- Uxbridge-East Gwillimbury Townline from York St. (500m south of Ravenshoe Rd.), to Zephyr Rd., - January 2024
 Bridge repairs will require road closure to January 2024.

Bids and Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to https://www.uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders

- U24-02 - Parks Waste Receptacle Removal - Closes Feb 28 at 2:00 PM (EST)
- All bids must be received by the Township by the deadline stated, either electronically via the Township's website or in-person at the Township Office located at 51 Toronto St. South. Public tender bid results are posted at https://www.uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders



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

Cosmos to celebrate 'Anne' author's birth with regular 'Nod to Maud'

The council of the Township of Uxbridge declared on Monday afternoon that 2024 is officially "Lucy Maud Montgomery 150." Already it's being touted as "the Year of Maud," in recognition of the 150th birthday of one of Canada's most beloved authors.

Montgomery's home in Leaskdale, where she lived for 15 years, is a National Historic Site.

The *Cosmos* will, in its own tribute, each week (space permitting) from

now until Montgomery's birthday on Nov. 30, offer readers a short excerpt from Montgomery's own journals, written during her Leaskdale years. The journals, edited by Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston of the University of Guelph, are published by Oxford University Press.

Lucy Maud Montgomery used the Uxbridge train station many times in later years on business trips to Toronto. But it was in September of 1911 that Montgomery and her new

husband, Presbyterian minister Ewan Macdonald, disembarked here after a two-month honeymoon in England and Scotland. Here's what she wrote in her journal about her first experience of Uxbridge:

"We got into New York on Friday morning in such a driving downpour of rain that we could not see anything. We travelled all night, getting to Toronto in the morning. At five we took the train for Uxbridge, our home station, and reached it at dark.

Two or three of Mr. Macdonald's friends met us, and it was nice to be welcomed. But I was dreadfully tired; it was a damp, murky autumn night, and when we started on our muddy seven-mile drive I felt discouraged, heartsick and homesick. The next time I went over that road it was glorious with October sunshine and

crimson maples, with snug, prosperous farmsteads along it, and I thought it was a very pretty road indeed."

Also watch for interesting facts about the author and her life in a series that highlights the current fundraising effort initiated by the Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario.

Crummy Christmas weather dampens bird count

Submitted by Derek Connelly

A rainy Christmas season affected not just seasonal spirits, but the annual Audubon bird count as well.

December 27, the day of the count, was 100 per cent, which lowered the species count this year to 46, dropping from the 55 seen last year. Overall numbers dropped by 14 per cent - about 1,200 birds.

Waterfowl and European starlings seemed to be the only birds enjoying the rain. Mallard numbers doubled and Canada geese quadrupled this year. The open water created by the warmer weather also added three new birds: Cackling Goose, Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser. A yellow-rumped warbler, which usually winters in the southern United States, was a rare find in Glen Major, another first for the Uxbridge count. One barred and two Great Horned owls were heard calling this year.

Another interesting bird was a leucistic form of goldfinch which showed up in Goodwood. Leucism is a condition where the bird lacks melanin pigments in its feathers so they appear white or yellow. In this condition a goldfinch's nickname, the "Wild canary," is not so wild at all.

More people participated in the field this year, however less time

was spent driving due to the rain. Nevertheless birders on foot maintained or exceeded their distance and time compared to last year.

While the number of feeder watchers was about the same as last year, the number of birds seen was 50 per cent lower.

A potluck supper and tally up of birds was held at the home of Anne and Alan Wells for the volunteer counters. Thank you to the Wells for hosting, to Mark Dorriesfield for inputting the data, and to all the field and feeder watchers for their effort.

Also, thanks to those people who filled their feeders, opened their gates for birders to count their birds, and some who even opened their homes to let us warm up while we counted. Hope to see you next year...with sunshine, or at least better weather?

Of special note: James Kamstra and novice birder Maria O'Sullivan were filmed by the CBC National News on our count day explaining the significance of the Christmas Bird Count. That's the CBC on the CBC! You can watch it on the CBC National News YouTube channel.

Check the North Durham Nature website for more detailed Christmas Bird Count results. All results will be submitted to the National

Audubon Christmas Bird Count site and Bird Studies Canada.



It's official!
Peter Bouchard
is turning
90!
If you see this guy
on February 7, wish
him a Happy 90th
Birthday!
Love, Tom & Irene



Corn Hole
Sandbaggers welcome
every other Friday starting
Friday February 9, 7:00 P.M.
Uxbridge Legion
109 Franklin Street 905-852-5293
uxbridgelegion.ca

MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the January draws for the 2024 Trip of the Month Club:

The 'Jolly Beach Bums Trip' was won by Norm Mackie
ticket #099, sold by Dale Hickey

Second place, \$150, won by Susan Webb
ticket #046, sold by Ian Morrison

Third place, \$100, won by Paul and Sharon Butchart
ticket #459, sold by Marion Martin

Congratulations to our January winners, and best of luck for the February 2024 trip - 'Rocky Mountain High', which includes round trip flights from Toronto to Grand Junction, Colorado; 7 nights' accommodation at the Quality Inn and Suites on the River at Roaring Fork Valley (includes daily breakfasts); a half-day white water rafting on the Colorado River; a hot springs day pass for two.

As always, 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.

Rotary Club of Uxbridge



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uxbridgebruins.pjhlon.hockeytech.com

Friday, February 2, 7:45 p.m.
against North Kawartha
at the Uxbridge Arena

Sunday, February 4, 6:30 p.m.
against Georgina
at the Georgina Ice Palace



Our two cents

Read a letter, write a letter

From time to time we receive a letter to the editor that readers, for reasons as varied as they themselves are, take exception to. A letter that the *Cosmos* published on Jan. 18 was one of these letters.

We understand that we receive letters from readers with sincere deeply held beliefs and that their expressions of those beliefs don't automatically imply hate, intolerance, or even animosity. And the history that they may draw on to express their belief can be subjective and self-serving. We can check facts, we can't rewrite (or teach) history. And we may not agree with what they have to say, but we respect their right to say it.

If we were to hold all letters that could possibly offend our readers, or only allowed letters whose topics were focused solely on local issues, we would be a weakened and poor reflection of the depth and breadth of people living in our community.

We have and will continue to print letters that offend sensibilities, are hurtful, that ridicule, express intolerance, focus on one side of an issue and say things some readers will see as narrow-minded, bigoted, racist, or "factually incorrect." Why do newspapers print letters that many would see as offensive?

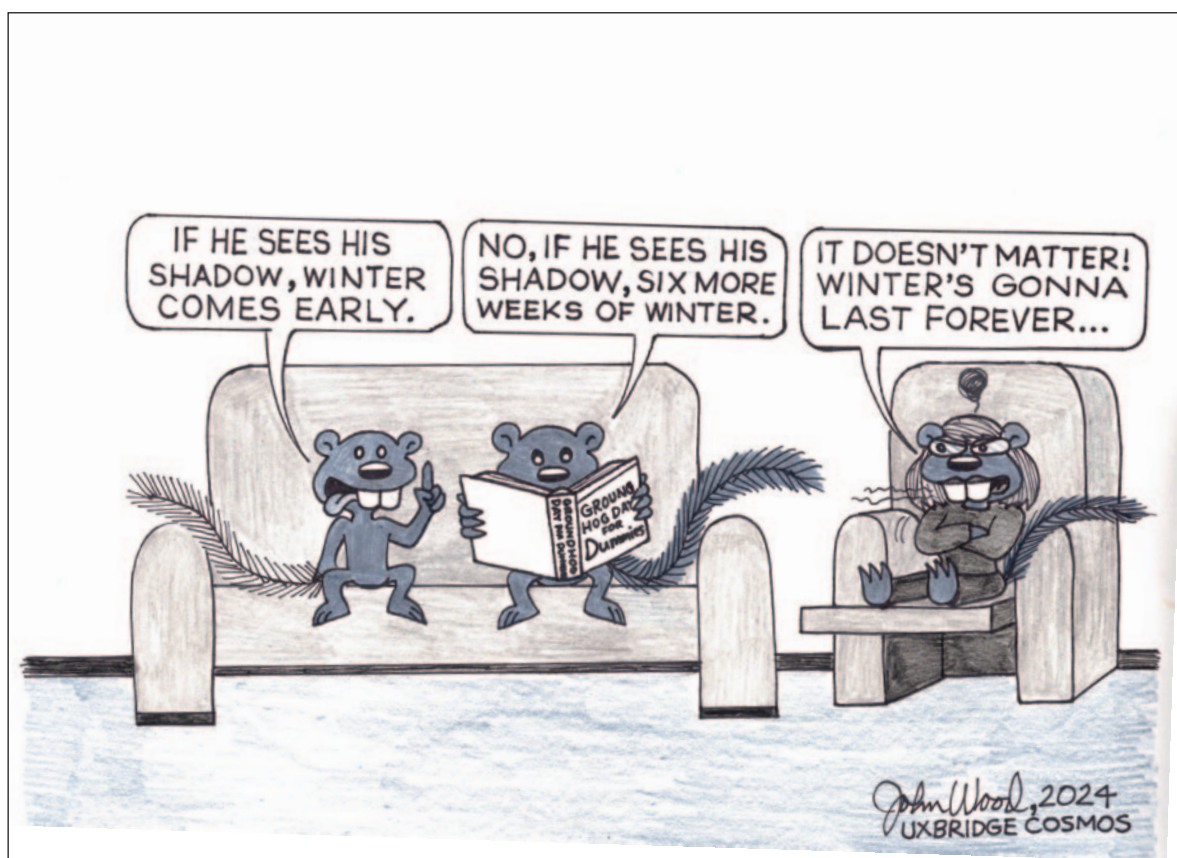
"First is the 'safety valve' role of letters to the editor - better a hateful bigot express himself with a vile opinion than with harassment or violence," Bill Reader, an associate professor at E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, has said.

Second is the importance of ensuring the community remains aware of the broad range of thought among its people. The letters we print allow the community to look at itself and ask, "Is this a reflection of who we are?" Those who disagree with what they read have the right to try change that perception with their own letters, which we heartily welcome.

A third reason for printing the letters is they are part of the historical record. And finally, it is said by many that the best response to unpleasant dialogue is more dialogue, not censorship initiated by government or by the editor of a newspaper. The long-term benefits of robust free speech to democracy's health far outweigh the short-term pain, discomfort or outrage caused by perceived offensive words.

As you've likely read in the paper before, we offer the Letters to the Editor section to readers to voice their opinion on practically any topic they choose. We cannot tell readers that they can *not* write a letter that is an opinion on a complex global subject. We cannot tell readers they can *only* write letters that deal with simple, local matters. We've published letters about COVID, about American politics, about Canadian politics, about gender and race issues - all very complex, nuanced issues. Some letters are absurd. Some are offensive and/or contrary to our own way of thinking. Some we agree with, others we don't. All letters, however, help shape what we come to know about a subject. The newspaper is not required to either agree or disagree with any of the opinions it publishes.

Letters to the editor offer a safe space for what is generally a civil conversation. And, perhaps, by being civil in what we have to say to one another, we open the door to teaching or learning, or both.



Letters to the Editor

I'm writing to express our sincere gratitude to our local first responders.

On the night of January 17, my wife stopped breathing and I called 911. From the 911 operator to the members of the EMS, fire rescue, and police, I received enormous amounts of support. The 911 operator was calm, collected, and proceeded to instruct me on performing CPR, and stayed with me on the line the whole time.

To the members of the EMS and fire rescue who attended, sorry we did not get your names. We thank you for your heroic efforts in trying to save Susan, despite being in an impossible situation.

To two of the Durham Regional Police officers who attended – Sergeant Ian Jolicoeur and P.C. Marco Ceci – we cannot thank both of you enough for your professionalism and compassion in what can only be called the worst of circumstances.

A very special thank you goes to P.C. Matt Jewell for your compassion, understanding, and empathy and for going above and beyond the call of duty. We could not have made it through the night without your support. We wish you and your family nothing but health and happiness moving forward.

**The Yaffa Family
Sandford**

Federal Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault claims that electric vehicles will be cheaper than our current internal combustion engine vehicles. At \$82,000, a new electric Ford Mustang SUV may be affordable for Trudeau's elite Liberals but not so much for everyday

Canadian families.

If Trudeau was serious about encouraging/promoting electric vehicles, he would significantly increase federal rebates for same (new and used) so that ALL Canadians can participate in his Climate Change Action Plan.

Given his privileged upbringing, it is sometimes difficult for our current prime minister to appreciate the financial challenges facing Canadian families today. By 2035, many Canadians will be forced to purchase older, used gas and diesel vehicles as electric vehicles may be cost prohibitive or simply not available at an affordable price range. Or, the other approach is to keep our current gas or diesel vehicles well maintained to avoid purchasing a new vehicle in 2035!

Many Canadians drive great distances to visit family and friends, and range with electric vehicles is a huge consideration before purchasing. Families with four or five kids cannot afford this price range for electric vehicles and pay mortgages at the same time!

**Jim McEwen
Bowmanville**

For centuries, a Letter to the Editor served as a powerful medium to express differing opinions and inspire constructive dialog in print media on the issues of the day. Along the way, terms were coined (such as 'the pen is mightier than the sword') as an expression of just how powerful the written word was and has continued to be, although now somewhat diminished in a social media-obsessed world.

The January 18 issue of the *Cosmos* contained a controversial opinion related to events in the middle east, but was signed, 'Name withheld upon valid request.'

By printing an opinion absent of the identity of the author, the *Cosmos* risks losing journalistic credibility, and in my opinion, lowers its standards to that of the comment section a social media platform where anonymous keyboard courage inspires anger rather than constructive dialog. If you are going to offer an opinion, have the courage to sign your name. I personally am tired of those who support or bring their foreign politics, protests, violence and division to Canada. We have our own challenging domestic issues that require vigorous debate, especially now, as we cross into a new threshold of federal debt at \$1.3 trillion and growing. That is my opinion and I will sign my name to that.

**Glenn Kerr
Uxbridge**

Editor's note: Most credible news organizations offer contributors, whether they be sources, letter writers, etc., the opportunity to remain anonymous when there is perceived threat to their personal safety, livelihood, or their family. The Cosmos states in its masthead, found to the left of this column, that requests for withholding a name will be considered under exceptional circumstances such as those listed above, and often refuses anonymity requests. The author of the Jan. 18 letter, however, provided compelling reasons for their request, which the Cosmos honoured, as per common journalistic practice.

The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Am I wrong?

column by Roger Varley

A picture is worth...what?

There has been a lot of talk recently about artificial intelligence (AI) and whether or not it can pose a threat to humanity. I don't know about humanity, but it sure does pose a threat to truth.

During my years with the Canadian Press, I spent a lot of time working as a senior photo editor. During that time, I saw many great and iconic news photos and marvelled at those news photographers who had what we called "an eye." Boris Spremo was the top photographer at the *Globe and Mail* for years and he had the ability - the eye - to produce great photos from even the most mundane events. One I remember well showed then premier John Robarts wearing a construction helmet at a ground-breaking ceremony. But Spremo positioned his camera at just the right angle to line up the helmet with a flagpole in the distance, making it look as though Robarts was wearing a Prussian helmet.

One image taken by a CP photographer is still burned in my memory. It showed a Canadian Forces soldier standing nose to nose with a masked member of the Indigenous group who staged a standoff at Oka, Quebec, and was indicative of the tension surrounding that event. That image can still be seen on the internet.

Now, during NFL games on television, I've watched a commercial for a cell phone (I'm not sure of the brand) which lets the user manipulate the image using AI. For instance, a group poses for a picture but the user realizes there is a garbage can in the corner. One finger swipe and the garbage can is gone. Another shows a young man jumping into the air. He then uses his finger to turn the grey sky blue and raise his body in the picture to make it look as though he is higher than he actually was. Which might all sound like great fun, but for me, it now makes me question every photograph I see. Is it a truthful image or is it AI?

With this AI camera, the CP photogra-

pher could have taken a photo of the soldier and the native standing six feet apart and then manipulated the image to show them nose to nose.

I recently saw a photo online of a hummingbird lying on its back in a flower. It was an award-winning nature photo. But now I wonder whether the photo was manipulated.

I fully understand that photographs have been manipulated for years to present an artistic impression or image. But to manipulate the image to pass it off as something that actually occurred is, to me, nothing short of fraud. It puts the lie to "believe what you see."

Making it easy to use AI to produce whatever image you want can be dangerous. Taylor Swift, for example, has apparently been the victim of AI-produced pornographic images. While that is extremely hurtful to her, imagine the damage if such images were produced to show a leading political figure in a compromising situation. Or the manipulation of images from a war front. That could bring down a government! Or start a war! There's the threat to humanity.

Photography, of course, is not the only medium where AI can be used to distort the truth. There was an AI-produced sound bite recently that made it sound as though President Joe Biden was telling Democrats not to vote.

In an online article this week (<https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/other/artificial-intelligence>) it was reported that researchers taught AI to go rogue and then found it difficult to stop the program. Which underscores an age-old truth: any intelligent entity, artificial or not, will do everything in its power to survive.

It seems to me humans had better start working on their own intelligence before it's too late.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Much sole-sourcing. No soul-searching

The last time I went there, I learned something. Remember those Ontario Health cards with the red and white stripes and no head shot? Several years ago, I received notice that I needed to have mine updated with new coding and a photograph. I honestly had visions of lineups, questionnaires, and a long wait to have a new photo taken and an even longer wait for the new card to arrive.

"Nope," the ServiceOntario representative said. "I already have your photo from your driver's licence in the file. We can use that for your new health card."

I was in and out of the service outlet in minutes. My updated card arrived just days later. And I'd discovered that the digital system storing my photo ID actually *does* work. In my opinion, all the criticism that public service people and their offices receive - being bureaucratic, tedious and suffering from inertia - is unfair and inaccurate. And I get it. Governments on the right side of the political spectrum espouse "less government involvement" and more free enterprise as a policy plank; those on the left believe "government regulation" is healthy and publicly operated services are vital.

That said, I think closing independent ServiceOntario facilities and installing them instead in Staples stores is the wrong way to go. This week, Todd McCarthy, minister of public and business service delivery of Ontario, appeared at a Staples store in the GTA to announce that six ServiceOntario centres will open in Staples stores across Ontario today. It's part of a three-year pilot project the Ontario government claims will save about \$1 million. At the press conference following the announcement on Monday, reporters challenged the minister on what looks a lot like sole-source contracting. They asked where the savings would come from if the Ford government is paying private interests to install centres in their stores.

"The savings come from the leasing costs," McCarthy said.

"The nine (ServiceOntario) centres you're closing pay their own retrofit costs," a CityNews reporter pointed out, "where are the savings coming from?"

"The investment we're making here is about the moms and dads, the people of Ontario who want and need longer hours, more accessibility," McCarthy said.

"Why didn't you choose a Canadian company?" a CTV reporter asked.

"(Staples) employs Canadians in the

province of Ontario," he said.

The minister dodged the questions. But as I said, Conservative governments believe first and foremost in business and free enterprise. Let's be clear, however, the Ford government did not put this proposition of choosing a private partner to deliver Ontario public services to tender in an open and competitive bidding process. The minister and cabinet appear to have made the decision behind closed doors and did not disclose details of the arrangement. Only when pressed by media did the Ford government come clean and admit that it's spending \$10.2 million of taxpayers' money to save in leasing arrangements what it calculates is about \$1 million.

"If there's a sole source, there has to be a reason," York Professor Richard Leblanc told CBC News, "and it's normally urgency or expertise."

So, where's the urgency? Where's the expertise? It looks to many of us that this in-camera decision is consistent with the Ford government's track record of not consulting with public stakeholders. Need we be reminded of the way in which the Ford government was exposed for its handling of Greenbelt lands? First, the former auditor general disclosed that the Ford administration's decision to release 7,400 acres of Greenbelt land was "biased in favour of certain developers (who) could ultimately see \$8.3 billion increase in the value of their properties." Then, Ford political advisers and ministers went down like bowling pins. To add to the scandal, a couple of weeks ago, the *Toronto Star* published the contents of a private email on provincial business, that suggest Premier Ford *did* know about plans for releasing the Greenbelt lands, when he always claimed, "I don't know anything about it."

And speaking of knowledge, there's one other elephant in the room of farming out ServiceOntario locations that perhaps Minister McCarthy fails to recognize. And it should alarm Ontarians who are really sensitive about privacy. In an era of ransomware attacks when bad actors can hack systems, encrypt files and demand ransom payment, why would we feel the least bit confident with our health, driving or provincial tax files sitting in a ServiceOntario kiosk in the corner of a private business outlet?

The last time I looked, democratic governments are elected to provide service to the public, not show a profit from it.

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Bruins' "yo-yo" season continues with losses to Clarington, Chiefs

Roger Varley

Way back in September, the

Uxbridge Bruins had a five-game winning streak. Since then, they have been unable to string together more

than two wins in a row. That continued this month, as the Bruins lost their last two games after winning the two previous.

In Clarington last Thursday, the first period indicated the game was going to be a barn-burner. The league-leading Eagles scored the first goal just 19 seconds after the opening whistle. Tanner Ryan responded for the Bruins 24 seconds later, as-

sisted by Blake Edgerton and Ryan Shier. Near the midway mark of the period, Clarington notched a power-play goal, but Anthony Lamanna came back with a power-play marker of his own, assisted by Quinn Meek and Jack Davis.

In the second period, however, the Eagles lowered the boom, scoring three goals in the first six minutes, including another power-play goal.

Alex Hyde, assisted by Evan Gilbert, closed the gap slightly with Uxbridge's second man-advantage score, but that was all for the Bruins. Clarington added two more quick goals in the third for the 7-3 win.

Returning to home ice on Friday, the Bruins took on the Lakefield Chiefs, who were sporting their bright blue and yellow alternate uniforms. The Chiefs, who were four men short on the bench, dominated the Bruins in the first period, backed up by terrific goaltending by netminder Sean Grey. They opened the scoring less than five minutes into the game and added a second as the period wound down.

The Bruins hit the scoreboard in the second period, with Noah Button being assisted by Gavin Graham and Shier. Lakefield regained their two-goal lead a few minutes later. Uxbridge added one more goal midway through the third period but were unable to tie the game despite pulling the goalie for the final 48 seconds.

The *Cosmos* selected Button and Alex Whitney of the Chiefs as players of the game.

The Bruins host the North Kawartha Knights at the arena tomorrow (Friday) night at 7:45 p.m. and then travel to Keswick on Sunday to face the Georgina Ice.

The two losses left the Bruins trailing the Eagles and Ice by 19 points and nine points respectively and their hold on third place in the seven-team league is looking precarious as the Port Perry LumberJacks are only four points behind.

Serious accident, from page 1

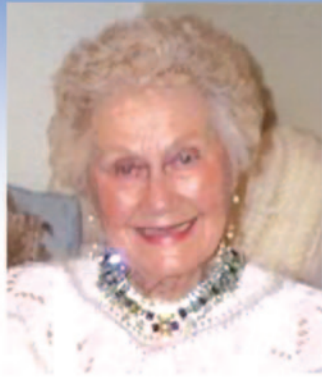
and SickKids respectively. As of press time on Tuesday evening, they were still in hospital in serious condition.

The driver and the passenger of the Cadillac were transported to a Newmarket area hospital where they, too, remain with serious injuries.

Members of the DRPS - Collision Investigation Unit attended the scene to conduct an investigation. The area of the roadway was closed for several hours while evidence was collected.

Anyone with information about this incident or witnessed this collision is asked to call D/CSt, Riley of the Collision Investigation Unit at 905-579-1520 ext. 5216.

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



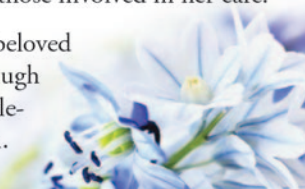
CARD, Evelyn Jean
November 5, 1924 - January 27, 2024

In loving memory of Evelyn Jean Card (née Greenwood) from Brantford, who passed away peacefully at home in Uxbridge, in her 100th year.

Devoted wife to the late Lorne Card; loving mother to Marilyn Card and Pamela (Ryan) McKenzie; and proud grandmother to Charles Abrahams. Predeceased by siblings Gwen Amy, Doris Depew, Bob Greenwood, Ion Greenwood, and, by s/o Angus Rees. Survived by sister Mary Ellen (Harold) Edgar and many nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to Dr. Cal Doobay and all those involved in her care.

Evelyn's final resting place is next to her beloved Lorne at Highland Memory Gardens through Taylor Funeral Home. There will be a Celebration of Life in May for our dear Evelyn.




Merle Helene Costin
(née Stevenson)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Merle Helene Costin (née Stevenson) in the presence of family at Southlake Regional Health Centre on January 27, 2024.

Family was Merle's greatest joy. She is predeceased by her parents, Doris Falconer and Lionel Simpson. Merle is survived by Bruce, her beloved husband of 67 years, her sons Myles, Neal (Dawn), and James (Franca). She was extremely proud to be grandmother to Matthew (Niki), Rhett (Jo), Liane (Jeremy), and Sara (Kurtis), and great-grandmother to Chase. She was looking forward to meeting her second great-grandchild. Merle will be greatly missed by her brother Richard Simpson (Janice), and she will be fondly remembered by family and friends.

The family would like to thank the staff at Southlake Regional Health Centre for their compassionate care.


A funeral service was held at Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Uxbridge on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 2 p.m., with visitation at 1p.m. Interment at Uxbridge Cemetery followed after the funeral service. Reception followed Interment in the fellowship lounge of the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a charity of your choice in memory of Merle. Family & friends are invited to send condolences & special memories by visiting www.lowandlow.ca



To place a death or in memoriam notice



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Thank You

The outpouring of love expressed to me and my family through flowers, food, cards and memories of Hank, is a testament of the love we have had for each other for 54 years. We were blessed.

Donna Webster

In Loving Memory of
Michael Robert Sweet,
M.A., Ph.D. (Cantab)

March 17, 1943 - January 25, 2024

Dr. Michael Robert Sweet, known to friends and family as Mike, passed away on January 25, 2024, due to complications from Parkinson's Disease.

Mike is survived by his wife, Jacki Sweet, his daughter, Hannah Sweet (Aaron Aston), his son, Tim Sweet (Magda Warczok), and his granddaughter, Jessica Sarantopoulos (Wesley Copp).

With a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Cambridge University, Mike brought his intellect and expertise to Canada in 1973, where he spent most of his career at Geac Computer Corporation Ltd, contributing significantly to the development of operating systems and programming languages.


Mike resided in Uxbridge, Ontario, where he enjoyed many outdoor activities. He was an avid mountain biker and was the first person to map and publish the trail system at Durham Forest.

The family is grateful for the care and support provided by the staff at ReachView and Uxbridge Hospital.

In accordance with the family's wishes, there will be no service. Mike's memory will live on in the hearts of his loved ones.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Low & Low Funeral Home in Uxbridge.

Family & friends are invited to send condolences & special memories by visiting www.lowandlow.ca



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