

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 25

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Signs and sculptures • The Region at your service • A peek inside the Foster



NO BLACK SWANS HERE - The beloved swan couple that calls Elgin Pond home recently welcomed four little cygnets to their family. Visitors to the pond are reminded to not interfere with the babies in any way, including feeding or handling.
Photo by Nancy Melcher

Frightening event planned for Uxbridge

Roger Varley

A major Halloween event called Feargrounds is being planned for Uxbridge this October.

At council on Monday morning, Karen Mortfield said the adult-themed "haunt" will take place on 10 nights during the month, with "frightening Halloween scenes, props, actors and special effects," all designed to create an eerie atmosphere. Mortfield said the event would not be suitable for anyone under 12 years old.

"This will be the stuff of horror movies. It's intended to be thrilling and frightening," she said later. "I want to make Uxbridge a Halloween centre."

Mortfield and her partner, Eric Hagman, started Tall Trees Events about a dozen years ago to produce such events. Mortfield said a

...continued on page 3

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Trail Hub summer offers music, connection with nature

Justyne Edgell

Summer is now officially here, and for those who may be staying in Uxbridge and having a "stay-cation," Trail Hub might want to be a part of the to-do list.

Beginning this week, Trail Hub is unveiling a line up of events aimed "to reconnect with nature, forge new connections, and have a blast this summer."

Starting on June 24, Trail Hub will be hosting weekly Sunrise Yoga Classes for 15 consecutive Saturdays. Giving participants a serene start to their weekend, the classes will be held against the stunning natural background offered by Uxbridge's trail system, and will promote physical and mental well-being.

Tonight (Thursday, June 22), visitors are invited to participate in Country Music Night. According to Rick Batty, owner of Trail Hub, "set to the backdrop of the hottest country hits,

this lively night of dancing and entertainment will feature a talented DJ, delicious BBQ fare from HandleBar Grill, refreshing beverages, and prizes for the best-dressed country enthusiasts." Tickets for this event can be purchased on their website.

Trail Hub will also be hosting Friday Live Music. Each week, various artists from a range of musical genres will take the stage. This Friday, JJ offers pop music and cover songs. Friday, June 30, features Else Langhans performing a fusion of folk and jazz music.

Sundays at Trail Hub will also have live music in the afternoon, offering an opportunity for families to enjoy a picnic on the grass while listening to live music while enjoying nature.

Other artists on the schedule include Leigh Kemp (pop covers), Grant Lyle (Blues covers), Mike Burns (Folk/Blues covers), and the Roadogs (rock/classic covers).

"These events are all about bringing the com-

munity together, creating opportunities for people to enjoy the great outdoors, and fostering a sense of belonging," says Batty. "We want to provide our fellow residents with a chance to disconnect from their daily routines and reconnect with nature while forming new friendships and memories that will last a lifetime."

Located about 10 minutes south of Uxbridge, Trail Hub is located atop the highest peak in the GTA, with rolling views all the way across the city, and access to 240km of multi-use, four-season trails. Trails around Trail Hub are private property and require trail passes.

Trail Hub says it is dedicated to sustainability and fostering a healthier community. It aims to preserve the environment and contribute to a sustainable future by promoting responsible trail use and encouraging outdoor activities.

For more information and for a complete schedule of events, visit Trail Hub's website at trailhubshop.ca

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for June and July, 2023

- Monday, June 26, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING
- Monday, June 26, 11:30 a.m.
PUBLIC MEETING - ZBA 2023-04 - 4520
Concession Rd. 6
- Monday, June 26, 7:00 p.m.
BIA BOARD MEETING
- Wednesday, July 5, 9:00 a.m.
TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING
- Friday, July 7, 8:30 a.m.
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
- Monday, July 10, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING
- Monday, July 10, 7:30 p.m.
HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING
- Wednesday, July 19, 7:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
- Monday, July 24, 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 • Spina
Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month
June 23 - National Day of Remembrance for
Victims of Terrorism
June 27 - PTSD Awareness Day
- Proclamations for July**
- July 14 - International Non-Binary
Peoples' Day
July 18 - Nelson Mandela International Day

Employment Opportunities

Complete details of all open positions are available at www.uxbridge.ca/careers/

Uxbridge Historical Centre - Program and Collections Assistant, full-time, contract
Closes Friday, June 23, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Community Services – Arena Attendant, Adult, contract

Closes Friday, July 14, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Public Works and Operations - Crossing Guards - Resumés accepted on an ongoing basis.

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

From The Tax Office

2023 Final Property Tax Bills for Residential, Managed Forest and Farmland properties

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

FIRST Tax Installment is due on July 17, 2023.

SECOND Tax Installment is due on September 27, 2023.



Board & Committee Appointments

Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge invites applications from members of the public who are qualified electors of the Township of Uxbridge who identify as a person with a disability and who wish to be considered for the **Accessibility Advisory Committee** for a four-year appointment (Term of Council, expiring November 2026).

The purpose of the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is to work with Council to create an accessible and barrier free community. They review municipal building and infrastructure plans, policies, and programs to ensure that they are accessible to all. The AAC is responsible for advising Council about all matters related to accessibility. This includes developing and implementing the Multi-year Accessibility Plan and ensuring that the Township complies with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The work of the AAC will be guided by Council-approved Terms of Reference.

The Committee meets Tuesdays from 3:30pm - 5:30pm, bi-monthly.

Age Friendly Advisory Committee

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge is now inviting applications from members of the public who are qualified electors of the Township of Uxbridge and wish to be considered for a four-year appointment (Term of Council, expiring November 2026) to the **Age Friendly Advisory Committee**.

The purpose of the Age Friendly Advisory Committee is to advise Council on the current state of age-friendliness of Uxbridge and recommend ways to optimize opportunities for residents to age in place and remain engaged in all aspects of civic and social life.

Any persons interested in offering their services by accepting an appointment to either of these Committees are invited to submit a letter of interest along with a completed Volunteer - Committee Member Application Form, available at the Clerk's Department or on the Township of Uxbridge website under Committees and Initiatives, http://town.uxbridge.on.ca/committees_and_initiatives to the undersigned.

Completed applications must be submitted to the undersigned by email to:

Emily Elliott, Deputy Clerk/Uxbridge Accessibility Coordinator
51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190, Uxbridge ON L9P 1T1

elliott@uxbridge.ca 905-852-9181 x 209

The Township of Uxbridge is committed to ensuring that our community is fully accessible for residents and visitors alike. We do this by following the regulations outlined in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), our Accessible Customer Service Policy and by removing barriers so individuals can access programs and services in our community.

If this information is required in an accessible format, or if you require assistance filling in, printing or signing the application form please email accessibility@uxbridge.ca or contact the Deputy Clerk at (905) 852-9181, extension 209.

The Township of Uxbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer that is dedicated to an inclusive, barrier-free recruitment and selection process. The Township is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion within its community and organization, and welcomes and encourages applications from Indigenous Peoples, people of colour, women, persons who live with disabilities, people from 2SLGBTQI+ communities, and people from diverse communities. When requested, the Township of Uxbridge will accommodate applicants throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process, pursuant to the Ontario Human Rights Code. These commitments also apply to our Board and Committee recruitment and selection processes.

Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



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

Feargrounds, from page 1

Halloween festival they organized in Stouffville last year attracted 18,000 people.

The Uxbridge event, which will run on Friday and Saturday nights in October, with the possibility of a couple of Sunday nights, will be held on the Tribbling farm on Conc. 6. It will feature trails for visitors to follow through a corn field, where they will encounter scary scenes and scary characters. Mortfield said she's looking for local volunteer actors, makeup artists and high school students to help run the event. In the main hub area, there will be snacks, games and photo-ops.

"There'll be a lot going on," she said, estimating visitors would spend anywhere between 90 minutes and

two hours at the site.

There will be no alcohol allowed on site and no smoking. Nor will there be any physical contact between visitors and event personnel.



Mortfield said security will be hired for the event to make sure traffic runs smoothly on Conc. 6 and to make sure there are no problems on site.

Mortfield said she expects several hundred people to visit Feargrounds every night, adding she wants to work with the local business community to try and bring some benefits to the town.

Tickets will be available online only at the event's web page, feargrounds.ca and are expected to go on sale in July.

Mortfield, who unabashedly states that Halloween is her favourite time of year, claims Halloween is second only to Christmas in terms of celebrations and events. She said there is a whole industry built up around Halloween and she has been involved in planning events for the occasion for years.



\$4k raised for piano at Historic Church Leaskdale

The Lucy Maud Montgomery Society hosted the last of six jazz evenings at the Historic Church in Leaskdale last Friday. Vocalist Laura Skye, bass, James Warburton, and pianist Tom Baker entertained the crowd.

These concerts aimed to raise funds to refurbish an old grand piano, given to the LMMS by a private donor, "so that the local community can use and enjoy this instrument."

More than \$4,000 was raised, which, according to LMMS member Anne Mizen Baker, will help keep the piano in good condition, as well as provide a special dolly to be made for it so it is easily moveable.

"Many thanks to all the performers over the months, to the LMM Society for hosting, and the great audiences who obviously enjoy an evening of jazz!" says Mizen Baker.

ROAD CLOSURES RUN FOR THE DIAMOND

**Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary Run for the Diamond
Sunday June 25**

Elgin Park Dr. south to Main St. to Brookdale Rd., Wagg Rd. to the Countryside Preserve entrance.

Sections of these roads will be closed between 7:30 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Closures will be kept to a minimum and reopened as participants clear the area.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Are you looking to support affordable housing for seniors in Uxbridge ?
Are you available to volunteer approximately 2 hours each month to keep affordable housing available to seniors in your community ?

Board of Directors

A mid-size seniors non-profit housing corporation in Uxbridge seeks volunteers to serve as directors. Individuals with an interest or experience in social housing, finance or property management are preferred. Applicants should have some familiarity with governance and be able to attend monthly meetings (both virtual and in-person).

Please forward an expression of interest or resumé to:

Trinity Manor (Uxbridge) Inc.

10 First Avenue, Uxbridge, ON L9P 1J6

email: trinitymanor10@outlook.com

Please note that only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

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uxbridgelions.com

The Uxbridge Lions Universal Playground is opening July 1 at Elgin Park!

The Uxbridge Lions Club is happy to announce the **Grand Opening of our new Inclusive Playground** at Elgin Park on Canada Day, Saturday, July 1 at 5 p.m.

We invite kids to draw themselves and their friends playing on this new playground, and bring those drawings - along with their families - to the opening.



**Everyone
is
Welcome!**

**Bring
Your
Drawings!**

Our two cents

The ABCs of LTTEs

Hello, dear reader, and welcome to another installment of "Let's learn about Media Literacy"! This week's lesson is more of a recap on what the Letters to the Editor (LTTE) part of the newspaper is all about. We've covered this before, but recent events have made it evident that a little refresher is needed.

The LTTE portion of a newspaper is provided to the general public as an open platform on which comments, opinions, remarks, responses, even thank yous can be made. Letters submitted can be about practically anything. They shouldn't be too long, they should be fact-based (facts offered will be checked to the best of the editor's ability), and they will not be published if they contain profanity, are libelous about an identifiable individual, or contain openly hateful statements.

What defines a hateful statement, you ask? Well, Bill C-36, which was presented in 2021 as an act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canadian Human Rights Act, defines hatred as follows: "the emotion that involves detestation or vilification that is stronger than dislike or disdain." (Criminal Code, Section 319 (7,8)) Speech that expresses dislike or disdain, or that discredits, humiliates, hurts or offends *does not fall within the definition of hate speech*. This distinction is intended to reflect the extreme nature of hate speech.

Now, certain Letters to the Editor, of late, have certainly shown themselves to hurt and offend some people, but to accuse the newspaper of spreading hate speech is going just a teensy-weensy bit too far.

When it was first suggested that we had published hate speech, we were more than a little alarmed, and did some serious soul-searching and investigation. We knew said LTTEs would be repugnant to many, but we didn't think hate was involved. We then put the entire matter to a globally recognized organization made up of news editors - only one editor out of 14 said they would consider sending the letters back for rewrite. The others all agreed that they would publish the letters as they were, because while they might have been inflammatory, they were not out-of-bounds.

We review every letter we receive and decide whether it meets our standards for publication. If it doesn't, we don't publish it. If it does, it goes to print. If it wobbles, we ask the sender for a rewrite. That does *not* mean we agree with the contents, nor do readers need to agree. It simply means someone had their say. Their say may be unpopular, distasteful or contrary, but they are allowed to say it, and we're allowed to print it.

If the *Cosmos* decided to not print a letter because it might offend a group of people, despite it meeting all our criteria, that's censorship. To allow some topics through but not others - that's censorship. And censorship is a huge disservice to a society that relies on information to make informed assessments of issues which affect daily life.

To say everyone is allowed to have an opinion, but not everyone should be allowed equal access to a public forum to express it is hypocritical and self-serving. Some letter-writers will, metaphorically, hang themselves with their unjustified opinions. A moderated dialogue in our community, facilitated by LTTEs, is good for everyone, and is an important record of the *zeitgeist* in 2023. We're not perfect, and we're always willing to learn. The same needs to be said of letter writers everywhere.



Letters to the Editor

Does anyone really think that downtown Uxbridge (Brock St.) is accessible?

Take a look at the steps going up into the stores. If not you, then at least one person you know uses a cane, walker, or crutches, and cannot safely climb the steps, and therefore must shop elsewhere.

I believe each member of council and the Works Dept. needs to borrow a walker and walk from the Uxbridge Seniors Centre to the arena, up one side of Brock and down the other side. Watch out for uneven sidewalks, and sidewalks that are on a dangerous angle for a person's balance.

Uxbridge has only a few accessible stores in the downtown. In Port Perry, most stores have railings. Why not Uxbridge?

More than eight years ago, the Works Dept. removed the benches to be repaired, they promised that they would be returned in the spring. Which spring?

COVID has done a number on the people of Uxbridge. They lost a lot of muscle tone and balance. We are trying to regain our strength, but walking downtown should not be a struggle in regards to our safety.

Udelle Wood
Uxbridge

There is now talk about fireworks for July 1 here in town. I really hope we can do a survey of the residents for next year in regards to whether it is a good policy to have a fireworks display at all within the community. Let's investigate a drone light show, which is safer for

everyone; no chance of a fire either.

Did you know that bees become so disoriented they quite often don't go back to their hives. Birds have panic attacks at night, causing deaths from flying into buildings, etc. Wild animals raising babies abandon their dens in fear. Fish and other animals perish after ingesting fireworks debris. Companion animals that we all love and care for have anxiety and panic attacks. And quite a few humans experience panic attacks, possibly the many residents (neighbours and friends) within the community who have PTSD.

I can't think of anything else that causes so much anguish and fear for so many different species all at the same time other than fireworks (or bombs dropping during a war).

Oh, and let's not forget the pollution we are causing...again.

Bev Northeast
Goodwood

Re: Letters to the editor, June 8 & 15 editions

A brief response to Aleta Voss's letter on June 15. While I take issue with many aspects of Voss's letter last week asking why we celebrate the LGBTQ2+ community for the month of June, I do find it important to point out that her key source (Gays Against Groomers) is an infamous far-right mouthpiece that has direct ties to QAnon, MAGA and 'Stop the Steal' campaigns. I fear that without this background knowledge of the organization, one which has been strongly disavowed by the majority of the LGBTQ2+

community, it gives the very wrong impression of unbiased credibility when cited in Voss's letter.

I wish that Voss had joined the Pride celebrations in Port Perry last weekend, or joined in the Drag Queen storytime at the Uxbridge library. Perhaps having witnessed these gatherings of laughter, joy, love and inclusivity, Voss would have changed perspective on which side of the ideological argument is truly comprised of 'extremists'.

Mary Bridger
Uxbridge

There have been two letters to the editor published in (the *Cosmos*) in the past two weeks espousing ignorant and harmful views regarding LGBTQ2S+ people.

While everyone has a right to their own opinion, that does not mean those opinions all deserve an equal platform in a public forum. Language is powerful and hurtful perspectives that endanger members of our community shouldn't be elevated.

I hope that readers of the *Cosmos* are able to discern this difference for themselves if the paper continues to give voice to such opinions.

Natalie Munn
Uxbridge

Small town shouldn't mean small minded. If you don't know why Pride month is a whole month, that's okay, but educate yourself on it. If you don't know the difference between a drag queen and a person who is transgender, don't make

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The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Animal Farm democracy

Anyone who knows George Orwell's *Animal Farm* can quote that book's most famous line: "All animals are created equal, but some are more equal than others."

Such is now the case in Ontario, where Premier Doug Ford, acting like some medieval king granting new estates to favoured barons, has granted "strong mayor" powers to a whole slew of new cities. Originally, only the mayor of Toronto and Ottawa received the royal boon. Last week, Ford extended the gift to 26 more municipalities, including five of the eight municipalities that make up Durham Region.

The supposed idea behind the move is to enable the provincial government to build all the homes it has promised. What it actually boils down to is the subverting of local democracy in order to push through Ford's agenda.

If you don't know, the "strong mayor" powers include allowing such mayors to propose housing-related bylaws and pass them with the support of only one-third of councillors. They can also override council approval of bylaws that would hinder the creation of more homes. Strong mayors also have responsibility for preparing and tabling their city's budget, instead of council, and hiring and firing department heads.

Imagine, if you will, that these powers had been granted to Mayor Dave Barton. He would be able to pass a zoning bylaw, even though four of his councillors vehemently opposed it. In other words, the residents represented by those four councillors would have been declared redundant. Their voices would not be heard.

Barton, however, will have to go along with what Ford obviously doesn't like: majority rule. But these strong mayor powers have been granted to the mayors of Ajax, Pickering, Whitby, Oshawa and Clarington. Why not to the three northern communities? Because the major developers have little interest in bringing their urban sprawl to this neck of the woods. Regional Councillor Bruce Garrod pointed out to me that the strong mayor powers have only gone to cities which have more than 100,000 residents or are expected to reach that number in the near future.

But if the five southern mayors can now pass bylaws with the support of only one third of their councils, where does that leave the region in terms of approving developments? The region has a large say in all major proposed developments. How will that stand up when the mayors can rule as they like?

Garrod said the Region will still have to provide support for developments, noting that the mayors "don't have dictatorial powers. It doesn't change Durham Region's authority." And he pointed out that there's no indication the region will disappear, as has happened to Peel Region, which the Ford government has now split into three separate cities.

The fact that we're dealing with Ford does not give me a lot of confidence in what Garrod says about Durham's future. For Ford, municipalities are just an obstacle to be pushed aside. Ford slashed the size of Toronto council in the middle of a municipal election, he has turned over a large portion of the publicly owned Ontario Place to corporate interests, he got rid of Peel Region and he has publicly endorsed one candidate in the current Toronto mayoral election. How loudly would he scream if Prime Minister Trudeau publicly endorsed someone other than Ford in the next provincial election? Add to all that the fact that he now is telling cities to feel free to expand their borders, that he is carving out chunks of the Greenbelt for his developer friends and that he's pushing an unnecessary highway through prime agricultural land, again to the benefit of the developers, and one starts to wonder who gave him strong premier powers.

While I fully understand that the province has final authority over municipalities, Ford's actions are nothing short of meddling with the democratic process to achieve his own ends. With his strong mayors initiative, he has thrown into the garbage the basic tenets of democracy: one person-one vote and majority rules.

It seems to me that Ford is not only rendering a number of legitimately elected councillors impotent, he is stripping away the rights of the voters.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

In the face of cultural destruction

I was lost in the main square at Ypres, Belgium. I asked for directions from the man at a reception desk inside the town's massive Cloth Hall. As I thanked him for getting me reoriented, I asked him about the story of Ypres' recovery and restoration after the Great War in 1918.

"You know that the war levelled the city, yes?" I nodded, and he continued. "It was the forethought of the mayor and aldermen and others that saved our city after World War I. They gathered all the diagrams of buildings in Ieper (as Belgians call Ypres) and hid them in France."

The history of Europe, I have learned, has always been fraught with wars – the Napoleonic Wars, numerous civil wars, the Great War and the Second World War to name a few. Yet another war now consumes Ukraine along its frontier with Russia. And not only have these massive conflicts killed millions of people, but they have also repeatedly decimated the continent's rich cultural heritage.

In August 1914, when German armies invaded Belgium from the east, Ieper had no mechanized industry whatsoever, but housed a thriving linen trading centre, the largest non-religious gothic building in all of Europe. The Cloth Hall, as well as displaying classic medieval architecture, housed frescoes by some of the country's greatest artists and dominated the horizon with its three-blocks-long main hall and a towering belfry. Beginning in November 1914, however, as Allied armies dug in along the Western Front to defend Ieper, German artillery homed on the belfry and systematically bombarded the town, 10 to 20 shells falling every minute.

"The most famous monuments of the town, Cloth Hall and St. Martin's Church were ablaze," wrote authors Dominiek Dendooven and Jan Dewilde. "The entire town centre was wiped off the map."

When the Great War ended, Allied victors wanted the shattered Ieper preserved as "Holy Ground," or left in ruins as a symbol of the cost of war. Enter Jules Coomans, a Belgian-born engineer and after 1895, Ieper's town architect, who pursued the restoration of Ieper's heritage as his life's work. It was Coomans and his civic colleagues who'd removed the town's plans and schematics to France for safety, and then convinced Ieper's citizens to rebuild a modern town – of houses, shops

and navigable streets – but also to restore the town's gothic heritage exactly as it was. Coomans died in 1937, just as St. Martin's and the Cloth Hall restorations were nearly complete.

The job of safeguarding cultural heritage amid the ashes of war continues even today. During my recent trip overseas, I learned about the work of contemporary cultural heritage experts – practitioners of a modern Jules Coomans philosophy of preservation and restoration. In Paris, I caught up with an old friend, Colin Kaiser, for the first time in 36 years. We attended Agincourt Collegiate together in the 1960s; professionally I chose journalism while he earned a doctorate in cultural history.

During our reunion he shared some of his experiences working at the vanguard of UNESCO cultural preservation efforts in the Balkan region during civil war there in the 1990s, then similarly in the Middle East as the Americans invaded Iraq in 2003.

Coincidentally, I recently read a story by Associated Press reporter Jon Gambrell, who has followed UNESCO experts into Ukraine, where Russian shelling and bombing has threatened libraries, museums and religious buildings. Gombrell pointed out since the war began in February 2022, that the fighting has destroyed or damaged at least 259 cultural and historic buildings in Ukraine. The AP story highlights the work of a French engineer and a Ukrainian architect using a Zoller & Fröhlich Imager to create a three-dimensional image of the inside of Kyiv's All Saints Church. "It's a critical moment," one UNESCO official said. "If (these cultural places) are not protected now, we really risk that this heritage is lost forever."

More haunting than even the potential loss of cultural buildings and artwork in Europe, however, is the intent that lies at the base of such destruction. My friend Dr. Kaiser remembered the chaos of war in the Balkans and the indiscriminate vapourizing of churches and mosques and their faithful. What haunted him more traumatically was the madness of "overt ethnic cleansing." Not even the lifelong dedication of a Jules Coomans, of my friend Dr. Kaiser, or the 3D image-makers in Ukraine can preserve in the face of such deep-rooted hatred.

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

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Ten Fascinating Finds at the Foster Memorial

by Conrad Boyce

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

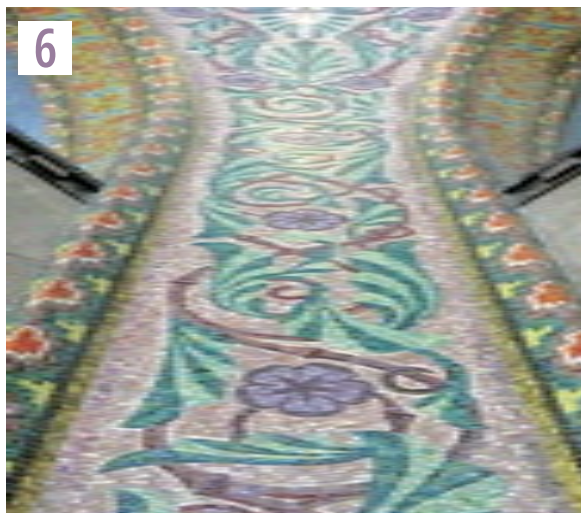
Uxbridge's Thomas Foster Memorial, located just a few minutes north of town on Reg. Rd. 1, was built during the Great Depression by a former mayor of Toronto who had spent much of his youth in the Leaskdale area. Although a butcher by trade, Tom Foster made his fortune in real estate. In his late 70s, he took a long-delayed trip to Europe and Asia, and was inspired by India's Taj Mahal to create a monument to his wife and daughter, both of whom had predeceased him. The design process took several years, and the architects ultimately decided to largely model the Memorial on the Byzantine churches of eastern Europe, in particular the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, completed in 537 AD. Materials for the Memorial's construction came from all over the world. Here are just a few of its most intriguing elements. For those who have yet to visit this unique architectural masterpiece, take a weekend afternoon and explore this jewel on the hill!

5



This wrought-iron arch, now located in the southeast corner of the grounds, was the Memorial's original gate. Around the time of the Memorial's construction, salt began to be used on roads to make them less than slippery in winter, and Foster had the arch moved to avoid corrosion.

6

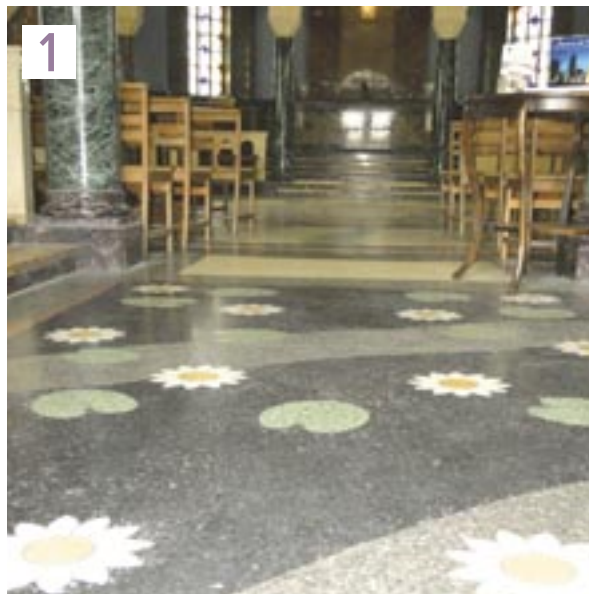


The acanthus plant, native to Europe, has long been a religious symbol of rebirth and resurrection. It can be found in many of the Memorial's artistic elements. Here, its leaf is rendered in glass mosaic on the eastern wall.

7



The floor mosaics in the Memorial contain thousands of small cubes of granite. This design is at the very centre of the building. It features four Greek letters very important in early Christian art: Alpha and Omega (the beginning and the end) on the left and right, Chi and Rho (X and P), the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ, intertwined in the centre.



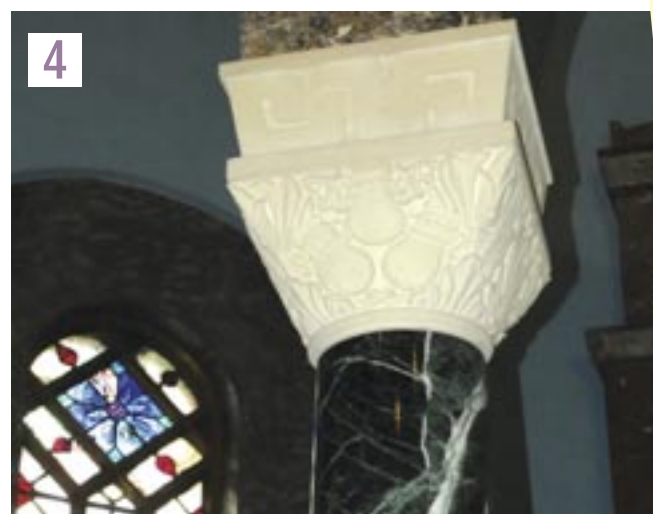
1
Terrazzo uses chips of marble or granite set in concrete. It's a much cheaper decorative feature than mosaic, and so became popular in the Depression, when the Memorial was built. It was definitely not a feature of traditional Byzantine architecture. Here it's seen in the floor of the entranceway.



2
The model plate above the keyboard of the Memorial's piano. The piano is actually 40 years older than the Memorial, and was built right in Uxbridge. The factory, located at the corner of Brock and Franklin, produced almost 3,000 high-quality pianos between 1871 and 1911. Its serial number indicates it was probably built sometime in late 1895.



3
These panels in the Memorial floor can be removed with specialized tools to give access to the mysterious basement. In the early days, bodies were stored in the crypts down there until they could be buried in the cemetery adjacent to the Memorial in the spring. Now, it's mostly used for storage and the furnace, except when performers want to make a dramatic entrance!



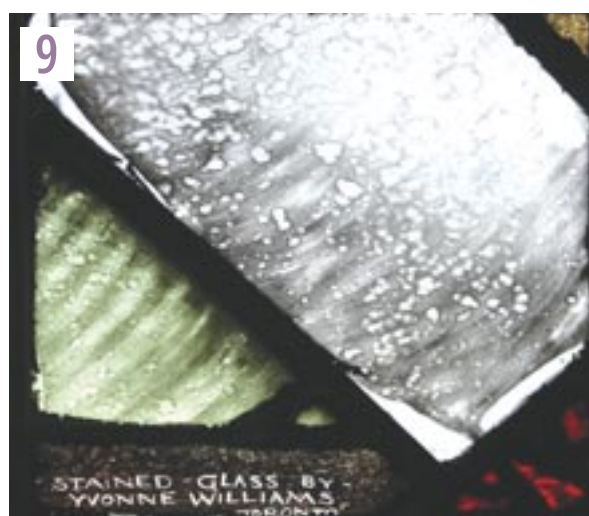
4
The Memorial has 16 interior columns whose capitals, or topstones, are made of Devonshire limestone. Each one is dedicated to a different Christian saint, with a carving symbolic of his story. Can you guess whose capital this is? Hint: He was both a disciple and an evangelist, or gospel writer.

Answer below.



8
Foster's daughter, Ruby, died of pneumonia in 1904, when she was only 10. Thirty-two years later, she came north with her mother, Elizabeth, to be re-interred in the Memorial. This is her original Toronto gravestone.

The capital in photo #4 is dedicated to St. Matthew. The clue is the trio of moneybags, referring to his supposed former occupation of tax-gatherer. His column is directly left of the altar.



9
This modest signature is that of the creator of all the Memorial's 23 stained glass windows. Yvonne Williams was born in Trinidad, but began her career in Toronto. The Memorial was her first major commission, but her work can be found in churches across Canada. The signature can be found in the lower right corner of the window above Elizabeth Foster's tomb.



10
Below this tombstone in the cemetery north of the Memorial lie the remains of Thomas Foster's father, mother, grandmother and two stepmothers. It was his interest in the cemetery's upkeep that eventually sparked Foster to buy the land to the south, many years before he conceived of it as the site for his Memorial. The stone is in the southwest corner of the cemetery.

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Parks, signs and sculptures dominate council discussions

Roger Varley

Monday morning's council meeting was largely concerned with parks, signage and sculptural installations.

To begin, council gave its approval Monday for the Uxbridge Lions Club to install a "friendship arch" at the site of its new accessible playground in Elgin Park.

The white concrete arch, approximately seven feet high and four feet wide, will be located at the eastern side of the playground. Lions Club

president Bob Armitage said the arch will be "a symbol of the strength and commitment between the Lions Club and the community."

In addition, the club also proposed installing a "thank you" sign on the west side of the playground to recognize all the major contributors to the new playground. After some discussion about what donors should be recognized on the sign, council adopted Regional Councillor Bruce Garrod's motion to receive more

input from township staff about the names that will appear on the sign.

The new playground is scheduled to have a "quiet" opening on July 1, with a grand opening ceremony later in the month.

Council also approved a new \$50,000 playground for Siloam Park. In a report, Parks, Trails, and Facilities manager Courtney Clarke said the playground will be accessible to children with disabilities and will include two slides, climbing options, a saucer cup and swings. She said the design was approved after Siloam residents were canvassed for their preferences from three possible designs.

From signs and Siloam to the Uxbridge Historical Centre, a natural sculpture approved for the museum. Katlyn Jones, curator and manager at the Historical Centre, gave a report to council suggesting a natural sculpture be approved for the historical centre.

She said there is a dead maple tree on the side of the museum grounds and, instead of cutting it down, it could be turned into a symbolic sculpture that represents and supports diversity and inclusion. Jones said initial plans call for a four-foot-high wood carving, done by local carver Ryan Locke, of two hands interlocked in an upright position. She said the sculpture would promote the idea that the UHC is a safe space that is inclusive for all in the community. Council gave its approval.



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Letters, from page 4

hurtful and untrue statements. You didn't just offend members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community in Uxbridge, but also their allies who choose to support them.

Social change is hard but necessary. It's okay to not know something if you were never taught, but I urge anyone reading this to take the time to properly educate yourself on 2SLGBTQI+ topics before writing such harmful, misinformed letters for an entire community to read. Those of us who live in this town love this town, so let's keep it safe, inclusive and respectful for everyone who lives here.

*Tracy Taylor
Uxbridge*

Replying as an ally: I feel it is important for our community to respond to the Letter to the Editor by Aleta Voss on June 15, asking why we spend a whole month celebrating members of the LGBTQ2+ community. While the damage has already been done, something has to be said to acknowledge the pain that spread across our small town when the *Uxbridge Cosmos* shared her letter.

Members of the LGBTQ2+ community are a marginalized minority. Voss's letter is proof of why we have a whole month to honour those of the LGBTQ2+ community. We do it to hopefully displace the hostility LGBTQ2+ members face on a daily basis from their own communities, schools and work.

While Voss is saving the innocence of our children, I will be sharing even more with my children about love and compassion. I will be teaching them about acceptance and understanding.

*Taryn Skinner
Uxbridge*

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Sunday, June 25, 2023

Service to be held at Sandford United Church
at 2:00 p.m.

Guest Pastor: Jim Hackner



Connecting with the Region

with Regional Councillor Bruce Garrod

Regional social services

My first 'Regional News' focused on the vastness of Durham Region and how Uxbridge, despite its geography, represents a very small percentage of the population. The second, two-part article, provided a high-level view of the variety of services the Region manages.

Eclipsed only by police services, the second largest regional operating budget item is social services. Fortunately, many Uxbridge residents live a life that requires minimal awareness of the full breadth of these services. But Durham Region supports individuals who require various levels of assistance throughout their life, and our community is not immune to these needs. The eight regional municipalities would be unable to provide the human and financial resources necessary to effectively deliver these critical services individually. Centralizing these important services is paramount to their success.

Social services programs contribute to the health and well-being of our community. People may experience hardship or personal challenges that require the help and support of programs provided by the Durham Region Social Services Department. These include childcare, financial assistance, housing, employment, counselling, seniors and community outreach. Residents in Uxbridge are entitled to full access to the services. Some are provided locally, and others are centralized in the larger centers. While it would be ideal to provide parallel services in each municipality, Social Services is no different than any other department and must operate within defined budgets.

In Uxbridge Township, regional staff are available to engage with residents seeking assistance on a variety of programs. Often one of the most difficult steps is the first one. Staff will meet 1:1 to listen and understand the nature of the needs. Residents can expect compassionate help identifying the applicable regional services, and direction on other programs that may be provided via the provincial and federal governments. When upper tiers of government are to be used, for ex-

ample employment and income assistance or creating replacement government identification, regional staff will provide specific contacts and, often, assistance completing applications.

Family Services Durham provides individual, couples, and family counselling here in Uxbridge. The topics they can help with range from anger management to drug and alcohol problems as well as parenting, relationships, self-harm, and help with mental health.

Locally offered regional social services continue with supports for seniors. The Region runs three adult day programs that provide supervised therapeutic, social, and recreational programming in a secure setting. The programs are for adults living

with cognitive impairments, including Alzheimer's and similar conditions.

The EarlyON program offered in Uxbridge partners with the YMCA and Durham Farm and Rural Family Resources to offer programming for families with young children. The service includes the Baby Café for new and expectant mothers. Children-oriented supports include help via the Children's Services Division, which provides funding and system oversight to special needs resourcing agencies, who work in childcare to support staff in creating inclusive environments for all children.

One of these special agencies is Children's Developmental & Behavioral Services (CDBS). This agency supports childcare and services in home for children with developmental matters. CDBS is a partner in offering the Autism program "Play Project" that gives caregivers the skills to work with children on the spectrum.

Durham Region Social Services also provides emergency social services and co-ordinates the delivery of services and supports to address immediate, short-term needs in the community. Uxbridge witnessed these services first-hand immediately following the May 2022 tor-

nado. At a recent event at the Animal Shelter, regional teams were on hand to share how they incorporate animal welfare into their responses.

The Primary Care Outreach Program (PCOP) is a partnership with the Region's Social Services Department and the Health Department. This mobile outreach team involves an advanced care paramedic and social worker who respond to individuals living unsheltered or are at risk of homelessness. This team aims to establish trust, provide medical care and connect vulnerable people to health and social services systems. While heavily focused on the extreme challenges faced in the southern municipalities, PCOP extends its reach to North Durham and is providing much-needed care for individuals right here in Uxbridge.

Homelessness is a growing issue throughout Durham Region. The 2023 regional budget committed record amounts to continuing to address the issue. In Uxbridge, approximately 100 geared-to-income housing units are funded by Durham Region. Additionally, Durham Region funds 80 per cent of North House's budget. North House then provides critical services such as housing stability support for those at risk of becoming homeless, assistance accessing alternative housing, and guidance on landlord/tenant disputes. They also operate North Durham Service Hubs to assist with issues such as domestic violence, harm reduction, legal issues and more.

Most recently, Durham Region funded the construction of the Beaverton Supportive Housing Project. This 47-unit modular housing development provides accommodation and access to wraparound services to help promote life stabilization. Priority access is given to unsheltered residents in North

Durham, including Uxbridge. Move-in is expected to begin late 2023.

Helping those who need it is weaved into the fabric of Uxbridge. It's through the highly skilled team at Durham Region's Social Service

department that the most effective help is facilitated. To connect to help, simply visit durham.ca or call 311 from anywhere in Durham Region.



ENG, David Charles

With deep sadness we announce the sudden passing of David on June 16, 2023. Although he was the only son of George and Cathy, David came from a large family of uncles, aunts and cousins who are too numerous to name. He was born in Toronto on May 21, 1987, but spent most of his life in Zephyr and Uxbridge.

After graduating from high school, he was self-employed in the soil business. During the later years, he developed a landscaping business in which he was proudly successful.

He will be greatly missed by his little dog Willie, who was a constant companion and accompanied him wherever he went. David was the father to Gavvin, Logan and Lylah. He spent as much time as he could taking care of them.

A visitation and service will be open to those who wish to pay their respects on Monday, June 26, 2023, at the Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street S., Uxbridge, (905-852-3073), between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. A service to celebrate David's life will be officiated by his cousin, Thomas Eng, in the chapel on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the charity of your choice. For online condolences, please visit www.lowandlow.ca

Rest in Peace David



GROSE, Lloyd

With heavy hearts we announce the peaceful passing of Lloyd Arthur Grose (Uxbridge, ON) on Saturday, June 17, 2023, at the age of 82.

You are invited to leave a message for the family on the memorial page of Lloyd Arthur Grose to pay a last tribute. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Sylvia Grose, his children Tim (Kelley), David (Cristina), grandchildren Kai, Alexandra, and Skyley, and his sisters Lynne (Ron Blakely), and Donna (Ian Blakely). Predeceased by parents Arthur and Jean Grose, and brother Ross.

Lloyd lived a full life that saw him travel to all parts of the world with his wife on many trips. He worked for Toronto Dominion Bank for over 23 years, retiring as the bank manager in Uxbridge. After retirement, he took up selling real estate in Uxbridge, and drove a school bus. He was active in many service clubs and was very proud of his work as a member of the Masonic Lodge. His passion for woodworking was picked up from his father and passed along to his two boys.

Visitation will be held on Friday, June 23, 2023, at the Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street S., Uxbridge (905-852-3073, at 6 p.m., with a service to follow at 7 p.m. Donations can be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association or a charity of your choice. For online condolences, please visit www.lowandlow.ca





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Holiday Closure

Waste Management Facilities in Brock, Scugog and Oshawa and the Household Special Waste Depot in Clarington will be closed **Saturday, July 1.**



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