

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 7

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Inside cider • Learn from Black History Month • Bruins have busy weekend ahead



HOW QUICKLY THEY GROW - The "Uxbridge Swans" take a family swim on Elgin Pond - Mum and Dad are trailed by the two remaining cygnets (there were originally four). Four other swans have been recently sighted on the pond - another couple, and two suspected males. *Photo by John Covers*

Farmers' Market left unsure of spring/summer location

Roger Varley

What normally would have been an easy task for Uxbridge council turned into a long debate on Monday, leaving a deputant apparently frustrated.

Adrian Stocking of WilloWind Farm appeared before council to request that the Uxbridge Farmers' Market be allowed to return to Herrema Fields for the 2023 season. The market moved to that site last year after the venue's normal location beside The Second Wedge Brewing Co., on Victoria St., was destroyed by the May 21 tornado. Stocking told council that repairs to the Second Wedge are not yet complete, meaning the market needs to return to its temporary home.

Mayor Dave Barton said he would like to see the market return to the Second Wedge "as soon as possible," noting that "Herrema Fields

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Low-cost spay-neuter program challenges Uxbridge to donate

Justyne Edgell

Getting an animal pet spayed or neutered is a necessary but often expensive part of caring for it. A low-cost option is close to being a reality in North Durham, but it needs help from the public to be fully realized.

Spay Neuter Initiatives is a non-profit organization that hopes to build a low-cost spay and neuter clinic in Port Perry that will serve all of Durham Region. The clinic will be located in Port Perry because a retiring veterinarian from there has offered to lease his fully equipped clinic to the organization. But Spay Neuter Initiatives needs \$100,000 not only to lease the space, but to fund the first year's start-up costs, after which the clinic will bring in enough revenue to cover its running expenses.

"We have begun a competition dividing the total goal of \$100,000 amongst the eight municipalities in Durham Region (Ajax, Pickering, Whitby, Oshawa, Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock)," says Emily Gerber, a member of the

Spay Neuter Initiatives board of directors. "When each municipality raises only \$12,500, we will be at our goal and Spay Neuter Initiatives Project Animal Clinic will be a reality!"

Spay Neuter Initiatives Project, or SNIP Animal Clinic, as it will be known, "will run as a not-for-profit clinic," says Gerber. "By taking profit margins out of the picture, the prices are able to stay low, ensuring that residents who cannot afford veterinary rates are able to have their animals sterilized, thereby reducing the risk of many medical issues that can arise from unspayed/unneutered animals, and ensuring they won't add to the number of animals struggling to find homes."

The clinic will help local families with lower incomes, and will also be available for the many animal rescues and shelters in the region, including those who provide spay, neuter and other medical procedures for populations of feral cats.

"Spay Neuter Initiatives is a registered charity that has been running in Durham Region for

many years, fundraising to help support various rescue organizations and promoting the spay and neuter of pets," says Gerber,

All eight regional municipalities are being challenged to reach the \$12,500 goal first, and to raise the most funds relative to population size, showing their residents are the biggest animal lovers and supporters. The winning municipality will a plaque of recognition in the new clinic. There are also sponsorship opportunities. The funds must be raised by this spring so Spay Neuter Initiatives can confirm the lease of the Port Perry facility.

To make a donation (and ensure that Uxbridge wins the challenge) find Spay Neuter Initiatives on canadahelps.org and gofundme.com by searching Spay Neuter Initiatives Association. Follow fundraising progress at Facebook.com/SpayNeuterInitiatives

As of press time Tuesday, Oshawa was in first place with \$1,620 in donations. Uxbridge was in fourth, with \$60 in donations.

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for February, 2023

Thursday, February 16, 7:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION
SESSION FOR THE SOUTH BALSAM
STREET STORMWATER POND
RETROFIT

Tuesday, February 21, 9:00 a.m.
COUNCIL EDUCATION SESSION
(Closed to the Public)

Thursday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.
PUBLIC MEETING – ZBA 2022-06 and
OPA 70 – Wooden Sticks Golf Inc.

Monday, February 27, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING

Proclamations for February

February - Black History Month
February 17 - Random Acts of Kindness Day
February 20 - World Social Justice Day
February 22 - Pink Shirt Day to support
anti-bullying

From the Tax Office

FIRST Tax Installment is due on February 24, 2023.
SECOND Tax Installment is due on April 26, 2023.

2023 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 2023 Interim Tax Bill, please call the Tax Department at 905-852-9181.

Winter Ice Conditions

Elgin Pond

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

No Flags – Testing has not begun

Red Flags – Ice is not safe. Please stay off

Yellow Flags – Skate with caution

Flags are located at the north end of Elgin Pond, beside Mill St. Please keep away from water inlets and outlets on the pond, as ice thickness is compromised.

Storm Water Management Facilities

Please keep off of all storm water management facilities.

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

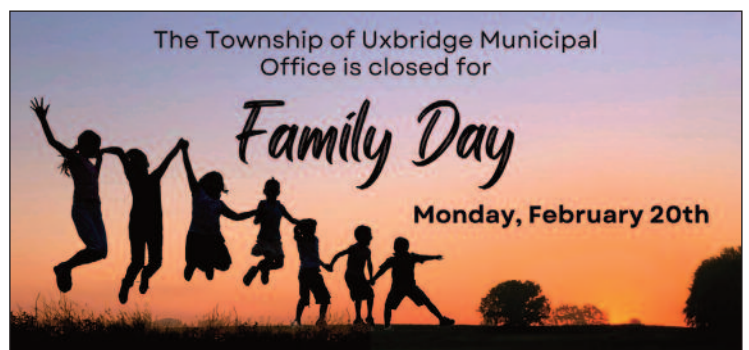
Road Closures

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

Bids & Tenders

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

U23-03 - Street Lighting Installation & Repair – Closes March 2, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.



Employment Opportunities

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

Development Services – Building Inspector/Plans Examiner, part-time – 2 Positions

Closes Friday, February 24, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Uxbridge Public Library - Facility Custodian, contract

Closes Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 8:00 p.m.

Public Works and Operations – GIS Data Collector, summer student, contract

Closes Friday, March 3, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Public Works and Operations - General Labourer, summer student, contract

Closes Friday, March 3, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Community Services – Summer Camp Counsellor (Ages 16+)

Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Community Services – Assistant Summer Camp Counsellor (Ages 15+)

Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Parks Department – Summer Student – General Labourer – 3 Positions

Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Parks Department – Summer Student – Horticulture – 2 Positions

Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Collections Associate, contract

Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Community Engagement and Programming Associate, contract

Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Interpretive Guides, contract

Closes Friday, April 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Community Museum Technician, contract

Closes Friday, May 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Crossing Guards

Resumes accepted on an ongoing basis

Box Office Volunteers – Uxbridge Music Hall

Interested parties accepted on an ongoing basis

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

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Thurs., February 16th
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Our industrial citizens: Cider by the score

Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

When the Feddemas bought their 90 acres on Concession 6, about a half kilometre north of Highway 21, all they had on them were cows. "It took a while before they all left," Lori Feddema, laughs, "so that gave us a bit more time to plan."

Now, only five years on, more than half of that acreage is covered in apple trees, a number of them transplanted from heritage orchards in other parts of Ontario, including Niagara, and the rest sprung from twigs grafted from those aged parents. And out at the road is a low-slung building, faced in stone and dark wood, housing a bustling cidery and an equally busy eatery ("Don't call it a restaurant," says Lori, "because although we're proud of our food, the main thing on the menu is cider. Tonight, we have a dozen varieties on tap.").

Off to the side, in a satellite building, is the Farmstore, so called because it sells not just the Feddemas' cider, but agricultural products from all over Uxbridge, including produce from their own gardens. But again, cider is the featured item on the shelves, in an intoxicating variety of

flavours. And the Farmstore on the Sixth is in fact the only place in the world you can buy Slabtown Cider.

"We wanted to create a destination," says Lori, co-owner of Slabtown Cider. "If you want to buy our fabulous Ginger Spritz, you have to come to Uxbridge to do it. And while you're here, hopefully you'll walk some of our trails, play one of our golf courses, do some shopping downtown. Down the road, maybe we'll think about distributing through the LCBO, but for now Slabtown is plenty busy producing enough for own customers."

Why is it called 'Slabtown'? When did apples ever come in slabs? Well, the name all has to do with heritage preservation. As a local farming family, the Feddemas decided to transition out of their office jobs, and pursue the dream of opening a cidery. At the time, Siloam Orchards, located on Concession 3, just north of Highway 8, was closing and some of the trees were brought to the 6th. While exploring those groves, they also explored the history of the area. Turns out that the village, now centred down in the valley, was originally on the hill where the orchards now were, and it grew up around a lumber mill. As with many mill

towns, Siloam got nicknamed "Slabtown" by the residents and neighbours from miles around. So when the Feddemas took the step of preserving some of the heritage apple

trees from the Siloam hill, they also decided to honour the memory of the other trees from that hill, and dubbed their entire operation 'Slabtown.'

The Feddemas didn't grow fruit on their Uxbridge farm, they raised

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Slabtown owner Lori Feddema and her chief cider maker, Dave Geddes, with some of the casks they bring in from various vintners and distillers to age their cider.

Photo by Conrad Boyce

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Where will the Market go? from page 1

is more about soccer than it is about the farmers' market."

Deputy mayor Willie Popp took the same tack, saying he was worried about how the soccer association's schedule would be affected by the market's presence. The market runs every Sunday from May to October.

"I want to make sure what we're committing to," said Popp.

Stocking responded that it would be difficult for the vendors to move the market's location mid-season. Noting that the market had to move last year just after the start of its season, he commended the town on rallying to support the market.

Barton and Popp also raised the issue of downtown revitalization, saying the location of the market could depend on what transpires on that front. Regional Councillor Bruce Garrod, picking up on the theme, noted that Centennial Park is a major part of the revitalization and wondered if the market could be moved there. He said it would encourage more traffic in the downtown area on Sundays.

During the deputation, Stocking commented that, while there were pluses and minuses to a Centennial Park location, the minuses - a lack of

power for the market vendors, limited parking space and the possibility of extensive damage to the grassed areas - were larger than the pluses.

At one point, Stocking was reproached by council for not making his request earlier.

After 22 minutes of debate, council decided to have staff look at the request and come back with recommendations.

Do you want to know more about Uxbridge's history? Do you care about your community? Do you care about our hospital? Save the date! June 10

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Happy 100th Birthday, Ted!

Please join us on **Sunday, February 19** to wish Ted Croxall a very happy 100th birthday.

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Our two cents

To market, to market...

From its rather shaky beginnings, the Uxbridge Farmers' Market has emerged as a regular summer shopping destination for many Uxbridge residents.

In past years, the market was all over the place as various councils tried to determine the best location. It was held in the parking lot next to Wixan's Bridge, in the parking lot at the arena, and eventually moved to the space beside The Second Wedge Brewing Co., on Victoria St., which proved to be almost the ideal spot. Plenty of parking, plenty of space for the vendors, a place to sip a cold one on a hot summer day, a street that could be blocked off to vehicular traffic with little disruption to residents, and an ambiance that would be hard to find anywhere else in town.

The tornado which ripped through town last May 21 practically destroyed the Second Wedge, forcing the market, which had just started its season, to move across town to Herrema Fields as a temporary home. The ambiance wasn't quite the same, but at least the small fry could enjoy the playground while parents were shopping. And, by all accounts, the market did well in its new location. However, when the Farmers' Market appeared before council on Monday to request/confirm that they could use the same location this year, they ran headlong into a recalcitrant council.

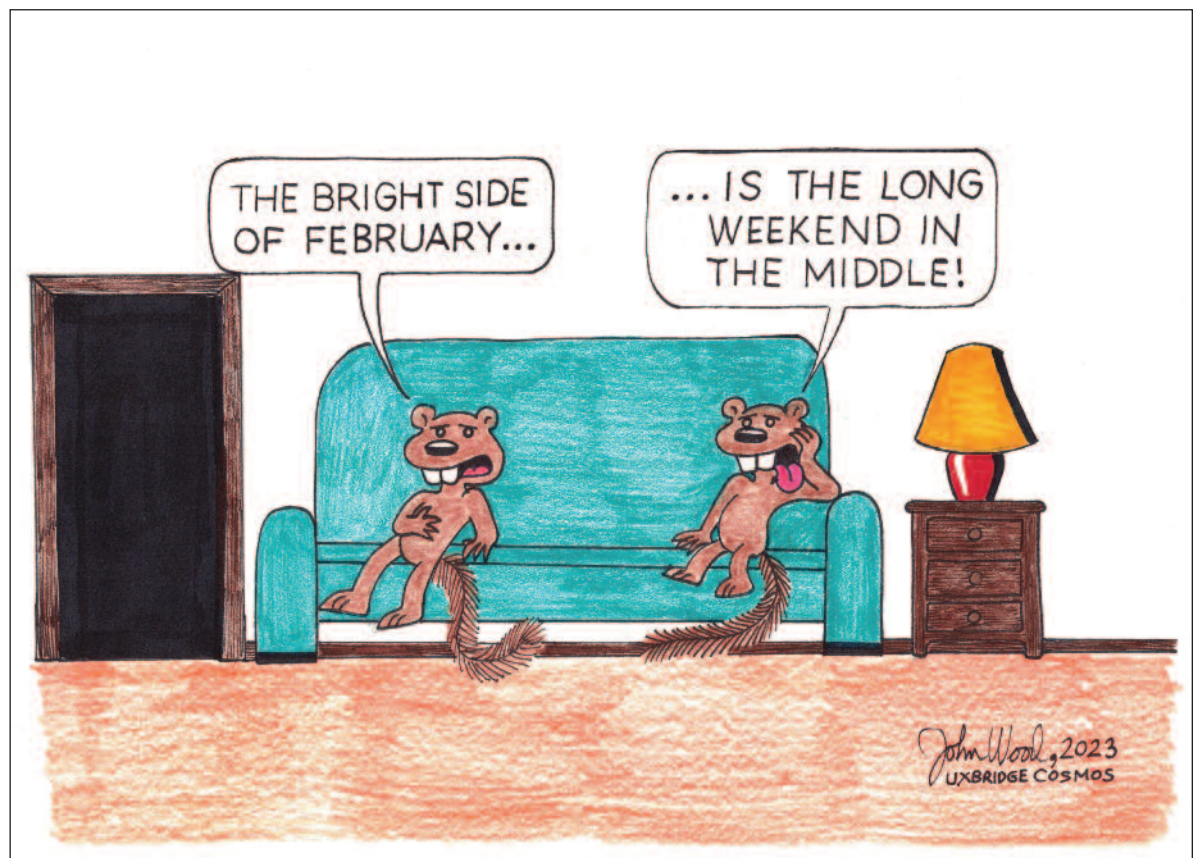
What should have been a simple matter of saying "okay" turned into 20 minutes of rambling about soccer games, downtown revitalization and downtown merchants.

Mayor Dave Barton said he wants to see a return to the area around the Second Wedge brewery as soon as possible. A lot of us would, but first the Second Wedge has to be rebuilt, and there is no guaranteed date for completion. As Adrian Stocking of WilloWind Farm said, asking the farmers' market to change locations midway through its season would cause a certain amount of hardship for the vendors.

Barton and Councillor Willie Popp were concerned about how soccer would be affected if the market stays at Herrema Fields. But not once last year did anyone at this newspaper see a soccer game at Herrema Fields - or even the Fields of Uxbridge, for that matter. Do members of council really believe a soccer game can't be played because there's a farmers' market nearby? Seems to us that could be a win-win situation - score a goal and some local onions, garlic and broccoli at the same time.

Council also raised the issue of downtown revitalization and how that could affect where the market eventually goes. Does council really believe things are going to move at such a pace on that front over the next six months that a market at Herrema Fields will throw a spanner in the works? The only sign of anything revitalization-connected so far is a bike rack at the spruced-up parkette at what used to be Coffee Time and a few dressed up windows in empty stores.

We're not sure what put a bee in council's collective bonnet - (they also gave the Bonner Boys a grilling on Monday when the group requested free ice time for a fund-raising hockey tournament) - but we wish that same bee had been there when they okayed \$10,000 for a fence at the bottom of the toboggan hill.



Letters to the Editor

The humanitarian side of our Uxbridge community never fails to amaze me. In spite of having endured our a tornado, the recent loss of Trinity's heritage home and increased food costs that rival interest rate increases, folks still have heart - and plenty of it. So when the call went out recently to help with earthquake relief in Northern Syria, where political factions are making it nearly impossible for international aid to deliver supplies, things started happening fast, on a totally organic level. It was only a three-day blitz for donations but wow, did our community come through!

Blue Heron Books offered their store as a drop-off location, their staff pitched in and supplies started coming in - first a trickle of soaps

and toothbrushes, and eventually a waterfall of blankets, diapers, dried food, hand knitted hats and more.

Local Uxbridge residents Mona and Lakman Salman helped make the connection needed to a non-profit organization with the necessary support on the ground to get the supplies delivered. Chato Wany, president of The Greater Toronto Kurdish House, told me that their mission is usually to help new Syrians of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds get settled in the GTA.

However, due to their connections in Northern Syria, the approval received from the Canadian government to fly cargo over and the severity of the situation, they have found themselves doing disaster relief work. When he learned of the

three carloads of supplies coming from Uxbridge, he said, "I greatly appreciate the wonderful people of Uxbridge and please tell them thank you." So, THANK YOU UXBRIDGE! You've provided a small drop of water and relief in a huge ocean of misery and need. But for that mother who receives those diapers, it will be everything.

*Jane Kiyonaga
Uxbridge*

Last year this paper shared a message for Black History Month that touched upon its function and its importance. One of the big ideas from that piece being: our present - and our future - come from our past. History is a powerful driving force. It has shaped the society we see today, and it is constantly being reconstructed as time moves us forward. Most of the things we do in a day are not new, they are legacies that are passed down from generations before us that we reinforce what we say, how we act, and what and how we think.

Black History Month is a celebration of the successes of Black people, in spite of the dehumanizing forces from the past and their reconstruction in the present. The commemorated month, the people, their culture are all resistance against the legacy of the anti-Black racism of white supremacy upon which our society is founded.

History is uncomfortable when facing the truth of harm - and the learning of history is powerful when it has the potential to spark radical changes that disrupt legacies. It

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Your Universe
The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Wandering the cosmos

column by Conrad Boyce

North

Our prime minister is in Whitehorse this week, my old stomping grounds. His people say the trip was previously planned, to meet with First Nations about this, that or the other. But we all know he's really there to participate in the search for the mysterious UFO that was shot down in the Yukon on the weekend. A true north adventure.

The first report I saw on Global National said the object had been seen over central Yukon, and was the second shot down in the Arctic on consecutive days. I was immediately suspicious, because if you'd care to consult an atlas, you will notice that any locality that could be construed as "central" in the territory is nowhere near the Arctic. The Arctic Circle crosses the Yukon pretty high up; there is only one village north of it, comprising less than one per cent of the Yukon's population.

So, I mused, "Which was it? Central Yukon or the Arctic (because it can't be both)?" I messaged a Yukon friend who said that although there was no official confirmation of the locale of the high-risk takedown, someone who worked at the airport said the airspace was closed that afternoon over Mayo, an old silver mining town which, from any objective geographic standpoint, could only be interpreted as being in the "south central" part of the territory, and lies more than 300 km as the raven flies from the Arctic Circle.

So whoever wrote that script for Global National was a little sloppy in his or her research. It reminded me of a full-page obituary in the *Globe and Mail* a few weeks ago, about a celebrated ecologist who had spent many a summer researching in the high Arctic, on Baffin Island and points even further north. To illustrate the article, the *Globe* chose a lovely photo of the fellow against a snowy mountain backdrop, identified as the White Pass in the Yukon. Since there was no other information provided, and since the article was all about Dr. Whosit's work in the Arctic, a reader might assume the White Pass is somewhere in the northern Yukon, up near the Beaufort Sea.

Now it just so happens I know the White Pass well, been through it many times. I even wrote a play about the Canadian who built a breathtaking narrow gauge railway over the pass back at the turn of the last century. So I

can confirm that the photo accompanying the obituary was indeed taken in the White Pass. A beautiful place.

But the place is nowhere near the Arctic. Nor is it in the Yukon. It's even south of the 60th Parallel, which most geographers treat as the southern border of the "true north strong and free," the boundary between the western provinces and territories. The White Pass begins in Alaska, just north of the coastal panhandle town of Skagway, and takes you into that little weird leg of British Columbia in the province's far northwest. So when the scientist got his picture taken there, he was probably just passing through, probably on that same railway. It almost certainly had nothing to do with the guy's research. So again, sloppy work on the part of a national, highly respected media outlet. Disappointing.

It got me to wondering why the *Globe*, and *Global*, would think they could get away with it... Maybe it's because they know that Canadians, the majority of whom live within a short drive of the American border, have a hazy concept of "north." My wife and I often laugh about my reaction when, shortly after my emigration to Ontario from the Yukon, one of her friends announced he was heading "up north" for the weekend. He meant Muskoka, I thought he meant Moosonee. Or Mayo.

English, as we all know, is a strange language. Thus the difference between "I'm heading north," which simply means you're not going south, but maybe just walking to the end of the block, and "I'm heading up north," which implies a jaunt or journey of some significance in a direction which would ultimately increase your latitude. When we were paddling the Yukon River a couple of decades ago, my wife was befuddled by the fact that we were heading "down north", going downstream while heading straight towards the Pole. If you're kayaking with the current on the Uxbridge Brook, you're doing the same thing.

But despite my history in the Yukon, I'm nothing if not adaptable. So if I should ever invite you "up north" for a picnic, rest assured I'm probably not flying you to Dawson City. We're likely just destined for a delightful afternoon in Zephyr.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

The balloon menace

The evening was all about military pomp and circumstance. Hundreds of Canadian Armed Services personnel had gathered last Saturday night at the Beanfield Centre on the CNE grounds for Toronto's premier social event in the military community. I actually landed a ticket and was seated at a table of Navy regulars and reservists. The 204th edition of the Garrison Officers' Ball was well underway, when the Minister of National Defence arrived in time to address guests at the ball.

"I have important news to share with you," Anita Anand said. "Today at 3:41 p.m., aircraft assigned to NORAD successfully took down (a) high-altitude airborne object. The object, flying at an altitude of 40,000 feet, had unlawfully entered Canadian air space and posed a reasonable threat to the safety of civilian flight."

Minister Anand went on to explain that debris from the cylindrically shaped object was scattered over a remote area of Yukon, but that Canadian and American armed forces hoped to gather enough evidence to determine what the object was, where it came from and why it was there.

"I know I'm preaching to the choir," Anand said, "but I'm proud to inform you that this was the first time a NORAD operation has downed an aerial object" over Canadian territory.

Her announcement, in front of hundreds of Canadian Armed Forces personnel, elicited sustained cheering and applause. In the past 12 days, U.S. and Canadian military aircraft have tracked and shot down four "high altitude objects" over Alaska, Yukon, Lake Huron and off the coast of South Carolina. In each case the prime minister and the president have suggested that China is responsible for launching these high-flying "spying" devices. Last weekend, government officials told reporters that the object shot down off South Carolina was the size of three school buses, weighed about 450 kilograms and contained surveillance equipment. But even as recently as this week, a Canadian defence specialist told media that's just speculation, "We're all in the dark right now."

Well, I wonder whether any senior politicians or defence gurus in either Canada or the U.S. have read any of their own wartime history. If so, they'd have discovered a remarkable precedent – balloons launched from the Far East toward North America during the

Second World War. When my father, Alex, and I conducted research for a book we co-authored back in 1995, we found a fascinating story published in the *Winnipeg Tribune* midway through the war. The story quoted a Manitoba trapper who'd heard a huge explosion in the bush near his camp. He travelled two days by dogsled to report it to police. Top-secret documents released at the end of the war revealed that between November 1944 and April 1945, Japanese Imperial forces launched nearly 10,000 bomb-bearing balloons into the Pacific Ocean jet stream; 300 of them with a 33-pound anti-personnel bomb landed in the U.S.

One landed near Gearhart Mountain in southern Oregon in May 1945. Local newspapers published the disheartening story of a local clergyman who took his wife and their five children into the mountains for a picnic. As the reverend parked their car, the others called to him, saying they'd found a strange object in the woods. He called out a warning, but it was too late. The bomb exploded, killing his entire family.

The *Washington Post* published a story this week describing the origin of the WWII balloon bombs. It explained that Japanese schoolchildren assembled the balloons "made of laminating layers of tissue paper from fibers of a mulberry tree." The Japanese military then attached the bombs and released them into the jet stream (at 30,000 feet); a gas discharge valve and a cycle of dropping sandbags allowed the balloon to rise and fall as the gas expelled or cooled. In 1944-45, nearly 500 U.S. military aircraft searched for the balloons over the Pacific, but only shot down two over North America. Another source said on one occasion USS *New York* was sailing towards Iwo Jima in 1945. Her crew spotted a silver sphere overhead, apparently following the warship; they opened fire "until the ship's navigator realized they were attacking the planet Venus."

Coincidentally, during a press conference in Washington on Monday, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre was quick to tell reporters, "there is no indication of aliens or extraterrestrial activity with these recent take-downs."

Then as now, fear and the unknown make us crazy.

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Overtime penalties bad news for Bruins

Roger Varley

Two minor penalties incurred within the first two minutes of sudden-death overtime resulted in a fast goal for the Clarington Eagles as they defeated the Uxbridge Bruins 3-2 at the arena last Friday.

In a tightly contested match-up, Uxbridge took the lead with the only goal of the first period, despite being hemmed in their own end for most of the period. That goal came as the period dwindled down when Matt

Gordon intercepted a Clarington pass and notched an unassisted marker.

In the second period, the Bruins started taking the action to the Eagles, but it was Clarington that scored the only goal of the period from a scramble in front of the net with just three minutes left in the stanza.

Clarington took the lead early in the third when a shot appeared to ricochet into the net off the shaft of goalie Kyle Groff's stick. As the clock

ticked down to the last three minutes, Peter Kerr scored the equalizer, assisted by Caleb MacLeish and Andrew Swan, sending the game into overtime. The Bruins had a scary moment in the last minute when a battle for the puck behind the Uxbridge goal sent the net crashing down on Groff. Groff lay on the ice for a couple of minutes before resuming play.

In the overtime period, Gordon was handed a hooking penalty after only eight seconds and, while he was still in the sin bin, Anthony Lamanna took a boarding penalty, giving the Eagles a two-man advantage. Clarington took less than 20 seconds to capitalize. Following the winning goal, the Clarington team made a fast exit, clearing the ice in about 15 seconds.

Jake Rigillo was named player of the game for the Bruins, while Connor Davies received the nod for the Eagles.

The Bruins now face a busy weekend, hosting the lowly Lakefield Chiefs at the arena tomorrow (Friday) night at 7:45 p.m., followed by a trip to the far north to face the North Kawartha Knights on Saturday. Then the Bruins return to the arena at 6:15 p.m. on Monday for a make-up game against the Knights.

The Eagles continue to hold first place in the seven-team PJHL Orr Division, with the Bruins in second place. The surprising Georgina Ice are in third, just ahead of the Little Britain Merchants.

Insider cider, from page 3

chickens. And when they recruited Dave Geddes, an old friend in the IT field who specialized in helping startup businesses, Geddes knew next to nothing about apples either. So he immediately enlisted in a cider-makers' course at Brock University in St. Catharines, while Lori started working on the all-important marketing - there were already 60 cideries in Ontario when they put together the business plan, and that number has doubled by today (and doubled in Uxbridge).

In the summer of 2017, the Fedde-mas began preparing the ground for the trees and the buildings, while Geddes toured cideries across North America (he figures he's seen more than 50), and located the equipment he'd need for the small-batch industrial cidery. By the spring of 2019, the cidery was ready for production (using apples imported from across Ontario - Slabtown's trees need a few more years before they'll contribute significantly to the process), and the store opened that summer. The plan was to open the eatery the following spring, but the pandemic got in the way, so it didn't make its debut till the summer of 2021. Slabtown now has about 40 full and part-time employees, a handful each in the store and cidery, the rest in the eatery.

The first step in a cidery with its own mature orchard is picking the apples, which is more complex than it sounds, but as mentioned, Slabtown currently sources the bulk of its fruit from elsewhere. So proceed immediately to step two, the

grinding, which reduces everything into a fragrant mash. The mash is filtered to remove all the crusty bits, the skins, stems, seeds and such. That sediment, known as pomace, is recycled as feed for farm animals; pigs apparently consider it quite the treat.

There are plenty of apple varieties out there, and each contributes its own particular zing to cider. In fact, there are also varieties that wouldn't go well in a child's lunchbox, but turn out to be quite tasty when juiced and fermented. So the apples that go into the grinder are usually of just one variety, unless a blend is called for.

The grinding and juicing take place in a separate building out back. The juice then proceeds into the cidery for the next five steps:

1 Fermentation - This occurs in 8,000 litre tanks. Just as different apple varieties produce different qualities in the cider, so do different varieties of yeast, and the cider maker needs to know his yeast as well as he knows his fruit. "And the yeast, which is of course a living organism, needs to be treated just so," says Geddes, "or it misbehaves, and the cider suffers."

2 Settling - This occurs in smaller tanks. The fermented juice purifies itself and the yeast sediment, or lees, which might ultimately sour the cider, is removed.

3 Carbonation - Yet smaller tanks are used here. This is also the stage where other flavourings - fruit, honey, maple syrup, spices, etc. - are added to the apple juice. The Slabtown website says that more than a score (20) of cider flavours are currently on offer. This will vary seasonally, and as more ideas, sometimes from the eatery's head chef, sometimes from its customers, are tried out.

4 Aging - Like wine, bourbon or tequila, cider is often aged in wooden casks (but not nearly as long). In fact, cider makers will often source their casks from distillers and vintners in order to impart distinct flavours.

5 Bottling - Slabtown, until it begins to ship internationally, has the tiniest of production lines: one machine which fills four bottles at a time, and a second person who pops on the caps and crates the bottles.

With only one exception, Slabtown gets all of its ingredients from Ontario growers, and a lot of them from right here in Uxbridge. And that's a great source of pride for Slabtowners.

"We have a great relationship with local farmers," Geddes says. "For instance, in the spring, we bring over a few hives from 3 Boyz Bees, just up the road. The bees do their business for a couple of weeks, pollinating our apple blossoms, then later we use their very best in our Honey Habanero cider. And we use local peppers, too, from Gratton's Greatest on Sandford Sideroad."

CUPPLES, Murray

Peacefully passed away at Bon Air Long Term Care, Cannington, with family by his side on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 93 years of age.

Beloved husband of Betty (née Barcroft) for 68 years. Loving father of Margaret Cupples (Michael Bennett), Mary Cupples, Cynthia Cupples and John (Dianne) Cupples. Proud grandfather of Ian, Elizabeth; Craig, Andrew; Ella, Clare; Ryan, Shawn, and Shannon. Dear brother of Bernard Cupples and predeceased by Jean Wienecke, Doug Cupples and Jim Cupples. Murray will also be fondly remembered by many family and friends.

A visitation and funeral service was held at the Mt. Albert United Church, 41 Alice St., Mt. Albert, on Saturday, February 11, 2023.

Interment at Mt. Albert Cemetery. In Murray's memory, donations may be made to the Mt. Albert United Church. Online condolences may be made at www.skwarchukfuneralhome.com



Maxine,

I thought of you with love today,

But that is nothing new.

I thought about you yesterday.

And days before that too.

I/we think of you in silence.

We often speak your name.

Now we have your memories.

And your picture in a frame.

Your memory is our keepsake.

With which we'll never part.


God has you in His keeping.


We have you in our heart.

*Maxine,
I have you in
my heart!*

*Jerry
(and your many
friends)*

Dec. 4, 1925 ~ Feb. 19, 2021





JoAnne E. Pinguet

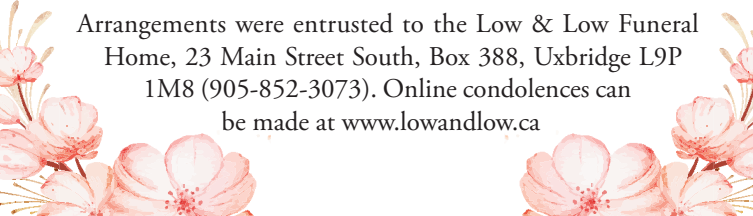
*Born February 20, 1932
Died February 2, 2023*

Oldest of 8 children. Survived and sadly missed by her husband of 67 years, Frank, as well as 3 children, 9 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Long time member/volunteer of the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Auxiliary, president 1972-76. Organized the dances, tag days, etc. Long time volunteer at Chances Are. MS Walk volunteer from inception for 10 years. Meals on Wheels volunteer. Member of the Ladies Skating club.

Taught Ceramics, Toll Painting, Porcelain painting for many years (Willow Hill Ceramics). Avid gardener, loved her dogs, grandchildren.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). Online condolences can be made at www.lowandlow.ca



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salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2*

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EVENTS

UDORA LEASKDALE LIONS CLUB'S SPAGHETTI DINNER RETURNS Friday, Feb. 24, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Udora Community Hall (24 Victoria St., Udora). Adults \$15, children \$5.

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

SPAGHETTI DINNER Friday, Feb. 24, 5 - 6:30 p.m., St. Paul's Anglican Church. Free! Served in the lower hall. To volunteer, contact church office by email at stpaulsuxbridge@yahoo.ca or by phone at 905-852-7016.

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Friday, Feb. 17, 7:45 p.m.
Against Lakefield
at the Uxbridge Arena

Saturday, Feb. 18, 7:25 p.m.
Against North Kawartha
at the North Kawartha Community Centre

Monday, Feb. 20, 6:15 p.m.
Against North Kawartha
at the Uxbridge Arena



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Letters, from page 4

takes courage, compassion, and critical thinking to take your head out of the sand and to examine the links that tether our present world to the past. Both Canada and the United States' mainstream societies struggle with doing that, even as highly visible legacies rear their ugly faces right in front of our eyes, i.e.: videos of police brutality against Black people circulating on the internet.

It appears the bald eagle is even more keen to keep its head in the sand than the goose. Earlier this month, in the United States, it was reported that a newly drafted advanced placement course for African American studies has been stripped down from earlier drafts, removing parts that touch on Critical Race Theory and Black Lives Matter - both of which directly connect anti-Black racism of the past to present-day inequities.

In Canada, we are slowly rolling out anti-racism policies and legislations to combat the systemic nature of racism in our own nation. In Ontario in 2017, the Anti-Racism Act was legislated to track race-based data in three sectors: justice, education, and child welfare. Pub-

licly funded school boards are seeing anti-racism policies emerge, especially as internal reviews show that different groups of our children are experiencing the same institutions differently (e.g., disproportionate disciplinary action and streaming into low academic pathways). We are still a long way away, though, as the United Nations Human Rights reported in September 2022 that our progress is minimal and that immediate action is needed to disrupt legacies of anti-Black racism.

For Black History Month, and beyond, let us look to Black historians and thought-leaders to learn not only about the past, but about the ways in which the past has been and continues to be reconstructed each and every day. Investigate Black historians such as Ibram X. Kendi, a professor and author who can walk you through anti-racism (with books written for parents of newborns, for kids, for teens, and for adults); and Kahlil Greene, the "Gen Z Historian" who is an educational content creator on social media. Once we have a better understanding of history, we can begin the important work of disrupting the status quo and dismantling systems of oppression that we reconstruct each day with our thoughts

and actions. With courage, compassion and critical thinking, we can usher in new ways of thinking today that will form new legacies. Thinking that will reform our society into a community that is equitable for all people in the future.

Tonia Lyons
Uxbridge

In May last year, a tornado rumbled through town, down King St., and directly slamming into our building, The Tin Mill. No one was hurt, lots of damage, and the days that followed presented so many great volunteers, town and out-of-town staff, tradesmen, to help us all get back on our feet.

There is one lonely house still standing on King St., but today, as I looked to the west from our building, I noticed for the first time, behind the battered train station, a roof line. A new roof line proudly presenting upward! The Second Wedge rising up from the debris. What a positive sight on a cold February day.

Congrats to Rob (Garrard) and Joanne (Richter) and hope to see you back up and running soon!

Ian Boyd, Boyd's Sports
Uxbridge

In relation to Tom Robinson's observations in his Letter to the Editor of Feb. 2, and Roger Varley's comments in his column of Feb. 9, I have a few observations of my own.

Mr. Robinson was shocked by the level of preoccupation our town council has with wrestling with the implications of the Ford government's Bill 23 "The More Homes Built Faster Act". He detailed how desperate Ontario is to answer the growing demand for affordable housing while it overrides local control over residential and commercial development in the process.

Anyone who knows about the reigning chaos in the Pickering Town Council over the state of their own developments, both the ongoing quagmire of the huge Seaton development and the newly fast-tracked Veraine development, will get a sense of how lacking in accountability the decision-making process is in making these crucial long term sustainability and affordability development plans.

Mr. Robinson goes on to mention how the media has been largely absent in debating the hugely significant implications of Bill 23. I ask, where is the Association Of Ontario Townships in voicing the fact that the Ontario government has basically cut them out of the process of

managing their own local development, other than to do the dirty work of implementing these large developments within the existing tax base and infrastructure realities?

To add insult to injury, Bill 23 also drops crucial development charges that developers no longer have to add to their budgets, increasing their bottom line. What a sweetheart deal, leaving local taxpayers to make up the shortfall of developers fees.

In regards to Roger Barley's column concerning the self-congratulatory tone of our own town council's efforts in holding the increase to Uxbridge property taxes to just under 6 per cent - it's not surprising that Durham region continues to have the highest property tax rates in the GTA, with Toronto's latest hike being 5.5 per cent.

No one can deny the crucial importance of fire safety, but perhaps the Uxbridge town council could apply for a public safety grant to help pay the \$16,761 tab for a 48-day contract for an assistant training officer for the fire department.

I could say other things, but Roger Varley's column covers things nicely.

Kevin Harper
Uxbridge