

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 20 No. 7

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, February 22, 2024

2024 Ux-Camps Pull-out Guide inside!



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A CRANIAL CRASH - Smart kid Naomi (Sabrina Standen, foreground) and cool dude Kaden (Henry Bolan, background), wake up the morning after a school field trip to discover that something very strange has happened to their brains! *Cranial Crash* is presented this week by Stupefied Theatrical Productions at the Uxbridge Music Hall. Tickets at starticketing.com
Photo by Conrad Boyce

Bruins blitzed in two weekend losses

Roger Varley

Opponents outscored the Uxbridge Bruins 13-4 on the weekend, as the Clarington Eagles pounded the home team 7-2 at the arena on Friday, and the Chiefs registered a 6-2 win in Lakefield on Sunday.

The Bruins opened the scoring Friday night when Evan Gilbert faked a slapshot on net and passed the puck to Quinn Meek for the goal. Ryan Shier also received an assist. But the Eagles responded quickly, scoring three goals before the first period ended.

The Eagles added two more goals in the second period, including a power-play marker which bounced into the net off Alex Hyde. The Bruins were unable to capitalize when they had a two-man advantage for a full two minutes midway through the period.

After the Bruins replaced starting goalie Andrew Cloughton with Christian Lambert at the

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Uxbridge a 'dream come true' for new store owner

Roger Varley

"This community is just what I was looking for," says Michael Howell, the new owner of the Uxbridge Canadian Tire franchise.

Howell took over the store last week following the retirement of long-time owner Pat Higgins.

"I've always felt welcome here," Howell said Tuesday, noting that he visited Uxbridge a number of times when he was district sales manager for the area and has known Higgins for years. For Howell and his wife, Jackie, who are currently looking to move to Uxbridge from their home in Whitby, it will be a little like coming home. Howell has Uxbridge connections: his uncle, Micky Jovkovic, owned Uxbridge Travel and the Greenbank air strip for years.

Howell, who owned a franchise in Mississauga, said he almost took over a CT store in Camrose, Alberta, his home province, but, at

the last moment, the Uxbridge store became available and he snatched it up without hesitation. "At heart, I'm a small-town guy," he said.

Howell said it has been a "whirlwind week" for him since taking over. He recognizes that it will be a challenge to put his own stamp on the store when faced with Higgins' legacy in town, but pledged to protect that legacy.

"I'll do whatever I can to keep it going," he said, adding that such events as the Huck Finn days and ladies' nights will continue.

But there will be some changes down the road, he said. The store will undergo a "refresh" inside and outside, starting sometime in 2025. This will include relocating some in-store departments to better complement each other and bringing in changes to some time-consuming staff chores "to make it easier for staff and customers."

Jackie Howell said people in Uxbridge have already made her feel welcome, but added that,

while she and her husband have to live up to Higgins' legacy, they hope to establish their own as well. She is already an involved Jumpstart supporter, having been on five-day fundraising treks in Newfoundland, B.C., and the Yukon.

For Higgins, his last day came on Feb. 14, when more than 100 friends gathered at the store for a surprise retirement party. The attendees were literally a 'Who's Who' of the Uxbridge community, including members of council and senior township staff and some of the township's leading business people. Higgins' family was also on hand, including his two-year-old grandson, Liam, who was clutching a model Canadian Tire truck.

Dan Pollard of 105.5 radio, acting as emcee, stated the obvious when he said "Pat has been a huge part of this community." He then presented Higgins with the first 105.5 community

...continued on page 3



Contact me for a complimentary market analysis.

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for February, 2024

Thursday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.
 BIA BOARD

Monday, February 26
 COUNCIL, 10:00 a.m.
 LAND DIVISION HEARING, 11:30 a.m.
 (LD 01-2024, 640 Reg. Rd 21, DE ACETIS)
 (LD 02-2024, 10899 Conc. 4, VEENS)
 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION,
 3:00 p.m.

Proclamations for February

Council proclaims 2024 the Year of the 150th Anniversary of Lucy Maud Montgomery

- February is Black history Month
- Feb. 28 is Pink Shirt Day

Bids and Tenders

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

- U24-02 - Parks Waste Receptacle Removal - Closes Feb. 28 at 2:00 p.m.
- U24-03 - Train Station Roof Replacement - Closes Feb. 28 at 2:00 p.m.
- U24-04 - Driveway Apron Paving and Patching - Closes March 5 at 2:00 p.m.

All bids must be received by the Township by the deadline stated, either electronically via the Township's website or in-person at the Township Office located at 51 Toronto St. South. Public tender bid results are posted at https://www.uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders



Employment Opportunities

Complete details of all open positions are available at <https://www.uxbridge.ca/careers>
 Current Opportunities

Community Services - Uxpool Swimming Instructors / Lifeguards - Spring

Closes March 1, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Office of the CAO - Communications Assistant, summer student

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Parks Department - Horticulture Gardener, contract, Union

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Parks Department - Horticulture Summer Student, contract

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Parks Department - Skilled Labourer, contract, Union

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Parks Department - Unskilled Labourer, contract, Union

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Parks Department - Unskilled Labourer-Grass Cutting, contract, Union

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Parks Department - General Labourer Summer Student, contract

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Public Works and Operations - General Labourers, summer students, contract

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter - Animal Control Assistant / Kennel Attendant, contract

Closes March 13, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Community Services - Uxpool Swimming Instructors / Lifeguards - Summer

Closes March 29, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Community Services - Arena Attendant Assistant, summer student (15+), part-time, contract

Closes March 29, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Clerks Department - Clerks Jr. Assistant, contract

Closes March 29, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Community Services - Assistant Summer Camp Counsellor (Age 15+), contract

Closes March 29, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Community Services - Summer Camp Counsellor (Age 16+), contract

Closes March 29, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Community Services - Summer Camp Supervisor, contract

Closes March 29, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Museum Assistant, contract

Closes April 5, 2024

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Collections Assistant, contract

Closes April 5, 2024

Community Services - Assistant Tourism Development Coordinator, contract

Closes April 19, 2024

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Museum Educators, contract

Closes April 19, 2024

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Museum Preparator, contract

Closes April 19, 2024



From the Tax Office

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

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

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

Tax Payments Options:

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

Penalty/Interest Charges:

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

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

If a reprinted tax bill, receipt or Statement of Account is required for any year's taxes, a fee of \$15.00 will apply.

If you did not receive your 2024 Interim Tax Bill, please call the Tax Department at 905-852-9181.



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

email: accessibility@uxbridge.ca
 phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209

Canadian Tire dream, from page 1

service award, saying; "He's made Uxbridge a better place for everyone."

Mayor Dave Barton told Higgins:

"You've made a huge difference to Uxbridge." That difference saw Higgins become the first recipient of the newly established Order of Uxbridge last year.

Higgins, visibly moved by the ac-

claim, said the last 26 years have gone by fast.

"I wanted to be in a community where it was safe to raise a family," he said. "It's been a great ride."



Photo by John Covers

A nod to Maud - celebrating 150 years

Uxbridge Township council recently declared 2024, "The Year of Maud," in recognition of the 150th birthday of one of Canada's most beloved authors, Lucy Maud Montgomery. Maud's home in Leaskdale, where she lived for 15 years, is a National Historic Site.

Each week, as space permits, from now until Maud's Nov. 30 birthday, the *Cosmos* is offering a short excerpt from LMM's own journals, written during her Leaskdale years. The journals, edited by Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston of the University of Guelph, are published by Oxford

University Press.

Lucy Maud Montgomery was, for all intents and purposes, an orphan, like many of her heroines. Her mother, Clara, died of tuberculosis when she was only 21 months old, and her father, Hugh, moved to Saskatchewan, in search of a new life, when she was seven. Until her marriage in her mid-30s, she lived mostly with her grandparents in Cavendish, PEI. When she came with her new husband, preacher Ewan Macdonald, to Leaskdale in the fall of 1911, it was a new experience:

"When we came in that first night and surveyed the place (the Presbyterian manse) by lantern light, it didn't look very home-like! Boxes of goods and chattels were scattered about and torn paper was hanging in strips from ceilings and walls. But I had a mental vision of what it would be when we got it all in order, and I ran over the house like a pleased child. It was our home and I was its mistress. No woman ever forgets that delightful sensation - especially if, like me, she has never lived in any house before where she had any rights or privileges beyond those of a dependent child."

Bruins on a bust, from page 1

start of the third period, the league-leading Clarington squad added a short-handed goal before Mark Sifri scored the final goal, assisted by Blake Peters.

The *Cosmos* selected Nolan Winter of the Bruins and Adam Klaas of the Eagles as players of the game.

The Bruins then travelled to Lakefield on Sunday, only to run into the Chiefs' Clayton Shaughnessy. The Chiefs opened the scoring just 11 seconds after the opening whistle. Meek evened the score, assisted by Owen Shier, but then Shaughnessy started his march to five straight goals. His first came on a power play late in the first. His second was the only goal of the second period, coming just 17 seconds into the stanza. Shaughnessy's third goal was a short-handed effort in the third period and, after call-up Luke Kemp scored for the Bruins, assisted by Ryan Shier and Gavin Graham, the Lakefield dynamo added two more goals in the span of 12 seconds.

The Bruins' final two games of the regular season will be held this weekend when they host the Chiefs at the arena tomorrow (Friday) night at 7:45 p.m and then welcome the Little Britain Merchants for a rare Sunday home game at 2:45 p.m.

With the regular season all but over,

the Eagles top the seven-team PJHL's Orr Division well ahead of the second-place Georgina Ice. Even further back are the Bruins who have wrapped up third place, despite a late season charge by the fourth-place Chiefs.

As of press time, no announcements have been made regarding the playoffs, but all indications are that the Bruins will be manoeuvred into taking a first-round bye.

Our two cents

The conversation that never ends

We were sitting at the lights at Brock St. W. and Toronto St. on Friday afternoon, looking around at all the drivers eager to start their long weekend. And we hazard a guess that, of the seven or eight cars we scanned, five drivers had a phone in their hand.

Maybe it's because the minimum fine in Ontario for texting and driving is only \$615. The max is \$3,000. Must be quite affordable for many people to text and drive. Lucky them. One could add a zero to that number of \$615 and it still wouldn't be enough to really make an impact on the collective consciousness that seems to think it is still okay to use a handheld device of any sort and drive a motor vehicle.

During one of the more harsh storms we've had this winter, we were driving alongside a car on the 401 and, while we were doing a shoulder check, we noticed the woman who was driving the other car holding her phone with both hands well in view of the window, neither hand on the steering wheel. She must have very skillful knees. It took every ounce of concentration just to try and see the lines on the road and stay in one lane. We can only hope she made it to her destination without killing herself, or anyone else.

Cars and trucks are essentially lethal weapons, not to be driven with knees, or chins, or by buddy in the passenger seat? The average car can weigh anywhere between 1,360 and 2,040 kg. For those not of the metric ilk, that's 2,992 - 4,488 pounds. Forty-five hundred pounds of metal hurtling down a road at a modest 80 km an hour - that isn't going to make a pretty picture when said vehicle hurtles smack into another 4,500 pound piece of metal, all because the driver was texting that she'd be coming home late. Now she likely won't be coming home at all.

More to the point - why are we still having this conversation? Why do we still need to be told not to drink and drive? Have we not heard enough horrible stories, seen enough awful news broadcasts, been touched on a personal level in a way that will make us "get it?" Puts in mind that old Bob Dylan song *Blowin' in the Wind* - "How many deaths will it take till we learn that too many people have died?" Answer, please.

The ban on using a handheld device has been around since October, 2009. Common sense has been around for eternity. The latter didn't work, so the former had to be put in place. A paltry fine isn't the answer. Maybe issue demerit points. Take away licenses. Take away cars. Or perhaps the worst of all, horror of horror - take away phones.



Letters to the Editor

In the Feb. 1, Letters to the Editor, Jim McEwen voiced his displeasure with our federal government's imposition of upcoming 2035 electric vehicle ("EV") mandates. He disputed the claim by federal Environment Minister Stephen Guilbeau that electric vehicles will be cheaper than our current internal combustion engine ("ICE") vehicles. Mr. McEwen then went on to opine that Canadians were going to be unfairly forced to purchase older, used gas and diesel vehicles in future because EVs would be cost prohibitive. The facts in reality are actually quite the opposite!

Mr. McEwan confuses a vehicle's purchase price with the total cost of ownership, yet the two are wildly different. While an EV in most cases is more expensive to purchase than its ICE counterpart, there are substantial savings in fuel and maintenance with EVs, which more than tip the scales. A December 2023 report by Vincentric, an automotive research company, compared the total cost of ownership in Canada of 40 fully electric vehicles to their ICE vehicle counterparts. The study found that, "even though EVs had an average purchase price of approximately \$11,000 more than a comparable ICE vehicle, they also had an average of over \$15,000 in ownership cost savings. Overall, these results show that a Canadian EV's price premium is typically more than recouped within a five year time frame, and suggest that there can be significant financial and environmental benefits to choosing an EV."

Some of the examples showed five-

year EV vs. ICE vehicle savings of over \$30,000! Alternatively, there is some excellent value to be had in purchasing used electric vehicles, which are now becoming more widely available.

I hope that Mr. McEwen and others will read this report, which can be found by Googling "Vincentric EV vs ICE comparison."

I will also mention an organization called Plug 'n Drive, which has a centre in Toronto where the public, at no cost, can test drive a number of EVs and speak to staff who will help them evaluate which might be the best EV for them personally. Plug 'n Drive does not sell vehicles, they merely offer no-cost educational services.

Mike Brigham
Uxbridge

Conrad's Boyce's column on felines (Wandering the cosmos, Feb. 15, edition) was most enlightening, well researched and well written. I would only make one small addendum because he mentioned letting his cat roam at large while he lived in the Yukon Territory.

Family pets and feral cats are devastating to wildlife, and as such, should never be permitted to be at large. In fact, the Township of Uxbridge has bylaws that specifically disallow this practice. The township is considering becoming a Bird Friendly City, and as such, the protection of all forms of wild animals must be in the forefront. Cats-at-large have no place in a community that values its wildlife.

Another interesting piece in last week's newspaper was the "Our two

cents" editorial.

While I appreciate the column and the insights it offers, particularly to the studies that are ongoing due to the influences of climate change, I must take issue with the premise upon which the column is based. The presumption that any robin seen in North Durham is undoubtedly a migrant is entirely inaccurate.

Every winter, many robins (sometimes hundreds) overwinter here successfully, surviving primarily on berries. As the winter passes and local food supplies are diminished, the robins start to wander and become more visible. This is the genesis of the "first robin of spring" for many of us. This winter, in my yard alone, there were over 35 robins feeding on berries starting in early February. Other singles had been seen as early as Jan. 3.

The other assertion in the column that I would challenge is the statement that says any robin arriving early would assuredly die if "real winter came back." This statement is inaccurate, as the robin is perfectly able to survive the harshest winters as long as it can find food (berries) and shelter.

Geoff Carpentier
Uxbridge

Our Canadian Tire store is changing hands and Pat Higgins - the Ambassador of Uxbridge - is moving on.

We will all miss Pat's creative programs, like the fishing derby, which is a true family event at the pond, and an attraction that has brought in tourists.

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Publisher/Editor: Lisha Van Nieuwenhove 905-852-1900
Advertising/Sales: 905-852-1900

38 Toronto Street North, Unit One, Uxbridge Ontario L9P 1E6
E-mail: Lvann@thecosmos.ca Website: Thecosmos.ca
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Friday to 4 p.m.

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Registration opens March 6, 2024 at 10:00am

Early Bird Registration Bonus

Register on or before May 31, 2024, to receive a 5% discount per camp registration and a free UxCamps t-shirt! Note: New admin fee in effect: If cancelling a registration \$25 per child, per camp will be applied.

How to Register

Online: www.uxbridge.ca/recreation or phone 905-852-7831

Contact

905-852-7831 or email camps@uxbridge.ca

Please visit www.uxbridge.ca/recreation to review frequently asked questions, policies, and reminders prior to registering.

Ux-Camps info on following pages

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 Week 2 **Scugog** July 15 - 19

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Jr. Adventure

Looking for a fun summer adventure? Jr. Adventure is a fan favourite! Enjoy treasure hunts, outdoor exploring, water activities, outdoor sports, games and crafts! Campers can look forward to specialized activities such as water day and a nature walk! At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. *Swimming at Uxpool Thursday and Friday.

Jr. Whiz Kids

Discover your inner scientist! At Jr. Whiz Kids, do hands-on science experiments, build your own airplane, create an exploding volcano, and make ooey-goey slime! Campers will also participate in indoor and outdoor activities, including a nature walk. At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. *Swimming at Uxpool Thursday and Friday. All experiments are subject to change.



Jr. Art

In a creative and imaginative environment, Jr. Art campers will enjoy drawing, sketching and painting, and experimenting with different techniques such as watercolours, papier maché, clay and more! Jr. Art campers will bring home new masterpieces each week. Artists will also participate in outdoor games and activities. Each Thursday, parents are invited to the Uxbridge Historical Centre to walk through the Jr. Art Camp Art Show. At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. *Swimming Friday. All art projects are subject to change.

Jr. Cheer

At this high-energy, non-technical cheer camp, campers will enjoy indoor and outdoor activities, with a variety of dance games, cheers, and group routines in a fun, action-packed environment. No previous dance or cheer experience required! At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch a cheer performance on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. *Swimming daily. T-shirt included for Friday performance.

Jr. Sports

The camp with all the best indoor/outdoor sports and games all wrapped up into one! Jr. Sports campers will develop their skills and play a variety of sports including basketball, floor hockey, soccer, archery, swimming, bowling and more! This camp is geared toward all levels and abilities and encourages fitness and participation with a focus on conditioning, team building, and physical literacy. At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. *Swimming daily.

Jr. Circus

Come join the circus! Our high-energy Jr. Circus camp takes campers into the depths of the wondrous, magical world of the circus! Campers will learn plate spinning, baton tossing, magic tricks, stilts, juggling, balloon workshops, slack lining, and clowning around with equipment specially



designed with youth and safety in mind. Camp games and activities included. At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in a circus extravaganza during our camp show at Elgin Park. *Swimming Thursday and Friday. All circus tricks subject to change.

Trailblazers

Campers will enjoy a variety of camp favourites, all wrapped up in one action-packed week! At Trailblazers, explore our parks, creeks, and trails, and participate in outdoor staples like hiking, fort building, campfires and more! Campers will also partake in favourites such as outdoor sports, water activities, arts and crafts, and camp games. At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. *Swimming daily.

Dance & Cheer Camp

Have a blast dancing and cheering your heart out at this non-technical, high-energy cheerleading and dance camp! Learn choreography and cheers with the basic moves of cheerleading. Campers will enjoy indoor and outdoor activities, as well as theme days, including the famous "Spa Day"! At the end of the week, friends and family are invited to a final performance in the camp show at Elgin Park. *Swimming daily. T-shirt included for Friday performance. No previous dance or cheerleading experience required.

Drama Camp



Campers will explore the world of theatre production in a supportive and hands-on environment. Drama campers will engage in areas such as directing, acting, producing, improv, and more! Campers will create a small production to showcase at the end-of-



week Camp Show at Elgin Park. Friends and family are invited. Never taken part in a production before? Not to worry, all campers will have a role! Drama Camp will take place at the historic Uxbridge Music Hall to create an immersive experience. *Swimming daily.

Yoga Plus

If you mix yoga, creative art, a wholesome snack, mindfulness, crystal making, personalized journals and a whole lot of fun together, you will find yourself at Yoga Plus Camp! Each day, the basics of yoga will be introduced in a themed yoga session! Campers will get the opportunity to make and eat a healthy snack to get their creative juices flowing every day. At the end of the week, campers will get to showcase their favourite yoga pose or move at our Friday Camp show! *Swimming daily.

Outdoor Quest Camp!

Outdoor Quest is the ultimate for outdoor fun! A true fan favourite! Campers will get the chance to explore our parks, creeks, ponds, and trails. Campers will also learn the fundamentals of canoeing, campfire building, hiking, fort building, archery, and



Registration opens March 6 at 10:00am uxbridge.ca/recreation

Week 1 July 2-5 (Short week: Pro rated)
Week 2 July 8-12
Week 3 July 15-19

Week 4 July 22-26
Week 5 July 29-August 2
Week 6 August 6-9 (Short week: Pro rated)

Camp Name	Ages	Drop off location	Pick-up location	Camp location	Time
Jr. Adventure	5-8 yrs	Elgin Park Playground	Elgin Park Playground	Red Barn: Elgin Park	8:30am - 4:00pm
Jr. Whiz Kids	5-8 yrs	Elgin Park Playground	Elgin Park Playground	Grey Barn: Elgin Park	8:30am - 4:00pm
Jr. Art	5-8 yrs	Museum School House	Museum School House	See emailed itinerary	8:30am - 4:00pm
Jr. Cheer	6-8 yrs	Uxpool Upstairs Hall	Uxpool Park	Uxpool Hall	8:30am - 4:00pm
Jr. Sports	7-9 yrs	Local School/Elgin Park*	Uxpool Field	See emailed itinerary	8:30am - 4:00pm
Jr. Circus	6-8 yrs	Local School/Elgin Park*	Uxpool Field	See emailed itinerary	8:30am - 4:00pm
Trailblazers	7-9 yrs	Elgin Park	Uxpool Field	Elgin Park	8:30am - 4:00pm
Dance & Cheer Camp	9-13 yrs	Elgin Park	Uxpool Field	Elgin Park	8:30am - 4:00pm
Sr. Creators	9-13 yrs	Elgin Park Bandshell	Uxpool Field	Elgin Park	8:30am - 4:00pm
Drama Camp	9-13 yrs	Uxbridge Music Hall	Uxpool Field	Uxbridge Music Hall	8:30am - 4:00pm
Yoga Plus	9-13 yrs	Elgin Park	Uxpool Field	Elgin Park	8:30am - 4:00pm
Sr. Sports	9-13 yrs	Bonner Fields	Uxpool Field	Bonner Fields	8:30am - 4:00pm
Swim Camp (swim level requirement)	7-11 yrs	Uxpool Park	Uxpool Field	Uxpool	8:30am - 4:00pm
Jr. Lifeguard Camp (swim level requirement)	10-13 yrs	Upstairs Classroom	Uxpool Field	Uxpool	8:30am - 4:00pm
Museum Camps	5-8 yrs	Uxbridge Historical Centre	Uxbridge Historical Centre	Uxbridge Historical Centre	8:30am - 4:00pm
Outdoor Quest	9-13 yrs	Elgin Park Picnic Shelter	Uxpool Field	Elgin Park	8:30am - 4:00pm
Tour Camp	9-13 yrs	See itinerary	Uxpool Field	See emailed itinerary	8:30am - 4:00pm
Leadership In Training Camp (LIT)	13-14 yrs	Uxpool Upstairs Hall	Uxpool Field	Uxpool	8:30am - 4:00pm
Counsellor In Training (CIT)	14-15 yrs	Uxpool Upstairs Classroom	Uxpool Field	Uxpool	8:30am - 4:00pm
Jr. Finale	5-8 yrs	Elgin Park Playground	Uxpool Field	Elgin Park	8:30am - 4:00pm
Sr. Finale	9-13 yrs	Elgin Park Picnic Shelter	Uxpool Field	Elgin Park	8:30am - 4:00pm

Camps!



more! At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. *Swimming daily.

Sr. Sports

One camp with all the best indoor/outdoor sports and games! Campers will develop their skills and enjoy playing a variety of sports including basketball, floor hockey, soccer, archery, swimming, bowling and more! This camp is geared toward all levels and abilities and encourages fitness and participation with a focus on conditioning, team building, and physical literacy. At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. *Swimming daily. All sports and activities are subject to change.



LIT - Leadership in Training

This one-week program is designed to teach and expand participants' leadership skills, with an emphasis on those required to be a future camp counsellor. Topics include Basic First Aid and CPR, volunteer responsibilities, professional communication, program planning, exceptionalities workshop, and most importantly, the power to influence as a positive and

effective leader. Successful completion of this course allows participants a volunteer field placement for TWO weeks of the summer! A great learning opportunity and addition to a resumé. *Ages 13-14 yrs. Limited space in leadership programs. We highly recommend registering early to avoid disappointment!

CIT - Counsellor in Training

This TWO-WEEK certification program is designed for youth who are looking to gain knowledge and experience working with children in a fun, recreational environment. Learn and expand leadership skills, lesson planning for specific ages and abilities, physical literacy, municipal policies and procedures, and resume building. Participants who successfully complete this program will be certified in Standard First Aid and CPR 'C' and are invited to partake in a volunteer field placement for a minimum of two weeks. A great learning opportunity and addition to a resumé! *Ages 14-15 yrs. Limited space in leadership programs. We highly recommend registering early to avoid disappointment! Participants must be present for the full two-week course in order for successful completion.

Jr. and Sr. Finale

The best of the best! All your summer favourites rolled into one fun-filled week! Campers will participate in drama, sports, crafts, games, fort building, theme days, canoeing, campfires, archery, swimming and more. Finale camp will be divided into Junior and Senior age groups. End your summer with an action-packed, high-energy week you're sure to never forget! Note: canoeing and archery are reserved for Sr. Finale participants only. Please register early to avoid disappointment! *Swimming daily.

Swim Camp

Campers will enjoy plenty of pool time swimming, playing games, learning dives and basic water safety skills! Campers will also

participate in indoor and outdoor camp games/activities. This camp includes 3 – 4 hours of pool time per day. If you love the water, then this the camp for you! (Campers MUST be a Lifesaving Society Swimmer 4 and higher. If you are unsure of swim level or need camper to be evaluated before registration, please visit the Uxpool.)

Jr. Lifeguard

This camp is geared towards youth interested in taking the first step to becoming Certified Lifeguards. Jr. Lifeguard campers will learn a variety of water rescues, lifesaving techniques and stroke efficiency from our Lifesaving Society Rookie, Ranger, and Star Patrol Programs in a fun-filled atmosphere. *Please contact Uxpool for more details.



Sr. Creators

A camp that gets your gears going, your creative juices flowing, and inspires you to put your skills to the test! Sr. Creator campers will experience the wonder of science experiments, work on meaningful art projects, and will improve their handy work making DIY projects. The goal of this camp is to have fun creating – whatever that may look like to you! This camp will provide a creative and welcoming environment, so all can enjoy participating! At the end of the week, family and friends are invited to watch campers participate on stage in our camp show at Elgin Park. *Swimming daily. Projects subject to change.

Tour Camp

What a great way to celebrate summer fun! These outgoing campers will participate in a wide variety of day-trip touring activities such as Laser Quest, Glow in the Dark Mini Putting, Metro Toronto Zoo, Ontario Science Centre, NEBS Fun World, or Sky Zone! Tour Camp is limited to 40 participants per week. Waitlists will be created after the maximum participant number is reached. Please register early to avoid disappointment! *All activities are subject to change. Swimming Monday only. Tour Camp itineraries will be emailed one week prior to the scheduled camp week. *We are not able to confirm or guarantee activities upon registration*

Museum Camps (Run by the Uxbridge Historical Centre) NEW

Four weeks of exciting camps at the Uxbridge Historical Centre. Combine your love of fantasy worlds, crafts, animals, the environment, and history in our themed camps! Weeks two and five are the perfect camp for kids who love animals and taking care of the environment! Make eco-friendly crafts, learn about local birds, flowers, and gardening, round off the week with a special visit from Zoo to You! Week three is perfect for kids who love solving mysteries. Museum Detectives camp mixes local history with fun interactive activities that incorporate elements of archaeology and detective work! The Museum's third week of camp is all about imagination. Fantasy camp explores the worlds of superheroes, wizards, pirates and more. museum@uxbridge.ca



Every camp (except Tour Camp) has an optional Friday Pizza Party.

Ux-Camps info continues on next page

Week 7 August 12-16 Week 8 August 19-23 Week 9 August 26-30		Early Bird Registration Bonus Register on or before May 31 to receive a 5% discount per camp registration and a free UxCamps t-shirt!			Extended Care AM \$20 per week - PM \$20 per week Emergency AM/PM \$5/Extended care		
Time	Week(s) offered	Cost per week	Optional Costs	Swimming 3:00 - 4:00pm	AM care 7:30 - 8:30am	PM care 4:30 - 5:30pm	
30am-4:30pm	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	\$216	\$5 Pizza Lunch	Thursday & Friday	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	\$216	\$5 Pizza Lunch	Thursday & Friday	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	\$224	\$5 Pizza Lunch	Friday	N/A	N/A	
30am-4:30pm	3,6,7	\$224	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	N/A	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	1,5,8	\$224	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	See Itinerary	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	1,2,4,5,8	\$224	\$5 Pizza Lunch	Thursday & Friday	See Itinerary	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	2,4,6	\$216	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	1,2,5,8	\$224	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	1,4,5,7,8	\$224	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	4	\$216	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	N/A	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	3,6	\$230	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	4,5,6,8	\$224	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	N/A	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	6	\$179 (pro-rated)	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	N/A	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	6	\$179 (pro-rated)	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	N/A	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	2,3,4,5	\$216	\$5 Pizza Lunch	N/A	N/A	N/A	
30am-4:30pm	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9	\$216	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	3,7	\$357	See itinerary	Monday	See Itinerary	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	2	\$280	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Volunteer	Volunteer	
30am-4:30pm	1 and 2	\$442 (inclusive)	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Volunteer	Volunteer	
30am-4:30pm	9	\$216	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park	
30am-4:30pm	9	\$216	\$5 Pizza Lunch	DAILY	Elgin Park	Uxpool Park	

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Ux-Camps!



Frequently Asked Questions, Policies, and Reminders

Age of Participants

Our camp programs are designed and programmed for specific age groups. Participants must meet the minimum age requirement within the current calendar year to participate in the camp program.

Conduct

UxCamps is proud to provide safe, secure, and welcoming environments for all participants and staff members. Coarse language, bullying, vandalism, or physical or aggressive behaviour is strictly prohibited. Such activity will be recorded, reported, and may result in the removal from the camp and/or facility at the discretion of Management.

Camp Information Packages

All camp specific program information (i.e., medical forms, permission to pick up forms, etc.) will be emailed to the email address associated with the camper's account by the Thursday evening before the camp start date. Please ensure that your email address, emergency contacts, and camper medical and special request information is up-to-date in our system. Should you have any further questions after reading the camp information package, please contact the Recreation Supervisor at camps@uxbridge.ca

Health and Safety

All campers with a medical concern(s) are required to complete a Medical Form prior to their first day of camp. Medical Forms can be found in the camp information package, which is emailed to the address on file prior to the first day of camp. If a participant has a communicable disease or a current public health concern, we kindly ask that they not attend UxCamps during such time.

Camp Inclusion

If your child requires special assistance for one of our programs, please notify the Camp Director by June 7, prior to registration, so that we can properly accommodate you. All 1:1 requests require an interview with the Recreation Supervisor to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of your camper. To meet the needs of as many participants as possible, families requiring 1:1 assistance can request support for up to two (2) weeks of camp. If you have any questions regarding our 1:1 system, please contact the Recreation Supervisor at camps@uxbridge.ca or 905-852-3081.

Allergy Awareness

UxCamps strives to create the safest environment possible for all participants. Peanut/nut products are not permitted at camp, due to severe camper and staff allergies. All other food allergies (if any) will be listed in your camp information package for that specific week, for parent/guardian awareness. We ask you to

please be conscientious while packing camper lunches. Allergies should be listed as a medical concern on your camper's Medical Form. Our facilities are used by the public and although we promote a peanut/nut free environment, we cannot guarantee the absence of allergens in our facilities.

Swim Tests

Each camp will have the chance to participate in an hour of free swim at least once per week. Should your child choose to participate, a swim test may be required. A deep end swim test consists of swimming the width of the Uxpool (there and back), in a front crawl, without stopping. A shallow end swim test consists of only one width of the shallow end. A swim test is required if: the camper wishes to swim in the middle or deep end, or the camper is over the age of six (6)* and wishes to swim in the shallow end without a lifejacket. The passing of the swim test is at the discretion of the lifeguards only. Campers may either be granted full access of the pool, partial access of the pool (shallow end and middle only) or may be asked to remain in the shallow end. *Please note, campers aged 6 and under are required to wear a lifejacket, as per Uxpool policy, and are not required to participate in a swim test.

Sign In/Out Procedures

All campers are to be signed in and out with their camp Supervisor by an authorized parent/guardian. Prior to your camper's first day of camp, please fill out a 'Permission to Pick Up' form located in your camp information package, listing and authorizing specific persons to pick up your child. Those who arrive to pick up a camper will be asked to provide a piece of photo ID matching the authorized person(s) before the camper is released from our care. If you need to update your Permission to Pick Up list throughout the week, please speak with your camper's Supervisor.

Extended Care

Morning care is available for certain camps and is offered at Elgin Park for drop-offs between 7:30-8:30 a.m. We are not responsible for your camper before 7:30 a.m. Please see camp flyer for availability. Afternoon care is available for certain camps and is offered at the Uxpool for pick-ups between 4:30-5:30 p.m. The late fee policy will apply to those who pick up after 5:30 p.m. Please see camp flyer for availability.

Late Fee Policy

A \$5 late fee will apply for every five minutes after 4:30 p.m. that a camper has not been picked up and who is not registered for Extended Care. To avoid a late fee, please consider registering your camper for Extended Care, should you anticipate not being able to arrive on time for pick up.

Refunds, Transfers, or Credits

New admin fee in effect: If cancelling a registration \$25 per child, per camp will be applied. Please visit www.uxbridge.ca/recreation to review refund, transfer and/or credit policies.

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The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

Siloam swan

Thanks to Kevin, a loyal reader, who stopped by to let me know about the tragic death of a beautiful swan recently.

This majestic bird was found dead at the side of the road in Siloam, just up the hill from the Pepperlaw Creek. This was NOT one of our Elgin Park swans, thank goodness. This bird's yellow identification tag number is different from "our" birds' tag. There are also swans in the pond at Mill Run golf course, so sadly it was likely one of those birds.

Why would a swan be out on the road? It's possible it was chased there by a predator, and got hit by a

car. Or, perhaps it was pecking at the grit on the shoulder of the road when it was struck. Birds don't have teeth, and so need to eat small stones to help grind up their food to be able to digest it. Whether it was escaping a predator, trying to get some grit, or for some other reason, it was hit by a vehicle and killed.

What a terrible loss, and incredibly sad for Siloam, and the wider Uxbridge community.

Nancy Melcher is The Nature Nut. Send details of your sightings or questions about the natural world to: general@melcher.cx

NDN hosts 'Wingtips at our fingertips'

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m. via Zoom, Stuart Mackenzie will explore the migration of winged animals, birds, bats and insects by researchers using new and innovative technological tools.

In his talk entitled "Wingtips at Our Fingertips," Mackenzie will take those attending from the Arctic to the edge of the Antarctic using the recent research tools, with a special focus on the Motus Wildlife Tracking System, a collaborative automated radio telemetry system that allows scientists to follow winged animals throughout their life cycle as they travel around the globe.

Mackenzie says he has been inter-

ested in birds from a very young age. As an adult, he has become an international figure in ornithology and has conducted a wide variety of research, monitoring, and training projects on migratory animals throughout the Western Hemisphere. He is a polished and entertaining speaker and will be bringing images of migration in areas, until recently, almost totally hidden from sight.

All members of North Durham Nature will be sent a link to this Zoom presentation. For membership details, please visit northdurhamnature.com

As February melts away, this presentation will remind us that spring is not far off!



A greater yellowlegs. Photo by Jay Thibert

A 'Cranial Crash' at the Music Hall

Conrad Boyce

Stupefied Theatrical Productions brings its latest show to the Uxbridge Music Hall this week. The production is called "Cranial Crash," an original script by Stupefied's director, Shira Lyn Forsyth.

The story goes like this: At Montclair High, it's business as usual - the jocks, geeks, popular kids, cool surfer dude Kaden Fairchild and scholastic superstar Naomi Wilson, are learning to navigate a world of insecurities, grades, fashions and texts. Then during a school trip, the minds of Kaden and Naomi are inexplicably switched. Now, Kaden is helping everyone with their calculus, Naomi has become an expert on heavy metal lyrics and is calling everybody dude. In this screwball comedy, Kaden and Naomi have to find out how to get their brains back. Watch as they juggle friends, classes, rumours, scholarship competitions and, oh yes, Kaden's beautiful snob-of-a-girlfriend, Amelia.

"Come see this delightfully bright and laugh out loud funny production," says Forsyth, "that will leave you completely engaged with a live brain switch in front of your very eyes!"

There are 23 youth participating in the production from Grades 5 to 8 at UPS, Quaker Village, St. Joseph's, and Joseph Gould. "Each and every cast member has a role with lines," says Forsyth proudly, "and all are part of telling this hilarious story."

Forsyth explains how the show came to life: "The kids started the

fall/winter program back in September participating in theatre exercises and games, getting comfortable with each other and learning skills for the stage," she says. "By Thanksgiving the kids were cast in their roles, we did a table read and have been working and blocking the show ever since. We have some very seasoned actors that give some fabulous performances. Our Spring program begins when this show ends."



Clockwise, from top left: Courtney Fockler, Bennett Laird, Sabrina Standen, Zoey Laird, and Henry Bolan.

Photo by Conrad Boyce

"Cranial Crash" will be at the Uxbridge Music Hall from Feb. 21 to 25, with four shows at 7 p.m., and two weekend matinees at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and are available through starticketing.com

Letters, from page 4

And none of us will forget "Ladies Night" at Canadian Tire - what a lot of fun we had, with bargains galore!

Whenever a new committee was being set up to assist with the economy of downtown, or elections for the BIA, the Chamber of Commerce, fundraising for the different sports groups, and sponsoring hockey teams, Pat was there to assist, give ideas and lend a hand.

Throughout the years, you could count on Pat to give a gift certificate or an item to assist a group with raising funds.

It will be hard to replace the community spirit and dedication that Pat gave to us over the years.

Thank you, Pat Higgins, you will be missed, and a hard act to follow.

Now let's make sure to welcome the new community member at Canadian Tire.

Bev Northeast Goodwood

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

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EVENTS

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES BLOOD DONOR CLINIC Next clinic, Sat., March 16, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Uxbridge Arena & Community Centre. To register, visit blood.ca

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A Catch-up Conversation with *Jack Wesselo* by Conrad Boyce

Jack, when you grew up in Uxbridge, the town was focused on farming. But you became obsessed with flying. How did that happen? What was the attraction?

I was always fascinated by things that flew. From paper airplanes and kites to the small planes that flew out of Greenbank Airfield. My dad took me to airshows and museums, and my grandma was qualified as a pilot, so I had a lot of support from my family. As fortune would have it, a classmate of mine in elementary school was the son of a helicopter pilot: as soon as I got a ride, I was hooked!

How did that affect your choices in secondary and post-secondary education? What does a pilot need to know?

In high school I focused on math, physics, and science courses at the advanced levels. For one of my extracurricular activities I was a member of the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program: this enabled me the opportunity to earn flying scholarships, where I gained both my glider pilot and private pilot wings. I could have then directly entered a college aviation program upon completing high school, however

following the encouragement of my parents, I decided to study aerospace engineering at Ryerson University. I didn't decide to join the military directly out of high school, however, as the military requires all pilots to be officers and all officers must have a post-secondary degree, this decision set me along the right path for my future military career.

Why helicopters as opposed to airplanes? And why the military instead of Air Canada, or flying geologists or surveyors into the far north?

Helicopters are truly mechanical marvels. Comparatively speaking, flying commercial airplanes filled with hundreds of passengers is a huge responsibility. The idea just never really appealed to me. The military was attractive mainly due to the fact that I couldn't have afforded the cost of flight training on my own!

Your career has taken you to some dangerous places, like Afghanistan and Mali. What was your role on those assignments?

In Afghanistan I was a First Officer and a brand new Captain, flying the CH146 Griffon in escort and over-

watch roles for other helicopters, road convoys, and troops on foot patrols. I was on the first helicopter rotation that Canada contributed to the allied effort in Afghanistan, landing in Kandahar shortly before Christmas 2008.

By the time I went to Mali in 2019, I was qualified on the CH147-F Chinook, had attained the rank of Major, and was deployed in the Aircrew Flight Commander position. I was responsible for all the flight and administrative oversight of the crews flying both Chinook and Griffon helicopters while also performing my duties as a Chinook aircraft commander.

You just returned from a special course in Maryland, the only Canadian in an exclusive international group. What was that about?

I attended the United States Navy Test Pilot School as a rotary-wing student of Class 163. I primarily flew the Black Hawk and Lakota, but had the chance to conduct brief evaluations of six fixed wing airplanes, from very slow bush planes and gliders to supersonic jets, nine other helicopters including a Vietnam-era attack helicopter, and two

drones.

What advice would you give to a young person considering a career in the military, especially in the Air Force?

It's worth it! It's a very rewarding career with a huge set of benefits,

but it also comes with some very real challenges. If you're the type who seeks out friendships you'll do just fine.

(This interview has been edited for length and clarity. For the full version, and photos, visit thecosmos.ca)

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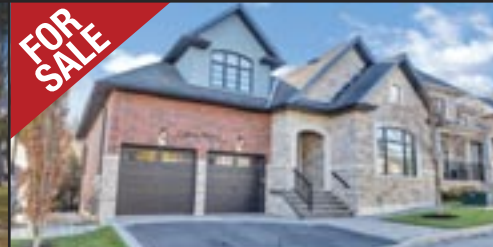
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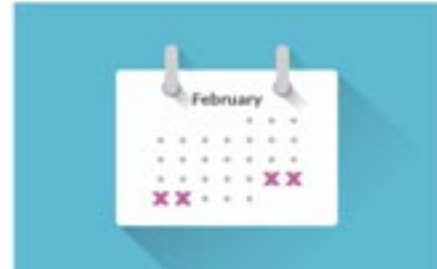
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