

# The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 22

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, June 1, 2023

2023 Garden Tour teaser • More 'bee-sts' of Uxbridge • Loopy in Leaskdale

## Drag queens sizzle, protesters fizzle



**ALL ARE WELCOME** - This was the over-arching message for those gathered at the Uxbridge Public Library on Saturday afternoon for Drag Queen Storytime. Van Goth, left, and Lucinda Miu read to and performed for the all-ages group of over 50 people. *Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove*

Roger Varley

A near capacity audience of kids and adults crammed into the story room at the Uxbridge Public Library on Saturday for a Drag Queen Storytime.

Many of the children sat on a rainbow of small felt circles on the floor, eating popcorn and candy floss as they listened attentively to stories being read to them by drag queens Lucinda Miu and Van Goth. While the exuberantly dressed Miu and Goth were entertaining inside, a small group of protesters gathered at the corner of the municipal parking lot behind the library. Displaying banners for GameOn-Canada.org, the protesters set out shade umbrellas and blankets to provide an alternative attraction for children. No one was observed

taking advantage of the offer.

One member of the GameOn group said they had come from Cobourg.

"We follow these events," he said.

He said he would not call the gathering a protest, preferring instead to say it was "a family event with age appropriate stories."

Two security guards were on watch at the library event and members of the Uxbridge by-law department kept an eye on the protesters, but chose not to remove them from municipal property. There were no incidents.

Miu and Goth said the stories they read are not about the LGBTQIA2S+ community. Saturday's stories were *I Like Myself*, *How Do You Love* and *All Are Welcome*.

"They are stories about respect," said Miu,

*...continued on page 9*

## USS celebrates 100 years of connections

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

They came from as far away as Australia, the Northwest Territories, Boston, and British Columbia, all to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Uxbridge Secondary School. And what a celebration it was.

"We are super pleased with how it came together, and super pleased with the response," said Kelly Boehm, chair of the planning committee for the 100th anniversary and reunion.

Although final numbers are not yet known, Boehm said that she figures at least 600 people were present for the official ceremony on Saturday morning. She also noted that the decade rooms (classrooms which were devoted to particular decades of the school's history) were almost always busy.

"Sometimes the halls were crammed, sometimes they were a little light, but there was always something going on, always people there."

Committee member noticed that one room stood out in particular.

"I know as a floater on the decade rooms, the 70s seemed to always be packed, except at one point on Saturday the 80s out numbered them!"

On a more serious note, the award-winning USS Third Avenue Jazz Band welcomed alumni and visitors to the official ceremony, which included addresses from Pickering-Uxbridge MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy and Uxbridge Mayor Dave Barton. Two former USS principals shared memories with the crowd - David Brown, who was principal from 1974 to 1986, and Steve David, who was principal from 2013-2015, as well as a teacher for many years before that.

"I was hired to work at USS four different times throughout my career, so I guess it was fitting I go out in the top job," he jokingly told the audience.

The USS concert band performed "Eye of the Tiger" to close out the ceremony, fittingly conducted by the USS tiger mascot.

*...continued on page 3*



# The Township of UXBRIDGE

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## Council & Committee Meetings

### Meeting Schedule for June, 2023

Monday, June 5, 10:00 a.m.  
GENERAL PURPOSE AND  
ADMINISTRATION MEETING

Wednesday, June 7, 9:00 a.m.  
TRAIL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 12, 10:00 a.m.  
COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.  
HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 14, 7:00 p.m.  
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

Monday, June 19, 10:00 a.m.  
GENERAL PURPOSE AND  
ADMINISTRATION MEETING

Monday, June 26, 10:00 a.m.  
COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, June 26, 7:00 p.m.  
BIA BOARD MEETING

### Proclamations for June

Bike Month • Brain Injury Awareness Month  
• Indigenous History Month • International  
Pride Month to Celebrate and Support  
LGBTQ • Seniors Month

May 28-June 3 - National AccessAbility  
Week

June 3 - International Trails Day

June 5-11 - Canadian Environment Week

June 15 - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples' Day

June 23 - National Day of Remembrance for  
Victims of Terrorism

June 27 - PTSD Awareness Day

# 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](mailto:info@uxbridge.ca)

## Notice of Adoption of an Amendment to the Township of Uxbridge Official Plan and Notice of Passing of a Zoning By-Law

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge passed **By-law No. 2023-057** on the 8th day of May, 2023 pursuant to Sections 17 and 22 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, as amended to adopt **Amendment No. 71** to the Township of Uxbridge Official Plan. Council also passed **Zoning By-law No. 2023-058** on the 8th day of May, 2023, pursuant to Sections 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, as amended, to amend Zoning By-law No. 81-19, as amended, of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge. This Amendment applies to all the lands in the Township of Uxbridge in the Regional Municipality of Durham.

**AND TAKE NOTICE** that through the circulation and review of the application to amend the Township of Uxbridge Official Plan and Zoning By-law No. 81-19, the Township received two (2) verbal submissions and one (1) written submission from members of the public prior to the decision of Council. The verbal submissions were addressed at the statutory public meeting held on April 24, 2023. All the public and agency submissions were also addressed in Development Services Report DS-20/23. Council considered all public and agency submissions received on this application, the effect of which helped Council to make an informed decision.

**AND TAKE NOTICE** that any person or agency may appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal in respect of the Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment by filing with the Clerk of The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge, not later than 4:30 p.m. on the **13TH DAY OF JUNE, 2023**, a notice of appeal. The notice of appeal must set out the objection to the Official Plan Amendment and/or the Zoning By-law Amendment and the reasons in support of the objection together with the required Ontario Land Tribunal fee of \$400.00. Cheques must be made payable to the MINISTER OF FINANCE.

**PLEASE NOTE** that only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal an Official Plan Amendment and/or Zoning By-law Amendment to the Ontario Land Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the appeal unless, before the Official Plan Amendment was adopted and/or Zoning By-law Amendment was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the Council or, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

An explanation of the purpose and effect of the Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment is given below. The complete Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment are available for inspection in the Clerk's Department during regular office hours.

**DATED AT THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE THIS 24TH DAY OF MAY, 2023.**

Debbie Leroux, Clerk  
Township of Uxbridge  
Box 190, Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1T1  
905-852-9181 Ext. 228 [dleroux@uxbridge.ca](mailto:dleroux@uxbridge.ca)

Township File: OPA No. 71 and ZBA 2023-02  
Applicant: Township of Uxbridge  
Address: This Amendment applies to all the lands in the Township of Uxbridge in the Regional Municipality of Durham.

### PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF THE BY-LAW

The purpose of the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment is to introduce a land use planning framework and regulations with respect to planning for drug treatment and harm reduction facilities in the Township of Uxbridge.

## From The Tax Office

2023 Final Property Tax Bills for Residential, Managed Forest and Farmland properties were mailed May 24th, 2023. Payments for these bills are due on the following dates:

**FIRST Tax Installment is due on June 28, 2023.**  
**SECOND Tax Installment is due on September 27, 2023.**

2023 Final Property Tax bills for Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Residential properties will be mailed next week. Payments for these bills are due on the following dates:

**FIRST Tax Installment is due on July 17, 2023.**  
**SECOND Tax Installment is due on September 27, 2023.**

### 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 acceptable.
- 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 property 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.**

**PLEASE RETAIN YOUR 2023 FINAL TAX BILL FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.** 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 Final Tax Bill, please contact the Tax Department at 905-852-9181 or [tax@uxbridge.ca](mailto:tax@uxbridge.ca)

## Senior Games' Horseshoes

The Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society's Horseshoe Club is hosting Durham Region 55 plus Horseshoe Games on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 10:00 am at the Uxbridge Museum.

7239 Concession Rd 6, Uxbridge.

To register, visit Durham Senior Games at

<https://www.durhamseniorgames.ca/2023-summer-forms>

Cost is \$ 20.00. Contact Bob Kirvan for information at 905-852- 9176.



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

USS connections, from page 1

Another highlight of the anniversary reunion weekend was the Saturday Night Social at Slabtown Cider. Hundreds of alumni gathered to share stories and catch up with some whom they'd seen recently, others whom they hadn't seen for years. There were many shouts of "Oh my gosh, how are you?" as old connections were re-established.

"When we were originally planning this, COVID had us worried," said Boehm. "We didn't want a virtual anniversary, and I didn't want to work

with a committee virtually, so thankful that things opened up so that we could come together!"

Boehm said that the most important guiding principle for the entire event was to celebrate not just the school itself, but also the community in which it exists.

"The busking on Brock really showed this," she explained. "There wasn't any electricity for some of the performers to use, it only comes on in the evening for the twinkle lights. But the mayor got on the phone, and the businesses stepped up and shared their power - it was just another ex-

ample of how Uxbridge always comes together as a community."

The committee will continue to raise funds for the Legacy Award,

which hopes to give an award to three students each year for the next 100 years. Donations to the award can be made at ddsb.schoolcashon-

line.com/Fee/Details/82797/102/false/true?school=610&initiative=27

For photos of the reunion, visit thecosmos.ca

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# Our two cents

## Proud to live and let live

According to the United Nations, there are currently over eight billion people on planet Earth. Those eight billion are all human beings. They come in a variety of colours and shades, shapes and sizes, political persuasions, ethnic backgrounds, economic circumstances and, yes, sexual orientations.

Every one of those eight billion plus people should have the right to live their lives as they see fit, providing that they observe certain common - and common sense - laws, such as "thou shalt not kill" and "thou shalt not steal." Assuming that no harm is caused to neighbours and the like, no one should be told by anyone how to think, how to act and especially who to love.

Of course, we are talking about the LGBTQIA2S+ community. Unfortunately, there is a large group of human beings hell-bent on making life for that community as difficult as possible. The most horrendous news on this front coming out in the past few days is Uganda's move to criminalize homosexuality, including using the death penalty in certain cases. Closer to home, the York Catholic District School Board voted this week not to allow the Pride flag to be flown at any of its facilities. Texas is currently working on a law that, in effect, determines that drag shows are sex shows. An LGBTQIA2S+ organization in the U.S. has issued a travel advisory warning that Florida is, basically, unsafe for anyone who is not heterosexual. Indeed, a number of Florida communities have cancelled any and all Pride celebrations this month because of fears of running afoul of Gov. Ron DeSantis' vindictive anti-gay laws.

Uxbridge is, we hope, a little more understanding. On the weekend, the library held a well-attended Drag Queen Storytime and Pride banners were installed at the intersection of Brock and Toronto. But that doesn't mean everything is all rainbows and unicorns in our community. One member of council recently attempted to prevent or delay the erection of the banners, and it wasn't that long ago that council balked at the idea of having a rainbow crosswalk in the downtown.

Why anyone should be concerned about what two consenting adults do with one another is beyond us. We don't care what movies they watch, what music they listen to or what food they eat: so why should we care who they love? But the anti-LGBTQIA2S+ forces are demanding ever more restrictions on anything that doesn't fit in with their narrow view of the world. Book bannings, both in Canada and the U.S., are becoming more and more prevalent, to such an alarming extent that Illinois just passed a law banning book banning.

What all this says to our LGBTQIA2S+ young people is that they should be ashamed of who they are. The York Catholic school board decision tells such students they don't count, they are unworthy of being recognized.

Everyone. Counts. We all have the same red blood running through our veins, the same five senses, the same reactions to hot and cold, light and dark. We are all human. We are all the same, yet all so uniquely different - how boring it would be otherwise! Have we not reached a point in our evolution where we happily accept people for the incredible miracles that are each one of us? There are eight billion of us miracles here on planet Earth. Let's all just live and let live.



## Letters to the Editor

As a lifelong resident of Uxbridge, I'm writing to express my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers of the 100th Anniversary Reunion at Uxbridge Secondary School.

Held this past weekend, it truly was a rare and wonderful experience! As a graduate of the class of 1983, I had the privilege of once again walking the halls of USS, and celebrating the 40th anniversary of my graduation. This time however, I got to do it with my boys, who are

also alumni (2011), and who both are now settled mere blocks from the school.

There was a familiar face around every corner, and animated conversations going on everywhere! To be able to see this amazing event through the eyes of two generations was truly special, and it really illustrates the continuity of our community spirit and connection. The boys and I agree that to us, Uxbridge really is the centre of the

universe. And who knows? Maybe one day, there will be three generations of us wandering the halls...

*Jill Watson  
Uxbridge*

I wanted to write and thank Roger for his thoughtful column last week ("Am I Wrong?" May 25 edition) expressing the significance of the relationship that has grown between us over the past six years. I have valued Roger as a friend and always enjoyed running into him downtown. Sometimes we'd chat over coffee and other times it would be for just a couple of minutes in passing. He always had time for me and expressed his support and encouragement for the things I was doing and all that St. Paul's Anglican Church was doing in our shared ministry.

Roger described our relationship perfectly. I didn't feel the need to convert him or change his way of thinking. I was happy to get to know him for who he was. I know he sometimes rubs people the wrong way, but in his heart he is a very caring man who desires to speak a word of truth in the hopes of making the world a little bit better.

Roger, keep speaking the truth. I hope people will not only keep reading your column to see what your next rant is (said with love and respect!), but maybe also to be challenged as you report on what you see and witness in our town of Uxbridge.

Thank you, Roger, for who you are and for our friendship. I will miss you too!

*Rev. Mark Kinghan  
Uxbridge*

## The Uxbridge Cosmos

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## A Blonde Moment

column by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

### A time machine in Uxbridge

I wrote many years ago, in this space, about a trip I had taken to my *alma mater*, Carleton University. I visited it in 2017, 24 years after graduating from its hallowed halls. If I remember correctly, the title of that column was “You can’t go back.” The school had changed so much that it wasn’t remotely similar to the university I had attended, and I was rather rattled by the experience.

It wasn’t quite that bad this past weekend when I ventured back into the hallowed halls of Uxbridge Secondary School to participate in celebrations for its 100th anniversary. It was so oddly familiar, yet so very changed. There’s a whole new wing, now. A whole new gym, a new office, new cafeteria, new library - a whole bunch of *new*. But behind all that new there is still a fair bit of old. Old sights, old smells (yes, smells), and old memories still linger.

On Friday evening, my husband and I registered and toured the decade rooms. Most of these rooms occupied space that was once the cafeteria. The long hall that led from the main office (off Third Ave.) to the gym, where we used to while away lunch hours and spares, is long gone, as is the beautiful vista looking out on the courtyard (which, as an aside, looks *way* more inviting than it did when I attended USS). Sigh.

In the 50s room we scoured old yearbooks looking for photos of my husband’s mom, and marvelled over the teeny tiny clothes that were on display. (I was thin in high school, but not *that* thin!) We wandered through the other rooms, pausing a long while in the 70s room (which appeared to be *the* room to be in the entire weekend), combing through yearbooks to find photos of my husband.

Once I’d picked myself up off the floor from laughing (let’s just say he’s like fine wine and has aged becomingly well), we went off to explore the “old,” or original part of USS. Here, things were a little more “as they were.” We both talked about what classes we’d taken in what rooms, and what shenanigans we’s gotten up to in the halls. I even ventured up the stairs on the second floor to pause outside the old yearbook office.

We didn’t get the chance to see The Dun-

geon, but when I went back on Saturday morning for the official ceremony, I took my youngest daughter and made her suffer through “I had math in this room, and geography here, and this teacher made me do such-and-such.” Turns out The Dungeon isn’t as dungeon-y as it used to be.

There were other parts of the school that were *exactly* as I remembered, including the gym and the gallery (which my daughter thought was very cool). I find this comforting, knowing that while some things change, some things stay the same. I adore history, and history is certainly in those halls.

The other aspect of the 100th anniversary was the reunion. Having never been to a school reunion of any sort, I didn’t quite know what to expect. I did run into some old classmates whom I hadn’t seen in decades on Friday night, and I wondered if more “So-and-so, is that *you!*?” was on deck for the social at Slabtown Cider on Saturday evening. I hadn’t originally planned to go to the social, as I’d had a meeting with another daughter scheduled for weeks on the same afternoon/evening. But we did some schedule jostling, and I raced back from Burlington, changed my clothes and darted over to Slabtown to arrive before the sun went down.

I did have a couple of “is that you” moments, but I have to admit, not as many as I would have liked. I saw an awful lot of people whom I see regularly, which was lovely, but I was looking for the long-lost friend connections, and they just didn’t happen. Just like in high school, I was too shy to talk to any of the boys (men, sorry) that I had known way back when, and there didn’t really seem to be many people from my class at all. And everyone was looking at everyone else with a “Do I know you?” question in their eyes. Rather unnerving.

I left the social glad I’d attended, but dissatisfied somehow. Many friends there, but no rekindled friendships.

Overall, the weekend was incredible. The organizers did an amazing job, and it was so heartwarming to see the community come together to support our high school. Here’s to another 100 years, USS. Go Tigers!



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Wayne and Shuster legacy under fire

It’s June 1944. Two men in Canadian Army battledress are hunkered down waiting for orders. One’s a soldier with sergeant’s stripes. The other’s a private in a greatcoat.

“Time to move out,” says the sergeant.

“I won’t do it,” retorts the private.

“You will, too. When an order is given, it must be obeyed!” And the sergeant points a gun at the enlisted man. “Do it or else.”

At precisely the same moment, there’s the sound of an artillery shell exploding nearby, and the two soldiers dive for cover. Sgt Johnny Wayne then turns to Pte Frank Shuster and says, “And we’re still in Canada! Imagine what it’ll be like when we get overseas!”

Yes, the two quirky characters in Canadian Army uniform reciting gag lines were comedy duo Wayne and Shuster from a wartime recording on CBC Radio. With much of the world focused on next week’s 79th anniversary of the D-Day landings in France, it’s appropriate to remember that more than army, navy and air force troops contributed to the greatest amphibious invasion in military history on June 6. So did entertainment troupes. Wayne and Shuster, who’d initiated their comedy writing at Harbord Collegiate and U of T in the 1930s, shipped overseas as trained soldiers but with orders to entertain Canadian soldiers behind the lines in Normandy. Back in Canada, just as television dawned in 1952, they premiered the *Wayne and Shuster Hour*.

“It’s great experience,” said Johnny in one of their CBC sketches. “It has to be,” added Frank, “because there’s no money!”

Prophetic punch line, it turns out. Because for half a century, the duo provided week after week of very Canadian, very cornball but very funny television entertainment – on the CBC, which was not known for its extravagant budgets. Wayne and Shuster spoofed Parliament Hill, the Mounties, Crown corporations and even Shakespeare for more than 50 years, twice winning best comedy honours from *Motion Picture Daily* and *TV Today* in the U.S. And they grew an extraordinary supporting cast – Don Cullen, Jack Duffy, Paul Kligman, Larry Mann, Tom Harvey, Carol Robinson and Ben and Sylvia Lennick among many. Sylvia was always remembered (as Calpurnia, Caesar’s wife) in a W&S parody called *Rinse the Blood off My Toga*, warning Caesar, “I told him, Julie, don’t go! He wouldn’t listen!”

The experience-no-money comment also resonates through W&S’s profile outside

Canada. In 1958, the host of America’s most popular variety television show, *The Ed Sullivan Show*, signed Wayne and Shuster to regular Sunday night appearances on CBS. They were invited back some 57 times, more than any other act in show business. And despite many invitations to move to Hollywood, Johnny and Frank never left their home base in Canada. Since Johnny Wayne died in 1990, Frank Shuster in 2002, both families have urged the CBC to re-air the vast archive of W&S classics. The CBC claimed that rights and payments have to be renegotiated; except that most of the artists involved are long dead. The CBC owns the TV shows, but the families own the scripts.

Enter: Bygone Theatre, which last week staged four performances of W&S classics at Hart House on the U of T campus. The Bygone cast of six, directed by Paul Bates and produced by Conor Fitzgerald and Emily Dix, delivered many of Wayne and Shuster’s greatest creations, including a favourite of mine, *A Shakespearean Baseball Game*. The sketch, written in iambic pentameter and rhyming couplets, features Shuster as Stratford-upon-Avon’s baseball club manager, announcing the team roster, “with Harry, Joe and Pete out in the field. ... And you three guarding your accustomed bags – Sam the first, Bill the second and Richard the third.” Meanwhile, Wayne portrays Rocky, the team’s best hope for a win, but he laments: “Oh, what a rogue and bush-league slob am I. ... O cursed fate, that I who led the league should bat .208. A hit, a hit, my kingdom for a hit!”

Michael Wayne, Johnny’s son, told Ellin Bessner on her podcast *CJN Daily* last week, “I’d like to see these sketches seen as they were seen at the time, to understand what they say about the period in which the comedy was made. ... Johnny and Frank became a unifying force for the country. They really felt they were part of creating a new Canadian culture.”

Indeed, this week as Canadians observe another anniversary of D-Day, it’s timely to acknowledge the service of two young Canadian soldiers who had something to say with their comedy and about their country. Quipped Johnny Wayne in 1944: “We were the only soldiers in World War II fired at deliberately by both sides.”

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



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This self-guided tour (with driving maps provided) features countryside gardens and residences in the quaint town of Uxbridge. Community volunteers greet guests and provide information while homeowners – the gardeners themselves – are often on site to explain their garden creations.



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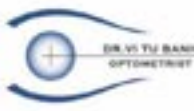
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# Beasts of Uxbridge: What happens in a hive



by Conrad Boyce  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Photos by Conrad Boyce and Andy Luukkonen.

We began our summer series on Uxbridge's fascinating array of farm animals by discussing what are undoubtedly the biggest: the bison on Thunder Ridge. But not very far away, just a couple of kilometres east on Davis Drive, is a huge number of the smallest: the honey makers at 3 Boyz Bees.

When Andy Luukkonen inherited the 10 acres he'd grown up on, he knew he wanted to do more with the property. A decade later, he and his family (the 3 Boyz are his three sons) are the proud owners of a small army of honey bees, and the intricate science of beekeeping has become a large part of their lives.

Beside a field of garlic, onions and potatoes sits a neat city of 16 hives (formally called an apiary), containing a total of 25 separate boxes, each of which contains 10 frames or

combs, which serve a variety of purposes. How many bees in total live in the city, do you think? The answer is at the end of the article - don't peek!

Each box is home to a separate colony of bees, each with its own queen. And the colony is a very organized civilization, in which almost all the work is done by the females.

"The males are called drones," explains Luukkonen. "They have just one job, fertilizing the queen. Beyond that they do absolutely nothing. Because they'd be in the way if they just stayed home all day, they fly off for hours and hang out with their buddies in a tree somewhere. If a queen happens to buzz by, any queen will do, they'll do their thing, but otherwise they just laze around. They can't even feed themselves, so when

they're hungry, they go back to the hive."

The drone's only job is an important one, though, because the queen lays about 1,500 eggs a day, to keep the colony supplied with new citizens, since the average bee lives only four to six weeks. And since nature knows how minor a role the males play, the vast majority of those eggs contain the fairer sex.

The females do a number of jobs in succession. The duties of the worker bee start as soon as they emerge from the cell. Once they clean up their own cell they become a nurse bee, tending to the needs of the

hive by feeding the larvae and capping off the larvae in their cells, where they grow into bees. They also feed the young drones because they can't feed themselves. Then they become

either a worker bee or a queen attendant, feeding, grooming and cleaning her. The other duties as a worker are ventilating the hive for thermal regulation, guarding the entrance and helping with honey and pollen storage.

Eventually, and if needed, the female ends up as a forager at around the 20-day mark. The foragers fly up to five miles from the hive for a good food source. When they return to the hive, they do the "bee dance" to communicate the location of that source to other bees. Besides pollen, the foragers also bring water and other vital nutrients for the colony.

Although Canada has dozens of wild species of bees and wasps, none

of them has ever been successfully domesticated. It wasn't long before settlers began to import honey bees from Europe, and that is the species that inhabits virtually every domestic hive in North America, although there are several distinct breeds. Two very common in Canada are the Carniolan, which is very hardy, and the Italian, which is quicker to build up the size of the colony. Although the bees don't hibernate per se (they have to venture outside every now and then to perform a "cleansing flight," as Luukkonen calls it), they are much less active in the winter. Even the queen takes an occasional break from the rigours of motherhood. But as soon as the first wildflowers appear, every bee gets to work - including the beekeeper.

"My first job is to assess how each colony fared over the winter," says Luukkonen. "If it was a tough one, I might have to replace a lot of the bees, even the queens. If the hives are strong and the mortality rate is low - then I'll do a split, creating a new colony, and I'll bring in a new queen for them."

Throughout the summer, in addition to regularly taking off the honey, Luukkonen has to watch for disease, and predation. Since a bear wreaked havoc on his hives a couple of summers ago, Luukkonen has installed an electric fence around them. He also watches for "swarms," which are large groups of angry bees buzzing around the hive, which signal that a colony is getting overpop-

ulated, and it's time for a new split, or give them another box of frames so the colony can keep expanding.

As long there are pollen sources, the bees keep flying, but as fall progresses, Luukkonen has one more vital job - treating the colonies for parasites that can decimate the hives over the winter.

Luukkonen processes all his own wax (which is used for candles, lip balm, even furniture polish), and honey. In addition to clear honey, he also makes three varieties of creamed honey. It can be purchased at Slabtown Cider's farm store (Luukkonen's bees also pollinate Slabtown's orchards in the spring, and supply a key ingredient in their Honey Habanero Cider).

Luukkonen has two cautionary notes for buying honey: buy the raw stuff, not pasteurized (which removes a lot of the flavour and nutrients); and ensure you're

buying local. Make sure it says "Product of Ontario," a "Made in Canada" note only guarantees it was blended here; it may contain honey from other countries. Finally, to answer the "how many" question - Luukkonen estimates that his hives contain about half a million bees. And all of them put together probably occupy about the same space as one bull bison.

1. Beekeeper Andy Luukkonen inspects a frame from one of his hives.  
2. The 3 Boyz Bees apiary, surrounded by an electric fence to repel the bears.  
3. SUPERCEDURE CELL - In the centre of this frame is a large yellow cell containing a new queen. It was created by the colony for the purpose of replacing the current queen. The bees make sure they stack the odds in their favour for a successful queen replacement.  
4. BROOD FRAME - Showing bees in all phases of their lifecycle. It has eggs, uncapped larva, capped larva, new born bees (smaller and grey in colour), foragers (bees with pollen on their legs) and worker bees.

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Storytime, from page 1

who added that she first dressed in drag when she was cast in a role in a Shakespeare production. "It's all theatrical." She said performing as a drag queen and acting in theatre are her full time jobs.

Goth said small children view the drag queen the same way they do superheroes or cartoon characters.

After the stories, Miu and Goth both lip-synced to songs (Miu to a humorous aria from a Portugese opera, and Goth to Taylor Swift's "Shake it Off") and then spent time posing for selfies with the children - and some of the adults.

Andrea Maenza, communications coordinator with Durham Children's

Aid Society, said the CAS started Drag Queen Storytime five years ago in cooperation with Youth Pride. She said the shows initially were aimed at teenagers "but young kids showed up." She said the events fit well with

the work the two organizations do with youth.

"It's fun, promotes diversity, promotes reading and respect," Maenza said. "LGBTQIA2S+ is part of it, but it's about acceptance for all."

## MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

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

The 'Spanish Splendour' trip was won by Harry Porter ticket #393, sold by Terry Chapman.

2nd place, \$150, won by Neil Bullock, ticket #232 sold by Greg Eickmeier.

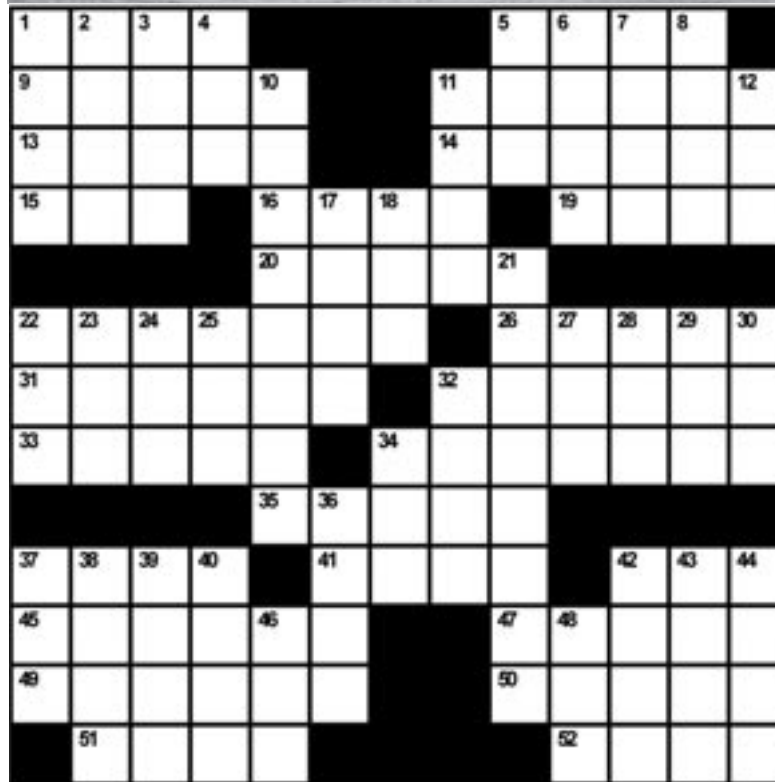
3rd place, \$100, won by Robert Healy, ticket #205 sold by Getaway Travel.

Congratulations to our May winners, and best of luck for the June 2023 draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge Trip of the Month Club. The "Calling All Thrill Seekers" package includes round trip direct flights from Toronto to Montreal, 4-day compact car rental with unlimited miles, 3-night stay at the 5-star luxury Fairmont Tremblant, Mont Tremblant guided zipline tour for two, 1-hour go-karting academy through the hills of Mont Tremblant, and a full day Mont Tremblant white water rafting experience for two.

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.



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Across

- 1. Forward
- 5. 100-meter, e.g.
- 9. Pertaining to
- 11. Left the car
- 13. "When pigs fly!"
- 14. Look up to
- 15. Blonde's secret, maybe
- 16. Mice catchers
- 19. TV reception problem
- 20. Minimum
- 22. Rotten
- 26. Swiftness
- 31. Got better, of a wound
- 32. Political symbol
- 33. Premature
- 34. Same ol', same ol'!
- 35. Blocks
- 37. Liberal pursuits
- 41. Guess
- 42. Backboard attachment
- 45. Jeff Beck instrument
- 47. Piece from Keys
- 49. Withstand
- 50. Circular plates
- 51. In the mail
- 52. With a discount of

Down

- 1. Group of noise makers
- 2. Listen to
- 3. Honey
- 4. Justified
- 5. Palindromic begetter?
- 6. Prepares for battle
- 7. Casing
- 8. Courageous man
- 10. Wheeled vehicles
- 11. Grade to graduate
- 12. Condensation
- 17. Plant attacker
- 18. Boy
- 21. Grand
- 22. "Ain't \_\_\_ Sweet"
- 23. Green color
- 24. Stick in the water
- 25. Below par
- 27. Picnic pest
- 28. Schuss, e.g.
- 29. X rating?
- 30. Needle hole
- 32. Volcano feature
- 34. Embarrassed
- 36. Fatigue
- 37. Ripen
- 38. Leaks
- 39. Sea motion
- 40. Knock for a loop
- 42. Bouquet flower
- 43. Squid's squirts
- 44. Difficult situation
- 46. College major
- 48. Petroleum

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**YARD SALE** for SAINT Rescue and Adoption Cat Rescue. Sat. & Sun., June 3 & 4, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. 464 Wagg Road, Uxbridge. Rain or shine. Collectibles; artwork and pictures; new giftware; pet supplies including cat trees; garden stuff including new umbrella and plants; Amati Kraslice alto saxophone with case; furniture including antique settee and chair; records; jewellery; tools; baby clothes; plus usual garage sale items. Please bring bags.

**SPORTS MEMORABILIA SALE!** Saturday, June 3. 77 Russell Barton Lane, Uxbridge. From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**YARD SALE** Sat., June 3. 8 a.m. 1 Colonel Sharpe Cres., Quaker Village.

# Leaskdale Loop promises fun and festivals this season

Justyne Edgell

The popular Leaskdale Loop is kicking off its third season with a Spring Flower Festival on June 3.

The Leaskdale Loop is a diverse collection of businesses and artisans located just north of Uxbridge, with a what organizers say is a passion for building community ties and bringing people together. With a total of 14 businesses participating in the 2023 season, the Leaskdale Loop is now offering a series of seasonal, themed festivals where they all open their doors to welcome customers on select Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The festivals will be interactive and completely family and dog friendly, perfect for a summer weekend outing.

Unlike other local festival tours, the Leaskdale Loop is not limited to one interest. Among the 14 businesses on Loop Day, "You can start by looking at historical sites, then go to an artisan, then get food and head over to Banjo for cider," says Patricia Cherry, Leaskdale Loop member and owner of Greenmantle Pottery. "It's the perfect self-guided day trip."

All 14 of these businesses are located within a 10 minute drive of one another, making a convenient route to explore these destinations while admiring the Leaskdale countryside.

"We have farm markets where you can find flowers and local produce grown on site, cider and maple syrup right where they are made," says Cherrie. "We have various artisans, historical sites, vintage barns, live music and more. And our customers get to meet the actual makers and growers in person and learn about their small businesses"

The Leaskdale Loop isn't only for out of town visitors, although Cherrie says that Uxbridge locals are often surprised by just how much they learn about the township by taking a trip on a Loop Day.

"Many of our visitors in the

Uxbridge area are surprised to discover so many interesting small businesses that operate so close to them. And the Loopers, as we are affectionately known, are a terrific group of smart, hard working and incredibly creative business owners that will be ready to welcome you."

This year's festival line up includes: Spring Flower Fest - June 3; Strawberry Field Day - July 1; Music Hop - August 19; Harvest Celebration - October 14; and an Artisan Christmas Crawl - November 18.

For more information on the Leaskdale Loop and its Loopers, visit [leaskdaleloop.ca](http://leaskdaleloop.ca)

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### Clarence "Clancy" Goodfellow

March 21, 1944 - May 28, 2023

... And he truly was a good fellow, as all his friends will attest. From his Cookstown buddies with whom he grew up; to the members of the Great Pine Ridge motorcycle club; to his fellow directors at the Antique and Classic Boat Society; to his colleagues and friends in the trade show and exhibit business and to his friends and neighbours, all will remember him for the extraordinary man that he was.

Meticulous in everything he did, Clancy could repair, modify or improve anything he touched. His beloved Kawasaki Z1 900, that he bought new in 1975, was the Poster Bike at the 2013 CGMV Paris Rally and a Best in Show winner. His stunning 1955 Red Ford F100 truck, seen regularly around Uxbridge, also won a Best in Show, as did his "floating violin," his cherished 1964 Greavette Sunflash mahogany boat that won its category at the 2007 ACBS boat show in Gravenhurst. He painstakingly restored them all.

He will be remembered for his kindness, his loyalty, his desire for perfection. He would say "Why do anything unless it is done right?" Handsome and charming, he was as beautiful on the inside as he was on the outside. He always helped us set up the Scottish Dog exhibition at the Uxbridge Scottish Festival.

Always a man in control of his life, Clancy chose to unburden himself from the devastating cruelty that is ALS. Thank you, Uxbridge Hospital's remarkable Dr. Carlye Jensen, for your compassion. Donations to the ALS Society for research into this horrific, incurable disease would be appreciated. Condolences can be sent to [paulfkentfuneralhome@rogers.com](mailto:paulfkentfuneralhome@rogers.com)

There will be no funeral. A celebration of his life will be held later in the year when we can remember Clancy with laughter rather than through tears.

Mourning are nephews Doug and Gord Peever in Winnipeg; brother Richard Risk in Halifax; sister-in-law, Linda Lefebvre in Montreal, his circle of close friends; his current pack of beloved Dandie Dinmont Terriers - Muffin, Tribblet and Rufus; and of course, his grieving wife, the writer and dog judge "Mike" Macbeth, who has lost the love of her life.

*And if you've never felt your soul being torn apart,  
You've never loved anyone with all your heart.*

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# SNOW WHITE

— • SUNDAY, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> 2023 • —

\$40 FAMILY PASS - 2 ADULTS AND 4 CHILDREN | FORSYTHE FARMS, 1025 CRAGG RD.  
\$10 INDIVIDUAL PASS - SINGLE ADULT OR CHILD | GREENBANK, ONTARIO



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SHOW STARTS AT 11AM, DOORS OPEN AT 10AM

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