

# The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 5

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, February 2, 2023

Birds count too! • Bruins still streakin' - just not with wins • Staying warm in dropping temperatures

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**IMPRINTING THE SHIRTS** - Technician Patti Service checks the settings on a computerized embroidery machine at Choko Motorsports, in the Uxville Industrial Park west of Goodwood. For more on this local industry, see story on this page.

Photo by Conrad Boyce

## Industrial citizens: the story of Fast Eddie

Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In a story late last year about Uxville, the busy industrial park to the west of Goodwood which is home to 39 thriving businesses and hundreds of employees, the *Cosmos* promised to take a closer look at some local industrial businesses in a series of articles this year. While it's easy to walk into a retail business at any time, the same can't be done with these fascinating workplaces, so the *Cosmos* will do the visiting for you!

Uxbridge's industries aren't limited to Uxville, of course. Think of the Hela spice factory beside the Legion, or Banjo Cider on Sandford Road. But this story *does* indeed begin in Uxville, and with a company which exemplifies why the *Cosmos* is doing this series. Driving west past Goodwood, one can't help but notice the headquarters for Choko Motorsports on the hill to the right - a white and red building with an electronic sign advertising its latest deals. Choko Motorsports... they must sell snowmobiles, right? Well, there is another company in Uxville that does that, but Choko has a different story, although the beginning of the story is connected to snowmobiles...

When Jamie Hakonson, co-owner and director of marketing for the firm, invited the *Cosmos* in for a chat, she said she could spare a half hour, because it was a hectic time for her and the company's 40 employees. Almost two hours later, we were still touring the various fascinating corners of the 30,000 square foot

...continued on page 8

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## Popular trail lost to snowmobilers

Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Uxbridge snowmobile aficionados have lost a popular access route to their network of trails through northern Ontario.

On January 13, the Heart of Ontario Snowmobile Club, based in Cannington, announced on its Facebook page that it would no longer be maintaining the old rail bed between Lake

Ridge Road and Simcoe Street in Scugog, and would therefore be closing the trail to snowmobile traffic. The Heart of Ontario club, one of more than 180 local clubs across the province, is also responsible for Uxbridge.

The Facebook post says that after many years of maintaining that section of the rail bed, the club was unable to reach a new contract with the province, which owns the track. Another

section of the trail, running between Uxbridge's Main Street (Regional Road 1) and Lake Ridge, is leased and maintained by the Township of Uxbridge as part of its trail system. It's known as the McCutcheon Trail, after longtime local trail advocate John McCutcheon.

"The McCutcheon trail is one of only three in the township where snowmobiles share the

...continued on page 8

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# Uxbridge at a Glance

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

The Township of  
**UXBRIDGE**

Trail Capital of Canada



## Council & Committee Meetings

### Meeting Schedule for February, 2023

Thursday, February 2, 12:30 p.m.  
 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
 (In Camera Item Only)

Thursday, February 2, 1:00 p.m.  
 FINANCE COMMITTEE  
 (Budget Meeting)

Monday, February 6, 10:00 a.m.  
 GENERAL PURPOSE AND  
 ADMINISTRATION

Thursday, February 9, 1:00 p.m.  
 FINANCE COMMITTEE  
 (Budget Meeting)

Monday, February 13, 10:00 a.m.  
 COUNCIL MEETING

CANCELLED - Wednesday, February 15,  
 7:00 p.m.  
 COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

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

Tuesday, February 21, 8:30 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

## Uxbridge BIA Board of Directors Wanted!



The Uxbridge BIA Board of Directors is a Committee of Council for the Township of Uxbridge that are appointed for the Term of Council. As a result, we are welcoming **NEW DIRECTORS to join our team!**

If you have ideas on how we can improve our BIA area, please consider this opportunity to help shape our business community and make a difference to the vitality of our community. Our mandate is to promote 'shop, savour, unwind, explore Uxbridge'!

BIA Board meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday evening of each month, at 7:00 p.m., and are held virtually on Microsoft Teams. Interested candidates who wish to help plan, evaluate and vote on projects to support our BIA member businesses are encouraged to **JOIN OUR BIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

Applications will be accepted until Friday, February 10, 2023, by the undersigned.

Debbie Leroux, [dleroux@uxbridge.ca](mailto:dleroux@uxbridge.ca)  
 Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
 P.O. Box 190, 51 Toronto Street South  
 Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1T1

Phone 905-852-9181, ext. 228 Fax 905-852-9674

## Road Closures

Visit [Uxbridge.ca/roads](https://www.uxbridge.ca/roads) for up-to-date notices.

## Virtual Public Information Centre South Balsam Street Stormwater Pond Retrofit

Thurs., February 16th  
 7:00-8:00p.m.

Learn more or join the meeting at  
<https://bit.ly/3wpully>



## 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.



# MARCH BREAK CAMPS

REGISTER ON ACTIVENET!

MARCH 13-17

## Registration Opens Feb. 7th

[www.uxbridge.ca/recreation](http://www.uxbridge.ca/recreation)



Township of Uxbridge documents are available in alternate formats upon request. Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at [uxbridge.ca/accessibility](http://uxbridge.ca/accessibility)

email: [accessibility@uxbridge.ca](mailto:accessibility@uxbridge.ca)  
 phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209

# Uxbridge at a Glance *continued*

## 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 1 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.

## Employment Opportunities

Complete details and qualifications required for these positions are available at [uxbridge.ca/careers](http://uxbridge.ca/careers)

### Public Works - Operations and Capital Manager

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

### Clerk's Department – Deputy Clerk

Closes Friday, February 10, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

### Community Services - Summer Camp Supervisor, contract

Closes Friday, February 10, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

### Community Services - Summer Camp Program Coordinator, contract

Closes Friday, February 10, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

### Community Services - Facility Custodian, contract

Closes Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

### Uxbridge Public Library - Facility Custodian, contract

Closes Tuesday, February 28, 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

Resumés 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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## MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

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

The 'Lounging in Lisbon' trip was won by Gilbert Kee ticket #238, sold by Greg Eickmeier.

2nd place of \$150 was won by Mary Ellen Uzzell ticket #211, sold by Ginny Slike.

3rd place of \$100 was won by Melanie Risebrough ticket #257, sold by Ian Morrison.

Congratulations to our January winners, and best of luck for the February 2023 draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge Trip of the Month Club for "Freeport Frolic". This trip includes round trip direct, non-stop flights from Toronto to Freeport, Bahamas, a 7-night stay in the Viva Wyndham Fortuna Beach Resort with all meals, drinks, daily activities and nightly entertainment. Round trip airport transfers and gratuities are also part of the package.

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.

Every draw, which takes place at Getaway Travel, is live-streamed to the Rotary Facebook page on the last Thursday of the month between 9:30 and 10 a.m.

Rotary  
Club of Uxbridge

# Our two cents

## One day closer to spring

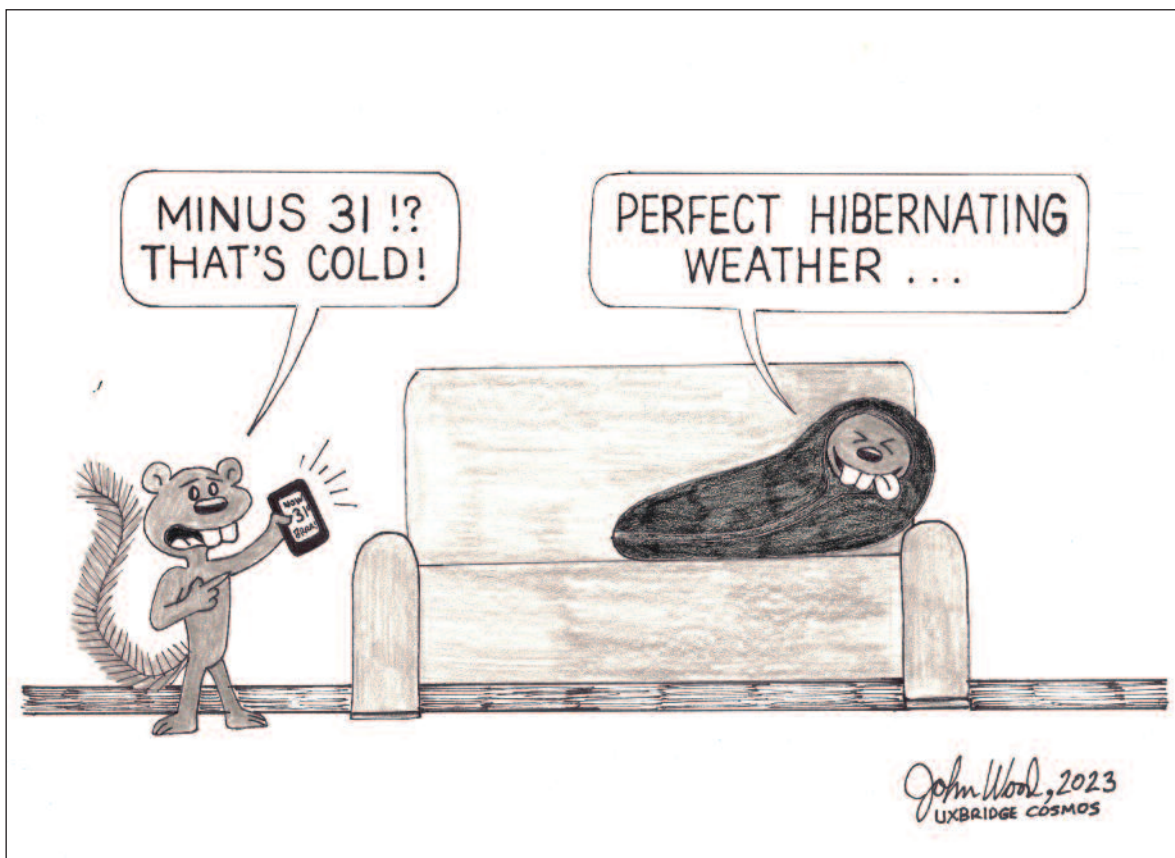
Today is Groundhog Day. Early morning radio and television news programs everywhere will give the verdict of what the local groundhog saw when he emerged from hibernation. Did he see a shadow, predicting six more weeks of winter, or was the sun already shining so clearly upon him that an early spring was pronounced?

According to history.com, on February 2, 1886, Groundhog Day was celebrated for the first time at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. But Groundhog Day has its roots in the ancient Christian tradition of Candlemas Day (which invokes Jesus' first visit to the Temple in Jerusalem), when clergy would bless and distribute candles needed for winter. The candles represented how long and cold the winter would be. Germans expanded on this concept by selecting an animal – the badger – as a means of predicting weather. German settlers in Pennsylvania continued the tradition, although they used groundhogs, which were plentiful in the Keystone State.

Groundhogs are also called woodchucks, and their scientific name is *Marmota monax*. They go into hibernation in the late fall, and in February, male groundhogs emerge from their burrows to look for a mate - not to predict the weather - before going underground again. They come out of hibernation for good in March.

According to the story, in 1887, a newspaper editor belonging to a group of groundhog hunters from Punxsutawney called the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club declared that Phil, the Punxsutawney groundhog, was America's only true weather-forecasting groundhog. The line of groundhogs that have since been known as Phil might be America's most famous groundhogs, but other towns across North America now have their own weather-predicting rodents, from Staten Island Chuck to Shubenacadie Sam in Canada. Closest to Uxbridge is Warton Willie, who resides in Warton, Bruce County, or Gary the Groundhog, who hibernates in Kleinburg. There's also Brandon Bob in Manitoba, and Balzac Billy in Alberta.

No matter what Groundhog Day is to you, know that it's one day closer to grass poking through the snow and summer's heat returning once more.



## Letters to the Editor

### Open letter to MPP Bethlenfalvy

In a democracy, I feel it is my responsibility to express my opinion to you.

I moved my family to Uxbridge 45 years ago. After we settled in, my wife and I began to participate as volunteers in our new community. Uxbridge had a population of 11,000 at that time, and was blessed with a large and active army of volunteers in every imaginable aspect of social life. Our involvement was in municipal politics, community service work, and in the research and promotion of the township's historic Quaker heritage.

Since 1977, I have watched successive municipal councils prioritize and manage the orderly, reasoned and controlled development of the township. While planning Uxbridge's future, our councillors, assisted by senior staffers, have not forgotten or dismissed our historic past. The pace of growth has been modest and the resultant is an attractive, manageable and effectively led municipality. Thanks to successive councils, Uxbridge is a very appealing place in which to live and to work.

Most recently, Uxbridge council commissioned and later adopted a Downtown Revitalization Plan. The purpose was to preserve, beautify and create an atmosphere and an environment in the original core of the "village" to attract residents and visitors for recreation and commerce. Last week, I met with one of our municipal councillors to discuss the implementation of the revitalization plan. I was shocked at his re-

sponse.

Although council is anxious to proceed with implementation of downtown revitalization, its priority today is responding to Bill 23 "The More Homes Built Faster Act," a provincial government statute that will strip municipal councils of much of their authority to control orderly residential and commercial development within their respective boundaries.

It is well known that Ontario is currently experiencing a severe housing shortage, especially the sparse inventory of existing and proposed affordable housing. This shortage is quite pronounced in the GTHA. Bill 23 is the provincial government's proposed solution to a pronounced social need.

I have two concerns regarding the proposed solution. By minimizing or eliminating local control over residential and commercial development, the consequences could be overcrowding, urban sprawl, saturation of existing infrastructure, and growth in areas currently protected and controlled by current Official Plans.

Our media has been absent from the debate on Bill 23, a bill that, once enacted, will have a profound long-term impact on Ontario. Our media has not raised the red flag on this major social issue.

Surely, Ontario's two level over governance could have arrived at an equitable, formula to achieve the end goals of Bill 23 without restricting municipalities from managing growth within their boundaries.

**Tom Robinson**  
Uxbridge

### Re: 'Betting on tarnished stars,' The Barris Beat, Jan. 26

In the 50s, young people wanted to smoke so they could be cool like Humphrey Bogart. In the 70s, young people wanted guns so they could be cool like Dirty Harry and blow people away. Unfortunately, today I think Ted Barris is right. Young people will take up gambling so they can be cool like Wayne Gretzky and Connor McDavid.

I hope before they do that, they realize that these people are not heroes. They are just hockey players that have no morals and are willing to do anything for a buck.

**Dave Miller**  
Uxbridge

### Volunteer helps make world a "dinder place"

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Bev North-east, chair of the Salvation Army Uxbridge Unit.

Bev does an amazing job of coordinating all the programs within the Salvation Army. Always caring for others and being there whenever needed.

Bev's hard work and dedication showed two of my great-granddaughters, Mackenzie and Breanna Barrett, that helping others makes the world a kinder place.

Thank you so much, Bev, for all you do for our community.

**Dianne Gordon**  
Uxbridge

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



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## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Looking for intelligent life

Fans of Monty Python will know the final line of their famous *Universe Song*: "Pray that there's intelligent life somewhere up in space, cuz there's bugger all down here on Earth."

The song came to mind the other night as I watched the movie *M3gan*, the latest offering in the robot-gone-wrong genre. The theme has been explored many times in the movies, with such notable entries as *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *I Robot* and Steven Spielberg's *AI*. Even the robot in *Lost In Space* had problems from time to time. In each case, the robot's artificial intelligence ends up resulting in unintended consequences. Rather like the Tesla self-drive vehicles, which appear to be crashing and malfunctioning with regularity.

I, for one, will never willingly be a passenger in any type of vehicle that does not have a human operator.

Yet artificial intelligence (AI) has been all over the news in recent weeks and there are concerns about how it could affect various areas of life, including education. An app called CHATGPT can apparently enable students to write essays in a matter of minutes - and the essays are not always without errors, plagiarism or, more importantly, misinformation. CHATGPT has been banned from New York City public schools, and some English teachers in Canada have stopped assigning essay-writing as homework. Indeed, now there's another app that can be used to detect whether an essay or article has been written by AI or by a human. In other words, they've created something that can cause problems and so now they create something else to handle those problems.

The *Guardian* newspaper recently published an editorial written entirely by an artificial intelligence app. The app followed the instructions it was given and produced a lucid commentary on why AI should not be feared.

AI is also being used to generate "art." I put that word in quotes because I wonder if it can actually be called art if it doesn't con-

tain some element of human emotion, human experience.

All of which leads to the question: should we embrace AI or reject it? Already there are warnings that AI could replace humans in any number of jobs. We've already seen how workers can be replaced on assembly lines by robotics. Now what happens when those robots can think? What workers will be replaced then?

Physicist Stephen Hawking said of AI: "I fear that AI may replace humans altogether. If people design computer viruses, someone will design AI that replicates itself. This will be a new form of life that will outperform humans." Now, I might be on pretty shaky ground here, but if I'm not mistaken we already have nanobots, microscopic machines, that can replicate themselves. If that is so, what's to stop more complex robots from doing the same thing?

There's something more to be considered. If AI can generate essays, editorials and art, how can we mere mortals determine what is "real" and what is not? (It might be worthwhile pointing out here that this column was not written by an AI app: but, then again, maybe that's just an AI app lying to you.) One might be willing to pay a hefty sum of money for a painting by Fred Varley, but would one be willing to pay the same for a painting produced in the same style by AI? Will AI art and literature result in similar works by humans being devalued?

At the same time, maybe we've painted ourselves into this corner with our own human incompetence. I wrote a couple of weeks ago about the frustrations of reaching anyone on the telephone these days. Today I had to call Durham Region again and, this time, I actually had the four-digit code for the person I wanted to reach. What I got was a recording informing me that "today is Thursday, Dec. 22, and I will be out of the office until Jan.2."

It seems to me that line from the Monty Python song isn't too far off the mark.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### A winter tale of music lost and found

It happened sixty-four years ago tonight. Their tour, "the Winter Dance Party," had just finished a show at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa. But several of the rock 'n' roll performers were suffering under winter conditions on the road in the U.S. Midwest. Singer J.P. Richardson, a.k.a. Big Bopper, had the flu. Drummer Carl Bunch had frostbite in his feet from travelling on a frigid tour bus for 10 days. Guitarist Waylon Jennings was suffering too. A long bus ride in the cold to Moorhead, Minn., lay ahead.

"Buddy (Holly) told me he had chartered a plane for me and him and (guitarist) Tommy Allsup," Jennings said in a YouTube interview 10 years ago. "But the Big Bopper had the flu real bad. He asked if he could have my seat on the plane. I said OK." Meanwhile, Tommy Allsup and Ritchie Valens met backstage, Allsup explained. "And Ritchie said come on (Tommy), let me fly. So, I pulled a half-dollar coin out of my pocket and flipped it. He called 'heads' and it came up 'heads.'"

So, but for a swapped seat and a coin toss three of the biggest names in pop music in 1959 - Valens, Big Bopper and Buddy Holly - were lost. Most agree that Charles Hardin Holly blazed a unique trail in the early days of rock 'n' roll. The tall, slim, bespectacled boy from Lubbock, Texas, began as a country singer in the summer of 1957, but edged into rock with songs such as *That'll Be The Day*, *Maybe Baby* (with his original band the Crickets) *Oh Boy* and probably his best-known classic, *Peggy Sue*.

Because I had always been fascinated by "the Winter Dance Party" tour story and at the time produced a daily radio current affairs program in Saskatoon, as the 20th anniversary approached, I chased down Don McLean; he'd immortalized Holly's death with the lyrics "the day the music died" in his song *American Pie* in 1971. But I was even more fortunate to find Marie Elena Santiago Holly, Buddy's widow. She consented to an interview and told me how the two met when she worked as a receptionist in a music publishing office in New York.

"I didn't even know who he was, even though I was sending out his records," she admitted in our interview. "It was a mutual admiration society right away. I just fell, like

boom. He fell the same way." She went on to say that he was the first man she'd ever dated. It proved a memorable outing, because Holly proposed to her. After they married, Holly split up with his band, the Crickets, chose to perform solo and shared side-musicians with Ritchie Valens and Big Bopper. Then, came "the Winter Dance Party" tour. Maria wanted to join Buddy. "But I was pregnant and stayed home. It was an awful tour. People were getting sick. The bus kept breaking down.

"When they reached the Surf Ballroom (in Clear Lake)," she told reporter Bettina Dizon in 2021, "he said it was very cold. He spoke to me, but he didn't tell me he was taking the small plane."

Holly's body was buried near his home in Texas, with a simple epitaph, "In loving memory of our own Buddy Holly." But his wife has never visited it. She had suffered a miscarriage after his death, and told Dizon that all she has are fond memories of the man and his music.

Rock musicologist Lillian Roxon wrote extensively about Holly's impact on pop music in the 1950s and '60s, "More than any other singer of that era, he makes music that is fun, when sheer animal exuberance was what counted." Roxon goes on to say Holly had a sound and a style emulated by (and they admitted it) Bob Dylan and Paul McCartney. Perhaps the more interesting influence Holly had on music was his impact on Waylon Jennings, his bass player during "the Winter Dance Party" tour.

"I was probably the worst rock 'n' roll bass player in the world," Jennings admitted 10 years ago. After 1959, Jennings' country music career blossomed partly because of his notoriety from the tragedy, but also because he paid close attention to Buddy Holly's sense of rhythm and his dedication to a sound. "Buddy Holly was one of those guys I've always said lived in the pocket. When you're in the pocket you've got a rhythm or a melody and it doesn't stop. He taught me not to compromise, be true to your sound."

How a moment in time changes lives forever.

For more Barris Beat columns, go to [www.tedbarris.com](http://www.tedbarris.com)

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# Thank you!



The Optimist Club of Uxbridge wishes to thank the following for their contribution to helping us make our 15th anniversary of the Optimist Fantasy of Lights so successful! Monies raised from this event go toward our initiatives for helping the youth of our town.

Please consider supporting the businesses and organizations listed below. We look forward to another spectacular event in 2023.

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Wright Web and Photo  
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**Our Park Set-up, Take down & Tech Support Volunteers**

Tom Archer  
Mack Batten  
Shawn Hermans  
Bill & Nancy Knapp  
Mark Melcher  
Nancy Nicholson  
Tony Schwab  
Skye Steeves  
Keith St. John  
Randy Wilson  
Colin Williamson & Barry Harris for drone videos  
Stephen Wright & John Cavers for photography

**Our Gate Volunteers**

Jennifer Appleton Bagshaw  
Jay Best  
Danny Bisschop

Beth Bowman  
Roxanne & Bryson Bound  
Jackie Burch  
Ellen Campbell  
Cooper Cargill  
Ngaan Chan  
Stephen Chiu  
Jake Clutchey  
Calvin Cockburn  
Cathy Cook  
Lisa Cornell-Cook  
Liam Davidson  
Tess Dempster  
Muriel Deschenes  
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Amanda, Jeff, & Cole Harris  
Brent & Rachel Harrison & girls  
Ken & Carol Hendry  
Shawn & Rylan Hermans  
Lucas Houghton  
Karen Irwin  
Debbie Kernohan  
Olga Kubacka & Friends  
Payton, Ella & Addison Kennedy  
Emma Leighton  
Kim & Piper Lunn  
Brenda Marshall  
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Julie McKeiver  
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Cathy & Gary Newton  
Eric & Cynthia Nidd  
Kyle, Maddie, & Tristan Ough  
Willie Popp  
Elaine & Hunter Porter (Rotary)  
Owen Ritchie  
Nikki Roberts  
Lisa Rolph  
Kate Russell  
Erin Saunderson  
Christian Serrano

Jeff Smith & son  
Todd Snooks  
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Liam Solomon  
Jim Sowerby  
Nicole Stewart  
Luke & Skye Steeves  
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Kat & Ian Weir  
Lindsay Weldon  
Hannah, Parker, Preston, & Shannon Wilson  
Randy & Alice Wilson  
Ashley & Zebede Woodhams  
Samantha Young

## Special Thanks to

- Pierre Knobbs of Joker FX for the display signs
- Derek Heyes for snow clearing and sanding
- Uxbridge Town Council and staff for their ongoing support
- The Uxbridge Cosmos, Uxbridgedaily.com, 105.5 Hits FM and Uxbridge Tourism for helping to promote the event
- Paul Geesen for snow clearing
- Chris & Frank Chown for providing us with cookies
- Tim Hortons for providing hot chocolate
- Bill & Nancy Knapp for their nightly maintenance
- Finally, we wish to thank the local residents for their patience, understanding and support.

We had a very successful event, which allows us to put a lot more money into our own community for the good of our youth! We are so grateful to everyone who helped to "pull this off". We could not have done it without you.

**Grant Acknowledgement**

The Optimist Fantasy of Lights received a non-repayable contribution of \$100,000 through the Tourism Relief Fund to help attract new visitors and drive economic growth in our community.

The Optimist Fantasy of Lights secured the funding from Central Counties Tourism to improve the electrical supply in Elgin Park and purchase additional lights and equipment for future growth.

The funds are part of the Government of Canada's Tourism Relief Fund, delivered by the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario).

Funded by:  
Federal Economic Development  
Agency for Southern Ontario

Financé par :  
Agence fédérale de développement  
économique pour le Sud de l'Ontario





Left to right: Steve Davidson, Corina Cook, Jessie Cook, Jennifer Gibson, Jim Crossland, Sean Riley, Jesse Bruder and Tony Poupa.



## THE NUMBERS ARE IN!

For the 2022 calendar year, the Uxbridge Ford Sales Department was proclaimed the **#1 Sales Department in the Nation** for customer satisfaction scores (stores with a minimum of 50 reported new Ford vehicle sales in the 2022 calendar year).

Uxbridge Ford also achieved **#1 for Sales Customer Satisfaction** (in its zone) **for the second consecutive year.**

On behalf of Uxbridge Ford's local owner, Sean Riley, and the staff at Uxbridge Ford, we would like to thank the community and all of our **Amazing Customers** for assisting us to achieving this amazing goal! **Thank You All!**



"Farmer" Jim Crossland stands in the showroom at Uxbridge Ford as he bids farewell after 26 years of service. Jim has been a huge part of Uxbridge Ford (formerly Brandon Ford) and its success serving the community since 1996. Uxbridge Ford and Jim's loyal following of customers wish him all the best in his retirement.

254 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge, Ontario, L9P 1N4 905-852-6185



A HUGE congratulations also goes to the #1 Customer-Service-Rated Sales Consultant IN ALL OF CANADA! That's right! Uxbridge Ford's Tony Poupa officially won the title of #1 in the nation in 2022! Tony brings 6+ years of greatness to Uxbridge Ford. His dedication to his customers, his career and this community has paid off, and Uxbridge Ford is proud to call him a part of the team! Thank you for everything you do, Tony! Sincerely, your colleagues and your customers!

**Industrial citizen Fast Eddie, from page 1**

facility, and we'd probably only skimmed the surface of all the things the 40-year-old family business is involved in.

"Things began in our garage near Stouffville," says Hakonson. "My dad, Ed Hakonson, had worked for Yamaha for a few years. He designed

a snowmobile suit for them which proved pretty popular. After a while, he thought maybe he could turn this design talent into a business. He was right. My mom Heidi and the kids all helped, and we didn't look back."

It wasn't long before Choko moved into a space on Stouffville's Tenth Line, near the Stouffville Market. By then, the business had expanded into a variety of custom apparel, for an ex-

panding list of clients, as well as creating its own product lines. After 20 years, Choko was bursting at the seams, and moved to its present location.

Since that move, the company has morphed into three distinct businesses. The core is still Choko, which designs, develops and distributes complete lines of clothing and accessories for a number of large corporate clients, including GM and Kubota. The showroom is currently hung with the spring line for Snap-On Tools.

"All across North America," Hakonson says, "mechanics are working on their customers' cars. Maybe their coveralls or caps recognize the tools of their trade with a Snap-on Tools logo. Maybe they have a cool vividly coloured t-shirt with a catchy automotive-themed slogan, and again the Snap-On insignia. Those items are for the most part our designs.

When the Snap-On sales person visits the shop, they offer these things as incentives to buy their tools, and of course it ends up promoting their company, too. With Kubota or GM, the market expands to the general public. When you walk into the dealership to look at a new truck or tractor, you can also get a nice shirt or toque for a very reasonable price, or probably free if you end up getting the truck!"

The second business in the family, Fast Eddie Authentic Apparel, is similar to Choko in that it offers licensed apparel and accessories. The difference, as the name implies, is the turnaround. With Fast Eddie, the Choko team will create and build a custom piece for you, to help promote your company with products they design and develop themselves. The photo on page 1 shows the shop was embroidering a variety of shirts with the logo of a small company. No

job too small, no deadline too soon, that's Fast Eddie's *modus operandi*.

The third business in the group has little to do with the family patriarch's talent for clothing design, and everything to do with his passion for fast cars.

"My dad developed polio when he was three months old, but that's never slowed him down," says Hakonson proudly. "He was the Easter Seals Timmy when he was nine. He may have had problems moving on his legs, but put him behind the wheel of a powerful machine, that's a different story."

So Ed Hakonson Racing was a natural offshoot of that fascination. The company, with Jamie and her husband Jason Hathaway at the helm, operates four teams on Canada's NASCAR Pinty's circuit, competing every spring and summer in a series of events across the country from Alberta to Newfoundland. All four cars fit in one huge semi and an attached trailer, with up to 30 people joining the team trackside. Jason is in charge of race operations, and was the 2020 NASCAR Pinty's champion. Ed can usually be found in the pits, cheering his people on. His efforts, on and off the track, led to Ed's induction into the Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame three years ago.

And Choko's obsession with things automotive doesn't end in Uxville. They are the principal sponsor of the tractor pull at the Uxbridge Fall Fair, and contribute money or products to a number of auto-themed charity events across Ontario.

"Our business deals a lot in internal combustion," laughs Hakonson, "but the building itself tries to balance that with solar panels and geothermal heating. We like to say our social responsibility's on our roof, not on our t-shirts."

Speaking of the building, it divides neatly into five zones: graphic design and fashion design studios; a showroom with rotating product displays, which can be toured in person or virtually; a shop floor where the finishing touches are applied to clothing or other products (principal apparel construction happens elsewhere in Canada or offshore); and a huge warehouse where products live until being shipped. Sales, accounting and purchasing offices are also on site. Choko takes great pride in personally overseeing the development of every product, from conception to client delivery.

And what happened during the pandemic?

"Some of our clients, like Kubota and Snap-On Tools, were deemed essential, so things didn't change a lot for them," says Hakonson. "For the rest, we took a couple of weeks to plan, then we pivoted to making custom courtesy masks. Graphic and fashion design are what we do.

**Robert "Bob" Arthur Owen**

It is with great sadness that we announce his passing peacefully in the early morning hours of January 26, 2023, at the age of 91.

Bob was born on April 22, 1931, in Toronto, ON. Throughout his long life, he always had a passion for anything artistic. Bob was a graphic designer for most of his life, retiring at 65. In that time, he also married Sandra Frost and had 3 sons: Robert, Scott and Jeff. Bob loved talking about his career, art and everything in between, including his yearly designs on the front bush to make it look like a race car. He was also an avid gardener and loved watching the birds in his backyard. Bob loved his sports too, from football to lawn bowling. He was known for his great love for his sons, quick wit and his kind and compassionate spirit. Bob will be greatly missed but forever a part of this family.

Bob will rest in peace with his wife Sandra, son Robert, and grandson Jeffrey by his side. He is survived by sons Scott (wife Tracy) and Jeff (wife Breanne). Bob was a proud Papa to Brittany, Aislyn, Michael, Robert, Aaron, Michelle, Anne and Max.

As per Bob's wishes, there will be no funeral service; a family gathering will take place at the burial. 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](http://www.lowandlow.ca)



Choko marketing director Jamie Hakonson (right) confers with artist Tim Wilson on a jacket design.  
Photo by Conrad Boyce

**FRASER (née Cook), Margaret**

May 2, 1938 - January 23, 2023

Passed away peacefully at the age of 84 on Monday, January 23, 2023, under the care of the Markham Stouffville Hospital.

Beloved wife of the late Gordon Fraser (2016), and loving mother of Andrew (Elizabeth) Pennington and Yvonne (Robert) McTeague. Dearly loved grandmother of Kristie Pennington (Michael Barfield), Jennifer Pennington (Jesse Miller) and Lochlan McTeague; and great-grandmother of Trenton, Cole, Decker, Dilynn, Lucas and Maverick. Margaret is survived by her sister Janet (Hugo) Barth and their children Alexandra and Philip.

A Celebration of Life will be hosted in the spring by Andrew & Yvonne, details will be announced at a later date. Arrangements have been 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](http://www.lowandlow.ca)

**HOPE, Mavis Jane (Johnston)**

January 2, 1927 - January 27, 2023

Mavis gently and peacefully passed with family by her side. Much loved wife to the late Kenneth Hope and cherished mother of Beverley (Gerry), Barbara (the late Bill),

Ken (Lori), Edie (Ralph), Darlene (Aaron) and Fred. Proud grandmother to 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Survived by her sisters Eunice and Verna, as well as sisters-in-law Dorothy and Joan. Predeceased by her parents Lewis and Edith Johnston, as well as sisters Marjorie, Muriel, Shirley, Lucy and brothers Harvey, Gordon Garfield and Neill.

Arrangements are entrusted to Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388 Uxbridge, L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m., followed by a service of remembrance beginning at 2:00 p.m. Her children and grandchildren will be with her as she is laid to rest beside her great love, Ken, at the Uxbridge Cemetery immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to either The Alzheimer Society or the Uxbridge Hospital Foundation. Online condolences can be made at [www.lowandlow.ca](http://www.lowandlow.ca)





# Bruins' win streak ends, point streak continues

Roger Varley

A five-win streak ended for the Uxbridge Bruins last weekend, but their point streak continued to six.

The Bruins lost 3-2 in overtime to the Merchants in Little Britain on Saturday, which earned them one point for the OT loss. They remain in second place in the seven-team PJHL Orr Division, three points behind the Clarington Eagles, but the Eagles have two games in hand.

In Little Britain, the Bruins took the lead late in the first period when the high-scoring line of Peter Kerr, Anthony Lamanna and Quinn Meek scored with less than two minutes left in the period. They increased the lead to two with Jack Davis converting a pass from Stellucio Basile for the only goal of the second period.

However, the Merchants came back with two in the third period, one of them on the power play, to send the game into overtime. A tripping penalty to the Bruins early in the

overtime period gave the Merchants the man advantage, leading to the game-winning goal

On Friday, the Bruins defeated the undermanned North Kawartha Knights 4-1 at the arena. Although five players short on the bench, the Knights attacked the Uxbridge net with enthusiasm, outshooting the Bruins 36-27 and having more dangerous forays on net than the Bruins.

Meek opened the scoring with the only goal of the first period, when the puck appeared to bounce off the North Kawartha goalie's back into the net. Jake Rigillo earned an assist. The first period was marred by the ejection of two North Kawartha players and one Bruin for uttering reprehensible slurs. That left the Knights seven men short.

The Knights tied the game midway through the second after goalie Noah Acciaccferri had stopped two initial close-in shots. Lamanna re-established the lead with what proved to be the winning goal when he back-

handed the puck from the side of the net over the Knights' goalie's shoulder. Caleb MacLeish was credited with an assist.

Midway through the third period, Kerr and Meek combined for a goal one a two-on-one breakaway and Lamanna, assisted by Basile, finished the scoring late in the period while both teams were playing short-handed.

The *Cosmos* selected Acciaccferri as the Bruins player of the game and gave the nod to Evan Brault for North Kawartha.

The Bruins won't be playing at the arena this Friday night. Instead, they will play against the Georgina Ice in Keswick. Georgina, who have turned around their performance from last season, are currently on a nine-game winning streak and challenging Little Britain for third spot in the division. On Saturday, the Bruins return to Little Britain to face the Merchants again.

# Stay warm this weekend

Roger Varley

With temperatures forecast to plummet to close to -30 C this weekend, it's possible some people might need to find somewhere to stay warm, but for homeless people in North Durham that could prove difficult.

Uxbridge Township only opens warming centres if essential services are disrupted for an extended period of time - a minimum of 12 hours - because of such things as loss of hydro. However, the township says the Uxbridge Public Library and Town Hall will welcome people who may need to drop in to warm up during regular hours of operation. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

For those in the north who require emergency shelter or respite from the cold, Uxbridge, Brock and Scugog rely on North House, which can provide transportation help for people to access housing-focused emergency shelters or overnight warming programs. The contact information for North House is 289-640-1929 or 1-877-406-8723 or info@northhouse.ca

Durham Region has several warming centres in the south, but says that, in the north, Community Living Durham North will be coordinating hotel assistance directly for people who cannot be accommodated through the housing-focused emergency shelters or overnight warming spaces. Their office line is 905-852-

5919 and they can also be emailed at cbranchaud@cldn.ca or ddesouza@cldn.ca.

Officials are urging people to check the weather before going outside, dress in layers, wear a hat, warm mitten or gloves and warm boots. They recommend seeking shelter if an individual normally spends long periods of time outside, drinking warm fluids, and considering rescheduling activities or limiting time outdoors. Keeping the room temperature above 21 C and checking in on vulnerable friends, neighbours, and relatives is also suggested.



# Results are in for Audubon Christmas bird count

Submitted by Derek Connelly

A light snowfall, which cleared in the morning, gave North Durham Nature a good -5 C day for birding for Uxbridge's 18th official National Audubon count - 55 species and 8458 birds counted overall!

We saw a slight increase in species and individuals from last year as different species reacted to changing weather conditions and habitat. Snow buntings were our highest count, with one flock of over 1,000 birds. Like the northern finches,

these birds only come down from the north looking for food. The predicted winter finch invasion did not occur in North Durham; however, evening grosbeaks treated some rural feeders to a treat, and a flock of horned larks were observed in a field.

Frozen water cut waterfowl numbers by a half, though keen field eyes found some Canada geese, trumpeter swans and ducks. Low counts occurred in redtail hawks and house finches compared to other years. Other regulars had both slight increases and decreases. The swamp sparrow was our rarest bird.

No new birds were added to the Uxbridge 18-year-old Christmas list. Many thanks to 34 volunteers walking and driving in the field and 29 watching at home feeders! Also, thanks to Kim Adams for helping record the field data and Geoff Carpentier and Kim Lendvay for hosting the field pot luck. To those who filled their feeders for us or left their gates open so we could count their birds, many thanks.

For the species list and numbers, check the North Durham Nature website at northdurhamnature.com

No more snowmobiles, from page 1

track with other users like skiers, hikers or cyclists," says Township of Uxbridge recreation director Amanda Ferraro. "Our only condition for snowmobile use was that the club lay down a rubberized surface on the old trestle bridge that was recently restored, to prevent wear and tear on the wood. That surface was put down last October for this season, so our part of the rail bed is still open to snowmobilers."

However, without being able to continue along the rail bed through Scugog to Lindsay, Fenelon Falls and beyond, snowmobilers are likely to largely abandon the Uxbridge section as well. Travelling the section from Main to Lake Ridge and back isn't much of a ride. And other users of the Scugog section may not have much longer to enjoy the route, ei-

ther.

"I'd be surprised if the trail hasn't deteriorated significantly already," says Heart of Ontario president Dave Myrshall. "There's a lot of water crossings, a lot of wildlife. It needs considerable regular maintenance, and that's why it cost the club so much. We bore the burden on behalf of the other users, but the province wouldn't help us at all. We just couldn't afford it any more, it was too much of a drain on the work that needed to be done on all our other trails."

In the Facebook post, Myrshall says he hopes the closure is only a temporary setback.

"We encourage anyone with concerns to contact their local and regional council members, and their MPPs. This is a beautiful and popular trail, and deserves to be open to everyone."



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### WANTED

**DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE:** Uxbridge Ukrainian refugee in need of "keep busy" work. Currently living with Uxbridge host. Mature, smart, quiet, knowledgeable Ukrainian woman can do domestic work in your home (i.e. cleaning, help for moving, home organizing, teaching Ukrainian language, cooking Ukrainian meals). Currently does not speak English BUT is motivated, learning through Rosetta Stone and uses a translator app. Professional experience - teacher & speech therapist. Does not drive. Jobs must be walkable, close to downtown Uxbridge. Text or call 647-223-9675

### FOR RENT

**FURNISHED BEDROOM FOR MATURE MALE** in quiet home. Includes meals and laundry. Must be drug-free. \$850 per month plus \$500 security deposit. Must show proof of employment. 905-852-5403. 2/2

### EVENTS

**JAZZ CONCERTS IN LEASKDALE:** Tom Baker (piano) & friends are performing 3 concerts at the Historic Leaskdale Church. Fri., Feb. 3 & March 3, all at 7:30 p.m. Donations at the door, proceeds to the Lucy Maud Montgomery Society to help refurbish grand piano.

**REGISTER YOUR RENTAL:** Landlords or Home owners - If you have a rental (apt., or room), Please call 905-640-3966 or 905-852-0090 or email beverlynortheast@gmail.com

**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

**UXBRIDGE CLUB****Your Donations at Work!**

Thank you so much for your support of the Optimist Fantasy of Lights. Monies raised from this event go toward our initiatives to help the youth of our town.

Last year we handed out \$75,000! A list of some of the organizations who benefitted last year:

Multiple USS scholarships  
 Huck Finn Youth Fishing Day  
 1st Uxbridge Scouts  
 Uxbridge Youth Centre  
 Uxbridge Public School  
 Precious Minds  
 Loave and Fishes Food Bank  
 Uxbridge Lions Club (playground)  
 Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust  
 Durham Farm & Rural Family Resources

**UXBRIDGE CLUB****Uxbridge Optimist Christmas Trees**

Many thanks to Pat Higgins and Mark Quibel of Canadian Tire Uxbridge, and to Jeff and Bernie at Scugog Rentals for their continued support for our Christmas tree sales.

If you would like to learn more about us, please go to our website, [uxbridgeoptimist.com](http://uxbridgeoptimist.com) for information





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**JUST SOLD**



3+2 beds, 4 baths, 2-car attached garage, finished basement, 2,285 sq.ft. + 1,210 sq.ft.



**Gerald Lawrence**  
 Manager/Realtor®  
[MultipleListings.ca](http://MultipleListings.ca)  
 Cell 416-556-0238

**WANTED**



**I HAVE A CLIENT LOOKING FOR A HOME IN UXBRIDGE**  
 Minimum 3 bdrms, 2.5 baths, large kitchen with breakfast area, fenced yard and garage.



**Judy Esmonde**  
 Broker/Realtor®  
[JudyEsmunde.ca](http://JudyEsmunde.ca)  
 Cell 416-677-8709

**FOR SALE**



**MINUTES TO UXBRIDGE \$725,000**  
 1+2 bdrm, 2 bath home on close to 1 acre with a brightly lit finished basement and renovated kitchen!



**Marie Persaud**  
 Realtor®  
[MariePersaud.ca](http://MariePersaud.ca)  
 Cell 416-970-8979

**FOR SALE**



**SOLID BRICK, 3 LEVEL, 3 BEDROOM SIDE-SPLIT**  
 Custom Glass Solarium overlooking 190' deep lot on quiet Dead-End Street. Lovingly maintained by original owner. Asking \$1,099,000



**Gwen Layton**  
 Realtor®  
[GwenLayton.ca](http://GwenLayton.ca)  
 Cell 647-991-3276

**FREE CMA**



**NEW YEAR, NEW MARKET**  
 Selling a home is complicated, especially now in a changing market. Call us and we will sit down together and review your home's value as well as our marketing plan.



**Chris Larmer**  
 Realtor®  
[Powerofbluex2.ca](http://Powerofbluex2.ca)  
 Cell 416-500-6377

**FOR SALE**



**488 HUNTER ST. W., PETERBOROUGH**  
 2.5 storey, 4 bedroom, 7 bathroom estate home in the old west end. Updated kitchen and bathrooms. Landscaped yard with pool. Detached garage with carport. \$2,195,000.



**Shane Coxworth**  
 Realtor®  
[Powerofbluex2.ca](http://Powerofbluex2.ca)  
 Cell 905-903-7965

**FOR SALE**



**213 PLEASANT POINT RD - \$345,000**  
 Build your dream home minutes from Sturgeon Lake! Drilled well & driveway in place. Building Lot W/1763 sqft house plans.



**Alyssa Persaud**  
 Realtor®  
[AlyssaPersaud.ca](http://AlyssaPersaud.ca)  
 Cell 647-232-8979



Township of Uxbridge  
**Ux-Camps**  
 Special pull-out section in your February 23 Cosmos Newspaper  
**Reserve your ad space now!**  
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Chances Are  
 presents  
*A Valentine's Jewellery Event*  
 Saturday, February 11  
 10am - 4pm  
 20 Bascom Street, Upstairs  
 All proceeds to the Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary

