

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 4

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, January 26, 2023

New Year's resolve • Is the Great One still great? • Bruins hold second



DESTINATION UXBRIDGE - This township has lots to offer to residents and out-of-towners alike. This week, the Cosmos begins a series on the role tourism currently plays in the township's economy, and where it's headed over the next few years. Clockwise, from bottom left: Uxbridge Fall Fair, Uxbridge Historical Centre, Lucy Maud Montgomery statue, York-Durham Heritage Railway, Uxbridge trails, Thomas Foster Memorial, Uxbridge Music Hall, downtown, Springtide Music Festival, Dagmar Ski Resort, Huck Finn Fishing Day. *Cosmos file photos*

Uxpool reopens after holiday hiatus

Roger Varley

Uxpool reopened to the public on Monday after being closed for over a month. The closure was put into effect to enable a number of repairs and refurbishments to the facility, but regular visitors likely will not notice or recognize the work that has been done. As a Post-it note above aquatics manager Carolyn Clementson's desk reads: "Celebrate the small

changes."

Clementson said a lot of the work done on the pool was cosmetic. That included repairing and painting the main entrance and lobby area, cleaning and sanitizing the change rooms, painting and carpeting the upstairs area and replacing burned out light bulbs.

On the maintenance front, ceiling tiles were removed in the pool area to inspect and repair corroded anchors supporting the tiles, the pool

was drained and cleaned and tiles in the accessible washroom were fixed. As well, four hydrostatic relief valves in the deep end of the pool were replaced as preventative maintenance.

The bill for the work is well over \$150,000, but more work remains to be done. Uxpool is contemplating another \$200,000 in capital expenditures this year, with another \$1.7 million in capital expenditures expected from 2026 to 2030.

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The Township of Uxbridge

Trail Capital of Canada

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for January and February, 2023

Thursday, January 26, 1:00 p.m.
 FINANCE COMMITTEE
 (Budget Meeting)

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 - Wed., Feb. 15, 7:00 p.m.
 COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

Tuesday, February 21, 8:30 a.m.
 COUNCIL EDUCATION SESSION
 (Closed to the Public)

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

Proclamations for January

January 27 - International Day of
 Commemoration in Memory of Victims
 of the Holocaust

January 29 - National Day of Remembrance
 of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and
 Action Against Islamophobia

Winter Ice Conditions

Elgin Pond

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

No Flags – Testing has not begun

Red Flags – Ice is not safe. Please stay off

Yellow Flags – Skate with caution

Flags are located at the North End of Elgin Pond, beside Mill St.

Please keep away from water inlets and outlets on the pond, as ice thickness is compromised.

Storm water Management Facilities

Please keep off of all storm water management facilities.

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

Road Closures

- Concession 7 from Chalk Lake Road to 53m Southeast of Chalk Lake Road will have intermittent lane closures on January 27, 2023, between 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for filming.

- Uxbridge East Gwillimbury Townline from north of Durham Reg. Rd. 39/Queensville Sideroad to south of Holborn Road, East Gwillimbury will be closed for bridge repairs, to 2024.

- Uxbridge East Gwillimbury Townline from York St. 500m south of Ravenshoe Road to Zephyr Road will be closed for bridge repairs, to January 2024.

Employment Opportunities

Complete details and qualifications required for these positions are available at 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

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

Community Services - Summer Camp Program Coordinator

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

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
 Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
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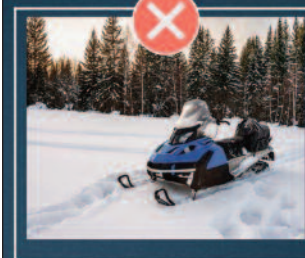
Snow Removal Reminder



All snow, slush, and ice must be cleared from sidewalks beside properties and roofs adjacent to sidewalks within 24 hours of snowfall



Did you know...



Snowmobiles are prohibited on municipal trails, boulevards, in parks, and on sidewalks



MARCH BREAK CAMPS

MARCH 13-17

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

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

Destination Uxbridge Uxbridge tourism: the raw materials

Conrad Boyce
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In case you missed the memo, Uxbridge is officially the Trail Capital of Canada. It says so on all the signs coming into the township. Some local businesses, such as a dentist and pharmacist, have even incorporated the designation into their names.

Did we just arbitrarily declare ourselves the Trail Capital, in order to attract hikers and skiers and cyclists into our southern woods? No, in fact we had to apply for the honour, which we were granted by the federal government in 2008, and there were other competitors for the title. So bravo for those who took the initiative, it's definitely a feather in our collective cap. But does the title imply that the township is a one-hit wonder, that the trails, even in all their beauty and diversity, are all that we have to offer the visitor, or even that they're the main thing?

To find out, we're going to take a thorough look at Uxbridge tourism over the next few weeks, particularly at how we market ourselves to bring in the visitor. This week, we begin by looking at our tourism resources, the various elements we have within our

borders to draw visitors from beyond.

To help us, we surveyed 50 ordinary Uxbridgians last week. We asked three questions:

1. What are the township's top three tourist attractions?
2. What are the township's top three undiscovered gems?



The Uxbridge Farmers' Market, pictured here, is a popular destination in the summer months, and has been working hard at being present in some form at other times throughout the year, as well. *Cosmos file photo*

3. What are three factors limiting Uxbridge's tourism development?

To begin, it might be useful to discuss what we mean by tourism. What exactly is a 'tourist'? One dictionary definition says a tourist is 'someone who tours,' and further defines a tour as a 'lengthy jaunt or excursion.' In our case, someone who resides beyond our borders, and decides to include Uxbridge in their jaunt (or maybe even choose it as the primary

reason for the jaunt!).

Now let's picture your Aunt Susie from Saskatoon. She decides one fine spring day that it's time for a jaunt. She could go somewhere warmer, with a beach perhaps. She could choose a spot with more scenic splendour, like the Rockies. If she's into shooting rapids or screaming on roller coasters, Uxbridge might not be her first choice for a jaunt. Tourism is a highly competitive industry, and every locality has a different list of attractions to offer. So why would Aunt Susie choose Uxbridge?

To begin with, take a look in the mirror. You yourself are a tourist attraction! You are Susie's favourite nephew/niece, and she hasn't spent any quality time with you in years. So she comes to visit for a week, bunking in your spare room (since Uxbridge doesn't have a hotel). And of course, while she's here, you proudly show her

around your home township. You take her to your favourite restaurants, maybe a tasting at a local cidery. If she's a golfer, you do 18 holes at one of the many golf courses around (check to see if you need to be a member, first). If she's a big reader, you pop into Blue Heron, and take

her for a tour at the Lucy Maud Montgomery historic site in Leaskdale. And yes, even if she's not a fanatic hiker, you still take her for a stroll on the Countryside Preserve. Because she'll inevitably ask about the Trail Capital thing.

...continued on page 6

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Uxbridge man charged with murder

Roger Varley

1-888-579-1520 ext. 5411.

Investigators with Durham Regional Police Service have charged a 37-year-old Uxbridge man with second-degree murder in connection with a stabbing two weeks ago.

Police responded to a disturbance call on the morning of Jan. 12 at a residence on Allbright Road and found a 66-year-old male with life-threatening injuries. The victim, John Genereux, of Uxbridge, was transported to a Toronto-area trauma centre, where he succumbed to his injuries. The suspect was arrested at the scene.

Matthew Lavis of Uxbridge has been charged in connection with the stabbing.

This is the first homicide investigation in Durham Region for 2023.

Anyone with new information about this investigation is asked to contact Det. McDermott of the Major Crime Homicide Unit at

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Uxbridge Cosmos

RECREATION

Our two cents

A resolve to ignore numbers

On this week's front page, the *Cosmos* features photos of a number of hobbies and activities, as well as places where other hobbies and activities can be performed. One, or many, of these photos may strike a chord with you, because it's something you meant to do. Set a New Year's resolution about, perhaps? Take up skiing? Try to shop more locally? Walk daily on one of the trails?

The beginning of January is prime time for making resolutions, and *now* is the prime time for breaking them.

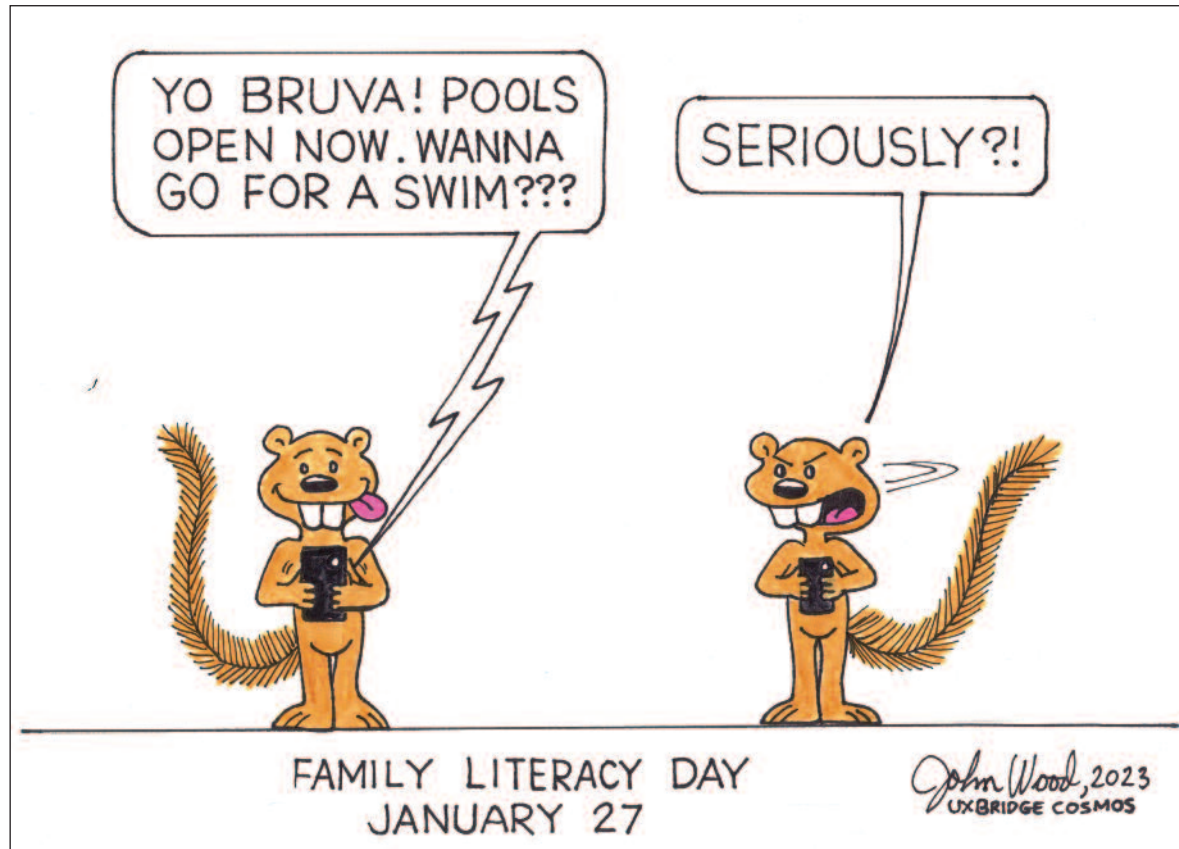
Surveys reveal this make and break phenomenon best, and the most recent survey we found was from Forbes Health/OnePoll (online). Last November, they asked just over 1,000 American adults about their attitudes surrounding resolution setting and what types of goals were prioritized.

"Interestingly, the survey highlighted a couple of standout themes: Many people - particularly younger adults - are prioritizing their mental health over their physical health," says the survey results. They also revealed that over one quarter of the respondents felt pressure to even set a new year's resolution.

Men (35%) apparently felt more pressured to set a resolution than women (28%), and overall, 81% of the respondents felt confident in their ability to reach their goals, with only 5% "lacking this confidence."

Another survey, conducted by Ipsos in 2020, revealed that, if you have already fallen off the wagon, so to speak, you're not alone. Apparently 55% of its respondents (just over 1,000) kept their New Year's resolution for less than a year, "with 11% lasting at least six months, 14% lasting at least three months, 19% lasting at least one month, and just 11% lasting less than a month."

So where does that leave you, you wonder? The good news is, January 1 is just a number on a calendar. You can start fresh any ol' day you like - if February 9 sounds good to you, go for it! If June 24 is more you, then that's ok. Hit "reset" when it feels good for *you*. In the meantime, feel free to explore any of the locations featured on the front cover, if you haven't already. You never know what new resolution might inspire you!



Letters to the Editor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lisha and Roger of the *Uxbridge Cosmos* for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the event held by the Uxbridge Township Council and Library Board recognizing my 34 years of municipal service by naming the Children's Library in my name. The coverage of the event was wonderful and much appreciated.

To the many residents and friends who sent messages and telephone calls after reading about the event in the paper, thank you for the kind words.

It was an honour to represent this wonderful municipality over the years.

A huge thank you to all those involved in the recognition event. I was both shocked and humbled by the gesture.

Gerri Lynn O'Connor
Uxbridge

I read with much empathy and no surprise the two opinion pieces on lack of communication to parents in last week's *Cosmos*.

Whilst threats to our schools and children are obviously of a far more serious nature, we have encountered a similar approach with several public agencies over recent weeks, including our Works department, elected representatives, DSTS and DDSB board representatives.

Timely responses to concerns are received, but generally take the form of repeating the issue at hand, which we are all well aware of, offering sympathy and understanding, but saying that there is nothing to be done, and we all hope it gets bet-

ter soon. Effectively thoughts and prayers, sorry but we can't help you, often with a side of 'why not try this person instead'.

These encounters exactly mirror your experience of 'well isn't that nice, you've acknowledged my unease' - except we really don't feel any better now and it doesn't solve the problem.

I suspect this approach is to protect taxpayer-funded groups from negative, even abusive responses, of which I am certain there are numerous examples. However, I would argue there are far more people who would like to work constructively together, find solutions, workarounds, or at least get a better heads up on a forthcoming issue in order to prepare contingency plans. Friction and frustration are caused by lack of information, and imposed problems and restrictions, and will not be solved by lack of engagement in dialogue. Rather, that will likely increase the discord and frustration levels.

Obviously no sensitive, confidential or personal details should ever be shared, but surely it would be better to open a line of dialogue that all parties can better understand the others' perspectives and challenges, and maybe even find a mutually acceptable solution or protocol for any future instances. Perhaps publicly funded agencies need to find better ways to engage the public they serve and represent, and channel constructive input to the problems being encountered.

There is a wealth of knowledge and experience across myriad industries within our community; I have

to believe there are other perspectives that can be of benefit to solving existing issues. After all, dialogue and engagement now must be better than a (heaven forbid) 'thoughts and prayers' statement at a future time.

Alex Aldridge
Zephyr

First, congratulations, Mr. Barris, on your Order of Canada appointment, a well-deserved recognition of your life work.

It was truly heartwarming to read last week of the nurse who cared lovingly for your father in 1964, and the nurses who later attended you and your mother. You seem to indicate in your column that these "guardian angels" were the products of an Ontario health system committed to serving the greater good, something which may be lost through privatization. I would suggest that there are still a lot of compassionate health care givers in Ontario, committed to their patients not because of our medical system, but because it is part of their character, and part of why they joined the profession in the first place.

But our public system has sucked the life out of many of our front line workers by stripping them of their conscience rights, by dramatically increasing the bureaucratic minutiae that goes with the job, and by providing work environments that are ever more stressful and less flexible. Why would nurses flee to the private sector if they are happy in their current jobs? It looks to me

...continued on page 6

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



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The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

And who will die today?

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a small item about an Uxbridge man being charged with second-degree murder following a stabbing in the south end of the township (page 3). Very few details: just the names of the suspect and victim and where and when the incident occurred.

One life ended, one life shattered and the whole thing is reduced to a few lines. Meanwhile, we read the report, mutter something like "terrible" and then continue with our lives. Now, there's not much Joe or Jane Average can do about it, but I'm beginning to think we are in the middle of another kind of pandemic.

There has been a wave of stabbings, almost on a daily basis, throughout the GTA and most of the attacks appear to be random, with no rhyme or reason. A lot of these stabbings have taken place on the TTC. Since when did riding the bus become a dangerous occupation? And not just for passengers riding the bus: some TTC employees were swarmed by a gang of youths just a few days ago. Another female driver was stabbed a couple of weeks ago.

Then there's the case last week of an elderly woman being pushed to the ground in downtown Toronto in an unprovoked attack by a stranger. She later died of her injuries and the suspect has been charged with manslaughter. And there's the homeless man who was stabbed to death by a group of young - *very young* - girls.

I've lost count of the number of recent incidents involving guns - toy replicas and others - at schools in the GTA.

Pardon me for putting it bluntly, but what the hell is going on? I've seen a number of half-hearted attempts to explain this apparent surge in unprovoked violence: it relates to three years of uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, it's three years of virtual schooling, it's the influence of social media, it's the migration of U.S.-style political rhetoric into Canada, and so on. But I find such explanations less than satisfying.

I put it to you that mental health care in this country is sadly lacking, resulting in the

plethora of violent incidents we've been witnessing of late.

According to an Angus Reid survey last year, a third of Canadians say they are struggling with mental health issues. And the Canadian Institute for Health Information believes most Canadians are waiting for weeks, even months, before being able to access counselling with a therapist. But, as Mark Twain remarked about the weather: "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it."

As this country battles with an extremely shaky health system, most of the attention is being given to understaffed and overworked hospitals and surgical centres, but little is being said about mental health. Now, I'm not saying all the above-noted incidents are examples of people with mental issues acting on impulse, but what other explanation could there be for violently pushing an old lady to the ground, for stabbing a homeless man to death?

Of course, we're all fed up with this never-ending COVID-19 virus, we're all ticked off about the ever-increasing price of food. Many, especially renters, are concerned about their future accommodation prospects, and a lot of kids are worried about their safety just going to school. It's understandable that some people reach the breaking point. But does that breaking point mean you have to kill someone, you have to threaten society, you have to attack innocent bystanders?

In bygone days, Canada was never shy about establishing royal commissions to study all sorts of problems and crises. Just maybe it's time to hold a royal commission into the state of Canada's mental health, particularly that of our youth.

It seems to me that we are long past the tut-tutting stage when we hear of these senseless attacks. It further seems to me that unless we want this epidemic of violence to continue, a strong national program is needed to address the short-comings of our mental health strategy.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Betting on tarnished stars

You've probably seen it. The advertisement shows Connor McDavid allegedly focused at practice. The Edmonton Oilers' star forward is firing pucks at a goaltender. Cut to just off the ice where a coach turns to Wayne Gretzky and says: "Connor's just finishing up. He's pumped you're here."

"No rush," Gretzky says as he looks down at his cellphone and shouts at it, "Come on! Drain that three." He's clearly encouraging some other athlete for some other purpose. But he's become a distraction to McDavid.

"Trying to practise here, Wayne," McDavid admonishes Gretzky.

"You need it!" Gretzky shoots back.

The cutesy advertisement finishes with a big logo splashed across the screen and a call to action, "It's on!" Clearly, two of the NHL's most prolific goal scorers - the former still active on the ice, the latter enjoying life universally recognized as "the Great One" - endorsing the betting application BetMGM. How much their agents and private bank accounts are profiting from such open shilling for a gambling corporation isn't known. That doesn't matter. I get it. Both they and their professional game are all about business. But I think it tarnishes the most beautiful game on the planet. And worse, it preys on the most vulnerable social media addicts - young people - drawing them into online gambling.

Last spring, when the Stanley Cup finals began (and following provincial legislation in 2021 that allowed single-event sports betting), the betting ads began popping up everywhere. It seemed on every other commercial spot, there was one of hockey's greatest models for the purity of the game, Wayne Gretzky, strolling through the massive fountains in front of the Bellagio gambling resort in Las Vegas. "With every tap," he says with smartphone in hand, "a legend is born. A chance to grab destiny, defy the odds. Because every bet with BetMGM has the potential for greatness." With that, he clicks on "bet" on his phone.

All this contrasts Gretzky's response to alleged gambling back in 2002. That winter in Salt Lake City, as Canada won Olympic gold in men's hockey for the first time in half a century, Gretzky, as Team Canada's executive director, deflected accusations that his wife, actress Janet Jones, had allegedly bet \$5,000 on the 2002 Super Bowl. Reporters put the question to the Great One then, and he said,

"I wasn't involved and I consider it over and done with." According to the *Guardian* newspaper, which broke the story, Gretzky was never allegedly involved, but frequently decried the evils of gambling in sport.

Last week, the CBC's *Fifth Estate* broadcast "The Gambification of Canada" featured reporter Bob McKeown approaching Gretzky, McDavid and Leafs' star Auston Matthews, who told McKeown he's "proud" of his "partnership" as spokesman for Bet99, suggesting to fans that they "stay tuned for more." This, I fear, is the crux of the problem. The sports stars refuse to answer questions from the media, but boy are they eager to show young hockey fans how easy it is to gamble on the game. According to the Canadian Gaming Association, the betting industry now generates \$14 billion annually. In the United Kingdom, sports betting (and advertising it) became legal in 2007. The result? According to the U.K.'s Gambling Commission, a survey determined that 55,000 children aged 11 to 16 are now "problem gamblers."

I lived in Edmonton and covered Gretzky and the Oilers (for CBC Radio) as the team emerged as an NHL dynasty in the 1980s. Wayne Gretzky epitomized innocence, the kid next door. At the time, the only off-ice endorsement he ever agreed to was promotion of an Edmonton pizza franchise. And because both the team and their arena, the Northlands Coliseum, were locally owned and operated, the whole franchise seemed pure as Alberta driven snow.

But now Gretzky's kibitzing with Connor McDavid, enticing us all to sign up with BetMGM. The punch line for the ad I mentioned earlier says it all. Apparently frustrated by the Great One's shouting at his phone, McDavid fires a puck at the glass where Gretzky's standing at the boards.

"The net's that way," Gretzky says, pointing at the net.

"Shouldn't you be on the golf course?" McDavid says.

Better, shouldn't he be on the right side of our game (and his public image)? Not encouraging gambling in professional hockey to the most impressionable people in sport - young fans - and their allowances, their part-time job paycheques or their tuition savings.

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



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Bruins start another winning streak

Roger Varley

Two power-play goals were the difference last Friday night as the Uxbridge Bruins defeated their arch-rivals, the Port Perry LumberJacks, 4-2.

In a scrappy affair - (Uxbridge had 53 minutes in penalties and Port Perry had 64) - the LumberJacks took an early lead with a goal in the first five minutes of the game. But Jack Davis replied a couple of minutes later, assisted by Anthony Lamanna.

Uxbridge's first power-play marker came at the six-minute mark of the second period, when Quinn Meek combined with Peter Kerr and Josh Czaliy to put the Bruins ahead. With less than a minute remaining in the

period, Meek scored what proved to be the winning goal, assisted by Lamanna. The LumberJacks took a penalty with only four seconds remaining in the second, but that was all Czaliy needed, putting the puck in the net as the buzzer sounded. The assist went to Caleb MacLeish.

Port Perry came back with a goal early in the third, but the Bruins held on for the win.

MacLeish was selected by the *Cosmos* as the Bruins' player of the game, while Mark Stoop received the nod for the LumberJacks.

In Apsley the following night, the Bruins were hit with another 36 minutes in penalties, compared with North Kawartha's 12 minutes, but still managed to eke out a 6-5 victory. The Bruins took command in

the first period, outscoring the Knights 3-0, including a power-play goal and a penalty shot.

Lamanna opened the scoring early, assisted by Sam Davis and Declan Meek, and that was followed a few minutes later by Noah Button's power-play marker. Assists went to Travis Winder and MacLeish. Cohen Mackie made it 3-0 at the midway mark with a successful penalty shot.

The Knights hit the scoreboard just 40 seconds into the second period, but Meek combined with Lamanna a minute later to restore the three-goal lead. Andrew Swan increased the lead to four when he combined with Sam Davis and Jake Rigillo. The Knights narrowed the lead a little with a goal as the period ended.

However, the Knights staged a strong comeback bid, scoring three goals in the final period, but a goal by Alex Hyde, assisted by Lamanna, secured the win for the Bruins.

Uxbridge is now on a three-game winning streak and looking to extend that streak against the Lakefield Chiefs on Tuesday night. The Chiefs remain mired in the cellar of the PJHL's seven-team Orr Division while Uxbridge is in second place, four points behind the Clarington Eagles.

Destination Uxbridge, from page 4

Depending on when Aunt Susie visits, there are actually a multitude of options. If she comes for Christmas, she'll want to see the Fantasy of Lights in Elgin Park, or *The Nutcracker* at the Music Hall, or take a Santa Train with the York Durham Heritage Railway. And the next day, either go downhill skiing at Dagmar, or cross country in the Durham Forest.

If she's a big car buff, you might want to insist that she come for the Demo Derby at the Fall Fair (also the only time she could go on a roller coaster, though not a really steep one). While she's here, you could take her up to walk the corn maze at the Cooper Farm on Ashworth Road. If she's into music and/or architecture, she shouldn't miss a Friday night concert amid the amazing acoustics and mosaics at the Foster Memorial. And because you're her favourite nephew/niece, you can probably persuade her to stay until the Uxbridge Studio Tour, a chance to demonstrate that we have visual artists to match the best Saskatoon has to offer.

Whenever she visits, Aunt Susie becomes a significant contributor to Uxbridge's economy, a classic tourist (even if you treat her to everything, the money still counts). Her jaunt helps local businesses, and chances are if she comes at Christmas, she'll

see what a lovely town her nephew/lives in, and come back for your 40th birthday next summer. Surveys show that if a tourist has a great experience, she'll return.

And speaking of surveys, now that you have an idea of the nice range of options Uxbridge has to offer, how would you answer the first question above? Which attractions bring in the most visitors from beyond our township borders (and we would count people from Stouffville or Port Perry as tourists, since they're spending money away from the locality in which they pay taxes)?

Our survey respondents included just about everything in their top three, including events or businesses we haven't mentioned so far, like the Roxy Theatre, The Second Wedge Brewing Co., the Farmers' Market or the Springtide Music Festival. One respondent suggested that our reputation as a 'friendly village' plays a large role in attracting visitors. One hopes that is true.

In upcoming articles, we'll see what the numbers say. We'll look at how the township government has significantly increased its role over the last few years in promoting our attractions, and what its plan is for addressing some of the impediments to making tourism an even more important part of the local economy.

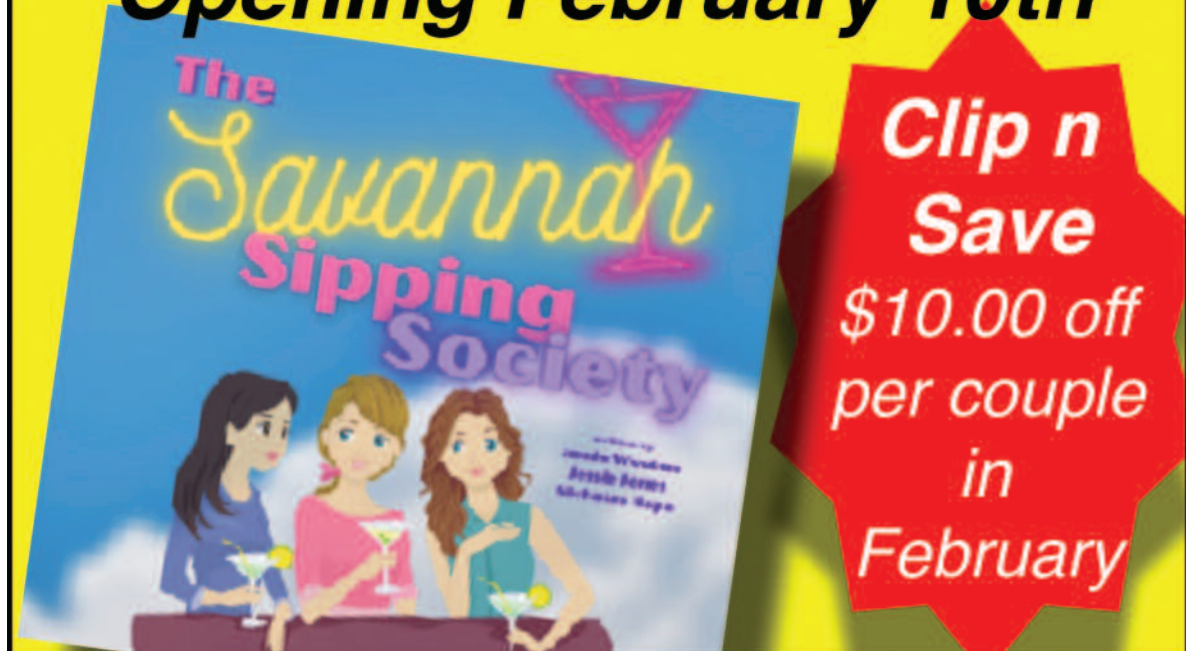
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Letters, from page 4

like the main opponents of privatization are the unions (because they fear losing members and revenue?), and a fearful public who believe the doomsday predictions of such unions. We know, as the Canadian Association of Retired Persons keeps telling us, that the system is broken. Doesn't it behoove us to try to fix it?

A Saskatchewan initiative similar to the one proposed for Ontario has, over the past 10 years, reduced

wait times and saved tax dollars. It has reduced hospital "overloads", enabling hospital space and staff to handle more serious health concerns. The Ontario government needs to thoughtfully structure its new clinics to ensure quality care at reasonable prices. This system, properly designed, has worked in many developed countries and should be a welcome addition to our province's ongoing health care network.

*Aleta Voss
Uxbridge*



Friday, January 27
7:45 p.m.

against North Kawartha at the Uxbridge Arena

Saturday, January 28
7:30 p.m.

against Little Britain at the Little Britain Arena

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EVENTS
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