

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 23

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, June 8, 2023

Bruins unveil a bear of a trophy • Big birds up for discussion • Teenland War in Uxbridge



THE LAST SONG - Members of Uxbridge choral group *Bella Nove* (in blue) and *Bella Nove* alumni (in black) sing together under the direction of Jennifer Neveu-Campsall during the ensemble's final concert, held last Sunday afternoon at St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian church. After 20 years of leading this all-female choral ensemble, Neveu-Campsall is dissolving it and creating Northern Trails Vocal Connection, an auditioned, SATB choir. *Photo by John Covers*

Uxbridge Fall Fair considering bag searches

Roger Varley

In a letter to council, Dave Dickie, manager of the Uxbridge Fall Fair, said the fair board is considering searching attendees for drugs and alcohol.

Dickie said the fair board is mulling over the idea of banning backpacks from the fair grounds and searching all other carry-in bags, such as diaper bags, purses, etc., to prevent people bringing drugs and alcohol onto the grounds. He said it might be necessary to conduct such searches because of "the inappropriate activities of a small percentage of our young

adults." He said "an increasing number" of underage youth are arriving at the fair under the influence of drugs and or alcohol.

"We have formed a subcommittee to discuss this problem and attempt to figure out how best to deal with it," Dickie's letter stated. "We are losing some of our volunteers as a direct result and potentially our spectators."

Dickie said the fair board is seeking input from township staff and the township's lawyer on the proposed policy.

Council voted to refer the letter to staff for a report.

In other news from Monday's council meet-

ing, former mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor appeared before council to make a plea for funds on behalf of the Uxbridge Horticultural Society.

O'Connon said the society, which is entirely made up of volunteers, takes care of the flower beds at the library, at the seniors centre and various other locations around town. She noted that the Uxbridge group is one of only a few in Durham Region that does not receive any financial help from the municipal government. Most of the others receive at least \$500 a year, she said.

...continued on page 3

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Uxbridge at a Glance

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge
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 Uxbridge L9P 1T1
 905-852-9181 info@uxbridge.ca

The Township of Uxbridge

Trail Capital of Canada



Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for June, 2023

- 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 19, 1:00 p.m.
EDUCATION SESSION
(Closed to the Public)
- 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 • Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month
- 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

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to www.uxbridge.ca/en/business-and-development/bids-and-tenders.aspx?_mid_=23193
U23-16 - Rout and Seal
 Closes June 13, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Employment Opportunities

Visit Uxbridge.ca/careers for up-to-date information.

Road Closures

Visit Uxbridge.ca/roads for up-to-date notices.

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 28th, 2023.
SECOND Tax Installment is due on September 27th, 2023.

2023 Final Property Tax bills for Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Residential properties were mailed May 29th, 2023. Payments for these bills are due on the following dates:

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

All tax payments must be received by the installment due dates as indicated on the tax bill. If you are late paying your taxes, an interest penalty of 1.25% will be added on the first business day of each month until paid. A Notice of Past Due Taxes will be issued in the month following the installment due date and will incur an additional cost that is added to the tax account. 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

The Thomas Foster Memorial

9449 Conc. 7 (Durham 1) 4km North of Uxbridge
www.thomasfostermemorial.com

Fridays at the Foster 2023 Concert Series - every Friday night from 7:30pm – 8:30pm from May until September, 2023.
 Admission is by donation at the door.

June 9 – Wayne Madder - Guitar; **June 16** – Ferrport Jazz Ensemble; **June 23** – Douglas Mackenzie - Guitar; **June 30** – Melanie Hebert - Vocals.

Check out the website for more information regarding Meditation Sessions, Tours

The Best BBQs are Fire Safe

Never BBQ in a garage, tent or enclosed space.

Place your BBQ away from wooden fences, walls and anything that burns.



Uxbridge Fire Department
 301 Brock St. W
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9am - 9pm every day!



Summer Swimming Lessons at Uxpool

Registration now open!

Register online at www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool



Open Air Fire Ban In Effect

in the Township of Uxbridge

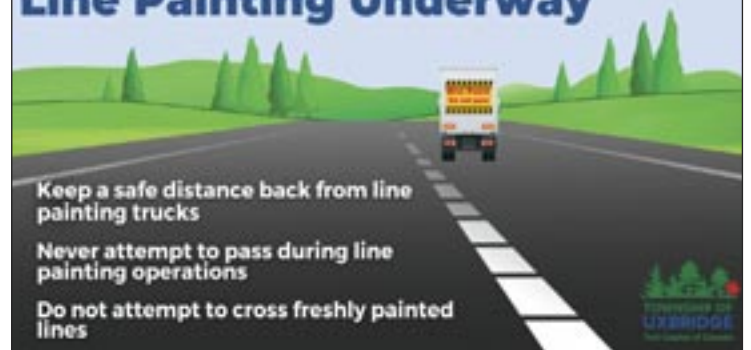


Line Painting Underway

Keep a safe distance back from line painting trucks

Never attempt to pass during line painting operations

Do not attempt to cross freshly painted lines



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

Lane restrictions on Sandford Rd. for June

The Regional Municipality of Durham is advising residents of lane restrictions on Sandford Road in the Township of Uxbridge.

Beginning Tuesday, June 6, and running through to Thursday, June 29, lane restrictions will be in place daily on Sandford Road (Regional Road 11), from 200 metres west of Concession Road 5 to Concession Road 7. Unfavourable weather conditions may impact the work sched-

ule.

The Region says that the lane restrictions will be in place for the installation of paved shoulders.

The Region also notes it realizes that the work may be disruptive and will make every effort to complete the work as quickly and efficiently as possible. Drivers are asked to exercise caution for the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and work crews.

Council news, from page 1

"We're at the point now where we need assistance," she said, asking that council award the society \$500 to meet its increasing costs. Councillor Willie Popp suggested the society could seek some funding from the

BIA, which is responsible for the beautification of downtown. He also moved that funding for the society could come from the golf fund and perhaps the society could be included in future budgets under the Parks umbrella.

Council approved the motion.

Great conversations don't start themselves.

From first dates to Main Street meet-ups to the last virtual call of the day. Turn to the local news to spark your next great conversation... It's 10 Canadians do.

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Register at www.runuxbridge.com

Open-air burn ban in effect for township

Dry conditions caused by current and forecasted weather patterns make burning unsafe at this time, meaning that, effective June 6, there is a fire ban on all open-air burning in the Township of Uxbridge.

Open air burning includes the use of burn barrels, outdoor fireplaces and cooking fires, as well as fires in pits. Residents may still use a barbeque or other approved cooking appliances with caution.

Everyone in the Township of Uxbridge who currently has an approved recreational, open-air or oversized permit to have an open fire must follow the requirements listed on the back of the permit. One of the requirements is to call 905-852-9038 every time they wish to burn to ensure burning is permitted. At this time, *no burning* will be allowed.

The Uxbridge Fire Department strongly advises all residents to ad-

here to this fire ban to ensure the safety of themselves, their neighbours and the entire community.

For further information contact the Uxbridge Fire Department at 905-852-3393.

REGISTER NOW!

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day for Kids.

Saturday June 10th, 2023
9am to 1pm
Port Perry Fair Grounds

onfarm@durhamfamilyresources.org

Durham Farm & Rural Family Resources

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June 10th, 2023
9:30 am - 1 pm

Port Perry Arena

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In The Know:
A mental health awareness program for the agriculture community

Canadian Mental Health Association Ontario

Durham Farm & Rural Family Resources

OFA Ontario Federation of Agriculture

DRFA Ontario Dairy Producers' Federation

Our two cents

Smoke gets in your eyes - and everywhere else

“Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer...”

We’re looking at a whole new version of hazy days at the moment. In case you’ve not ventured outdoors in the past few days, we (as in Ontario, or much of Canada, to varying degrees) are currently experiencing a haze brought on by the hundreds of forest fires that are currently burning in (mainly) Alberta, Quebec and Nova Scotia. In fact, earlier this week it was possible to just step outside and wonder if you had stumbled into a campground on a long weekend, so pronounced was the smell of campfire and burning wood.

Sadly, the reality is not as cozy. According to Natural Resources Canada and its Canadian Wildland Fire Information System, as of May 31, 2023, there have been 1,826 wildfires in Canada, covering 2,728,769 hectares of land. And many experts say that most of these fires have been, in some manner, set by humans. All of a sudden, weather reports on the radio are including with the daily highs and lows a “local smoke” advisory. People at risk are being instructed to stay indoors, wear a mask (yeah! again!) or take precautions that will keep them safe and breathing. Are your eyes itchy and bothering you? It’s likely not allergies, it’s the smoke.

There’s a website that most of us never knew existed that is now likely in everyone’s tabs - firesmoke.ca. Run by the Weather Forecast Research Team at the University of British Columbia, it takes information from across the country and compiles it all into one handy map that shows you where the wildfires are, which way the smoke is blowing, and forecasts both wildfire and smoke movement.

And while writing this editorial, the township announced that it is following suit with surrounding municipalities and instituting an open-air burn ban for the entire township.

We’re all for lazy, crazy days of summer, but let’s all be sure we don’t contribute to the hazy part. Be smart, and protect yourself if necessary. Oh, and you’re welcome for the little earworm that we planted off the top of the column. It’s a great tune - we love Nat King Cole’s version best.



Letters to the Editor

Reunion weekend was an amazing weekend in town. There was so much going on with the USS reunion to the plant sales, yard sales, firehall car wash, musicians on Brock Street and the Farmers’ Market.

I want to say a big thank you to all of the volunteers that made these amazing things happen. Without the hard work of a few, the rest of us could never have experienced the wonderful weekend. So many people had “come from away” to be “back home” and managed to connect with so many “older” familiar faces. It was wonderful.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all involved that made this weekend special, and to all of the other volunteers who help to make so many things in town possible!

Gerry (Ferguson) Oldham
Uxbridge

approach to our LGBTQ community (“Our two cents,” June 1 edition). We are one human family.

When in an emergency room, would one ask whose blood they are being given?

Joan Mathieu
Uxbridge

Kevin Carter was a photographer who took a picture of a starving Sudanese child trying to work her way to a feeding center. She was so weak that a vulture showed up and was waiting for her to die. Though the photo became famous, I suspect most reading this have never seen it. After winning an award for the photo, people referred to him as the second vulture since he did nothing to assist her.

What we do see are pictures of drag queens everywhere in our media today. Social media is filled with tales of children questioning their gender after having been subjected to these transgender narratives. Some eventually obtain surgical sex changes at an early age while others commit suicide. I’m not asking that anyone believe me. I

am asking everyone to research the impacts that this transgender program is having on some children.

I don’t see any such suggestion in the *Uxbridge Cosmos*’s “Drag queens sizzle, protestors fizzle” article (page 1, June 8 edition). Our politicians, Children’s Aid agency and media are encouraging and supporting these men dressing in woman’s clothes to influence our children under the guise of so-called tolerance and respect. Where is the respect and assistance for the children that are subjected to the concept of questioning their gender at an age when they are most vulnerable to such influencers? Is our ignorance of the facts going to make us the second vultures?

Henry Zaczek
Uxbridge

Editor’s note: To be clear, the purpose of the “Drag queens sizzle, protestors fizzle” article was to relay what occurred at a public library event. It was never intended to offer research or information on the impact of transgender issues on children or adults.

Thanks for your informative column, re: the provincial government’s intrusion into regional government (“Our two cents,” May 25 edition).

Thanks for your common sense

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NEED TO REACH MILLENNIALS?

New survey results show that nine out of ten Millennials read newspapers weekly in print or digital formats.

Results are based on a November 2022 national online survey. Survey managed by Tolson Research. Interviewees were contacted via 400 English and French Canadian toll-free numbers. All results were reported to the relevant newspaper.

87% Adults 18+

90% Millennials

82% Boomers

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Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Over-cautious or overkill?

It is possible that people attending the fall fair in Uxbridge later this year could be subject to being searched before they are allowed into Elgin Park.

That's the gist of a letter the fair board sent to council this week. Complaining about the inappropriate behaviour of a "small percentage" of youth at past fairs, the fair board is contemplating banning backpacks in the park during the event and searching everyone's purses and bags - including diaper bags - for alcohol and drugs. The letter claimed that the fair is "potentially" losing customers and volunteers because some youth, fuelled by alcohol and drugs, are causing problems.

The fair board has asked council and the township's lawyer to provide comment and direction on the proposed policy, which council has undertaken to do. It is to be hoped that those whose input is sought think long and hard before giving approval to such a move.

I would hazard a guess that, for most women, their purse is sacrosanct. When I was a child - and even as an adult - I knew better than to look inside my mother's purse. That was courting serious consequences. How are women going to feel about security guards rummaging through their personal belongings just to make sure there are no drugs and booze? My guess is, many won't be happy with it.

Diaper bags? I can't imagine too many parents taking an infant to the fair and deciding they'll take along some drugs and booze in the diaper bag at the same time. No backpacks? Some people use backpacks to carry water bottles, sandwiches, personal items and maybe a sweater for when the evening cools off. A backpack allows them to carry those things while still keeping their hands free to eat a hamburger, pet a cow or throw a ball at a target in the midway.

While fair staff are searching people arriving on foot, what about the many who drive into the event and park their vehicles in the allocated areas? Will their vehicles be searched for contraband in the trunk or

glove compartment? That's likely to result in some lengthy lineups at the gates.

Of course, a supply of drugs or a small bottle of liquor can easily be carried in a coat pocket. How does the fair board expect to prevent that unless they subject everyone to pat downs?

The fair board says it will have security guards and a couple of paid duty DRPS officers on hand for the event. It really shouldn't be too hard for those personnel to spot miscreants up to no good. After all, there are not too many places they can get up to mischief away from the public eye.

I will concede that there are some youth members of our community who seem to enjoy breaking the rules and creating trouble. But does the citizenry at large have to be inconvenienced and searched because of a few troublemakers?

A friend pointed out to me that such searches are commonplace at events such as a Leafs game or a Blue Jays game. Maybe so. But that's the big city. Uxbridge is a small community and I don't think it needs big city solutions to handle what I believe is not a major problem. Years ago, when I was a Scout leader, the scout troop undertook to clean up all the litter at the fairgrounds. I don't recall ever finding any empty whiskey bottles or beer cans.

My take on the fair board's letter is that it is aimed mostly at young people. If the fair wants to alienate the young crowd, they might as well close up shop now. The midway would die, for certain. For the young people, the fair is the last opportunity of the summer to let off a little steam, have a lot of fun and gather with friends. Yes, they can be boisterous, they can be noisy and sometimes they can even be a nuisance. But that doesn't make them all druggies and boozers.

It seems to me that if the fair board wants to cut down on those few who do cause problems, the solution would be for paid duty police to lay charges and not just escort people off the premises.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Do battlefield anniversaries still resonate?

It's the way he cajoles strangers into friendly conversation. And at age 99, it seems to have worked pretty well for Simeon Mayou. He points out some of the commemorative pins and service medals he wears on his Royal Navy blazer. Then, he pulls his beret off the table and asks for help.

"Just hold the edge of the beret," he says, "and help me put it on."

Tish MacDonald, leading our commemorative tour of the beaches of Normandy this week, obliges. His playfulness gets a giggle from all of us as we realize the military veteran just wants to tell us part of his career serving in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, and in particular where he was on D-Day, 79 years ago this week.

"I was a radar operator aboard HMS Fusilier," he says. "Our trawler cleared the (English) Channel of mines for the ships delivering troops to Utah Beach."

Mayou, from Horton on the south coast of England, and his shipmates had rehearsed the delicate maneuver for months during what were called work-ups. Towing floats tethered a few hundred yards off the stern of their trawler, the crew of Fusilier could capture and cut loose German contact mines that might otherwise explode and sink Allied ships. This was June 5/6, 1944, however, and hundreds of warships and thousands of men's lives depended on how effectively they cleared those mines. By dawn that morning, Fusilier and the sweepers (including Canadian ones) clearing mines to all five D-Day beaches had done their job, and the first of 133,000 Allied troops had begun the largest amphibious invasion in military history.

"I've always been most proud of my D-Day medal," Mayou said.

I am a regular visitor to these historic battlefields, retracing steps here, researching, interviewing, writing and trying to keep veterans' stories alive. Along the way - even before the pandemic and even with the number of firsthand witnesses of the Second World War dwindling quickly - I am often asked, what's the point of remembering all this?

Well, I'll probably direct those who ask me to a man I met this week. Peter Buckley is a Canadian who now resides in Britain. I wondered why he too had travelled to France this week. He told me, even as a busy businessman, he always takes time to acknowledge his father's service during the earliest days of the

liberation of Normandy. His father, a British Columbian, enlisted in the armoured corps, and on D-Day came ashore with a French-Canadian tank regiment, the Sherbrooke Fusiliers.

"We arrived in front of the beaches and there were thousands of ships," Hugh Buckley told interviewers at Juno Beach Centre. "The reassuring thing was there was no way anybody could stop this invasion."

On D-Day-plus-one, Trooper Buckley, a gunner in a Stuart tank, raced so far inland they got behind enemy lines, but they quickly pulled back. He had no idea how close he'd come to death. Herbert Thistle, a wireless radio operator in another Fusiliers tank, came even closer; his Stuart tank was attacked by a panzer regiment commanded by Waffen SS Col. Kurt Meyer.

"These young SS (Hitler Youth) tank crews captured us and took us to the Abbaye D'Ardenne. They took us into a barn, five of us," Thistle said. "They had a sniper in front of us. We thought this was the end. Then, a German officer arrived and stopped the shooting," but not before 20 Canadians had been executed by the fanatical tank crews. Thistle survived the war in a POW camp, Buckley with the Fusiliers. Both have passed now.

I am also often asked, when the veterans are all gone, who's going to care that Canadians liberated this part of the world in 1944? Well, in that same Juno Beach Centre interview, veteran Hugh Buckley pointed to future generations of Canadians holding the key.

"I would like all Canadian youth to know the history of the invasion and the role that Canada played," he said. "It was critical."

And there's every reason to believe Hugh Buckley's wish and that of his son Peter will be fulfilled. Also while on tour this week in Normandy, I met a young University of Western Ontario student, Jahan Antia. He was travelling with his father, a marketer from London, Ont. The two of them have made the trip as a pilgrimage of sorts. Not because a relative served on D-Day. Not because they're military buffs.

"I think it's important as a Canadian to see this place," Jahan Antia said. "I believe I need to come here. It's part of being a Canadian."

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



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Kids' farm safety workshop a 'must' for home & visitors

Farms are fun, but they can be dangerous, which is why Durham Farm & Rural Family Resources is presenting a workshop on how to be safe on a farm this Saturday, June 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Port Perry Fair Grounds.

The event, geared to children and youth 5-15 years old, will have demonstrations and discussions on

topics such as: grain safety, fire safety, tractor safety, electrical safety, helmet safety, tick safety, hearing safety, and how to be safe near large animals.

Safety day includes lunch, snacks, a T-shirt, and a take home "goody" bag. Pre-register at durhamfamilyresources.org - space is limited to the first 100 registrants. Registration fee is \$5/participant or \$10/family.

Help us celebrate 147 years of Uxbridge history!



Located just west of Uxbridge, a Methodist Church was founded in 1875. Although the church closed in 1966, the building and cemetery are well cared for and are celebrated at an annual event to which all are welcome.

Please plan to attend the
2023 Siloam Church Anniversary
2:30 pm, Sunday, June 11, 2023
285 Durham Regional Road 8

June Mulch Sale!



From our yard to yours

SAVE \$10.00 ON BULK BAGS
\$170 for the 1st bag delivered
\$105 for additional bags

SAVE \$7.00 PER YARD ON LOOSE MULCH

BLACK	\$55/YARD
CEDAR	\$51 ⁵⁰ /YARD
FOREST	\$48/YARD

Conditions:
For orders delivered to any address in Uxbridge. Not applicable with any other promotions or discounts. Limit 10 bags or 7 yards per delivery.



Bruins unveil impressive new trophy

Roger Varley

An imposing new trophy was unveiled by the Uxbridge Bruins last Friday at the team's annual awards banquet.

The Bob and Dorothy Pollard Award features a sculpted brass bear atop a hill and is named for the couple who started minor hockey in Uxbridge and founded the Bruins organization. The award, presented jointly to captain Andrew Swan and goalie Noah Acciaccferri, honours "dedication, representation and respect of the hockey club."

Swan was also named as the team's defensive player of the year.

Forward Quinn Meek was selected as the most valuable player after scoring 33 goals and 24 assists for 57 points in 38 games in the regular season.

Josh Czaliy was named rookie of the year, Cohen Mackie received the nod as most improved player and Sam



Members of the Uxbridge Bruins display their 'hardware', received at the team's annual awards banquet last Friday. *Photo from Facebook*

Davis picked up the coaches' choice award. Ben Schmidt was recognized as the most sportsmanlike player.

The media award, also known as the Spirit of the Bruins Award, presented by the *Uxbridge Cosmos* and Vince's Market, went to Anthony Lamanna.

The banquet also saw four overage players receive their team jerseys as they said goodbye to the Bruins: Swan, Davis, Peter Kerr and Declan Meek.

The 158th Uxbridge Fall Fair - what to expect this year

Commonly dubbed the official end of summer, the 158th edition of the Uxbridge Fall Fair will be held the weekend of September 8, 9 and 10 at Elgin Park. This year's theme is "We've Got A Good Thing Growing."

According to Fair organizers, The

World's Finest Midway is returning along with perennially popular Tractor Pull and Demolition Derby. Organizers say the avian flu has once again compromised the Poultry Show.

An electronic version of the Fair Prize Book classes and requirements is on the Fair's website at www.UxbridgeFair.ca. School aged participants may want to access this before the end of the school year.

One new feature this year is the Town Trolley. It and the white bus will facilitate transportation to and from the Fair and alleviate some parking pressures. Both are fully ac-

cessible. Details will follow.

Safety and security remain priorities and some upgrades will be shared later in the summer.

Although the Township is a staunch supporter of the Fair and contributes much support in kind, the Fair Board is not a committee of council, but rather a not-for-profit corporation. Sponsorship is encouraged to support the Fair's annual budget of more than \$160,000. Please contact Roberta Bustard at rabustard@outlook.com

General inquiries may be addressed to secretary@uxbridgefair.ca



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NDN hosts 'Cormorants and Conversation'

Since their rapid population recovery in the Great Lakes, double-crested cormorants have a bad reputation because they are a large, black, water bird that eats fish, and their nesting habits kill trees.

On June 27, professor Gail Fraser will describe the role of cormorants in the Great Lakes ecosystems and how cormorant ecology relates to biodiversity conservation.

Gail Fraser is an associate professor in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University. She has worked on colonial nesting water birds for over two-decades. Her masters work (North Dakota State University) was on the foraging ecology of Forster's terns, and her PhD work (Memorial University of Newfoundland) was on the parental care of crested auklets.

'Bad Reputations: Cormorants and Conservation with Gail Fraser' is being hosted by North Durham Nature, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Historic Leaskdale Church, 11850 Conc. 7. Everyone is welcome. This is the last featured talk before North Durham Nature takes a break over the summer months.

For more information, visit northdurhamnature.com

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Big Brothers Big Sisters North Durham looking for big ideas

Submitted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Durham

Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Durham (BBBSND) has announced a new initiative entitled Big Start, designed to support the 'big ideas' of youth in Uxbridge, Scugog and

Brock Townships.

Big Start will provide opportunities for young people to launch and grow their big ideas. Young entrepreneurs ages 12 to 18 are being invited to apply for a space in a Young Entrepreneurs Market free of charge. They must complete a short

questionnaire, available at northdurham.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/bigstart. They will then be invited to a "get to know you" chat with a few local entrepreneurs to share their business idea. Selected youth businesses will be offered a table at the Young Entrepreneurs Market, which will take place during BBB-

SND's Holiday Market on Nov. 25.

"We are so excited to launch Big Start! There are so many talented young people in our community and we want to help give them the best start possible and launch their dreams. We can't wait to see the applications for the Young Entrepreneur Market and meet the youth behind the ideas", says Margaret Ayres, executive director of BBBSND.

To help them get started and grow their business, all of the participants in the Young Entrepreneurs Market will attend a business education day in October with local business owners. The goal of the day is to teach them about business finance, marketing, networking and share tips on how to have a successful day at the market.

In addition to the Young Entrepreneurs Market, BBBSND is also planning a Big Start opportunity for young musicians in conjunction with their Winding Roads concert in September.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Durham is a youth mentorship organization. For more information on their programs, please visit northdurham.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca



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Love, your Family

Pizza, wings can do a world of good

Submitted by the Rotary Club of Uxbridge

A night out with delicious food and lively entertainment can also be a chance to do good in the world.

On June 17, the Rotary Club of Uxbridge is hosting a Wing and Pizza night in support of its many local and international projects. Inspired by a wildly popular event that has been enjoyed in Port Perry for over 20 years, Rotary is bringing the fun to Uxbridge.

This evening is the perfect opportunity for those 19+ to spend more time with friends, family, a sports team, or neighbours getting to know each other better. The \$35 ticket provides a chance to try wings and pizza from eight local restaurants.

There will be a licensed bar, free soft drinks, a DJ, dancing and a 50/50 draw. An entertaining live auction rounds out the evening with bidding on packages of unique experiences that will help keep the fun going long after the night is over.

One successful bidder and seven friends will get a personally guided tour of the rebuilt Second Wedge Brewing Co., along with a tasting flight of beer and wood-fired pizza. Another, a behind the scenes tour and tasting package from Banjo Cider, or DesBarres Chocolates. For hockey fans there are four passes to the Hockey Hall of Fame with a beautiful 1800's photograph of a pre-Olympic outdoor game, valued at \$600. There is also a pair of centre field seats to a TFC game on Canada Day.

Tickets available at Boyd's Sports, Wood's clothing or online at uxbridgerotary.com

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CAR OF THE WEEK - Last Thursday's
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Lemans GTO tribute convertible, owned by
Adam Trussler from Stouffville. This week,
June 8, it is Ford week.
Come out to Elgin Park at 5 p.m.!

Submitted photo

Focus on Finance with Tammy Scuralli, Edward Jones

Asked to be an executor? Here's what one executor wishes he'd known ahead of time

When Ken was asked to be co-executor by his stepfather, Graham, he said "yes" right away because it was the right thing to do. Graham also appointed a daughter from his first marriage, Jessica, to be co-executor. Ken and Jessica hadn't seen each other in years because of strains in family relationships. However, Ken was confident that Graham, a retired accountant, would have put his affairs in order.

An executor is responsible for administering someone's estate. The executor must follow the wishes expressed in that person's will and all applicable laws. An executor may be a family member, a friend, a trust company or a professional such as a lawyer or accountant.

After Graham passed away last fall, Ken quickly realized that his role managing the distribution of the sizeable estate would be more complex than expected. The estate included a cottage, a corporation, a trust, life insurance, and an aggressively allocated investment account that was at risk in volatile markets. The heirs were a blended family with diverse perspectives, all understandably committed to protecting their own interests.

Graham's will didn't allocate assets equally. One side of the family would inherit the cottage and corporation, so other assets were left to the other side of the family.

And, while unequal isn't always unfair, because Graham hadn't discussed his will with anyone except his wife, some heirs questioned his intentions.

In addition, Graham wasn't specific about certain bequests - "personal effects" were left to Graham's adult son Michael, but that would require him to visit Graham's widow's home, pick and choose from the valuable furniture and art there, and arrange for it to be moved out.

Ken and Jessica agreed to engage an estate lawyer to guide them through some of the complexities of the estate. However, it was surprisingly hard to find one who was available and who didn't have a conflict of interest either knowing or representing one of the many heirs. The co-executors also discovered estate lawyers can be extremely expensive, in this case charging more than \$1,000 an hour. Even her clerk charged about half that amount an hour — still

very costly.

Another complication: when the estate lawyer searched for the charitable foundations that were named as heirs, one of them no longer existed. Even though there was a similar foundation established by the same charity, Ken and Jessica had to get every beneficiary's sign-off to reallocate that bequest. There was also a bequest of a boat that Graham had sold after he wrote his will, and questions about whether that heir should get something else instead — though executors can't make those types of decisions.

Being asked to be an executor can feel like a great honour, but it can also be time-consuming and stress-

Hiring an estate lawyer to guide an executor through the complexities of administering an estate is a good idea.

ful. Many executors are reluctant to charge a fee for their services, even though charging 3 to 5 per cent of the estate may be permitted if a fee isn't explicitly stated in the will. Also, executors are financially liable if anything isn't distributed correctly — though executor liability insurance is available to manage

that risk.

Ken's advice when considering accepting the role of executor:

* Ask if you can see the will so you can be aware of elements that will increase the complexity of administering the estate

* Suggest that the will be reviewed by a tax expert who may have advice on ways to structure the estate to save taxes

* Recommend that bequests be discussed openly and explained to heirs to avoid the family conflicts that can arise when gifts aren't equal

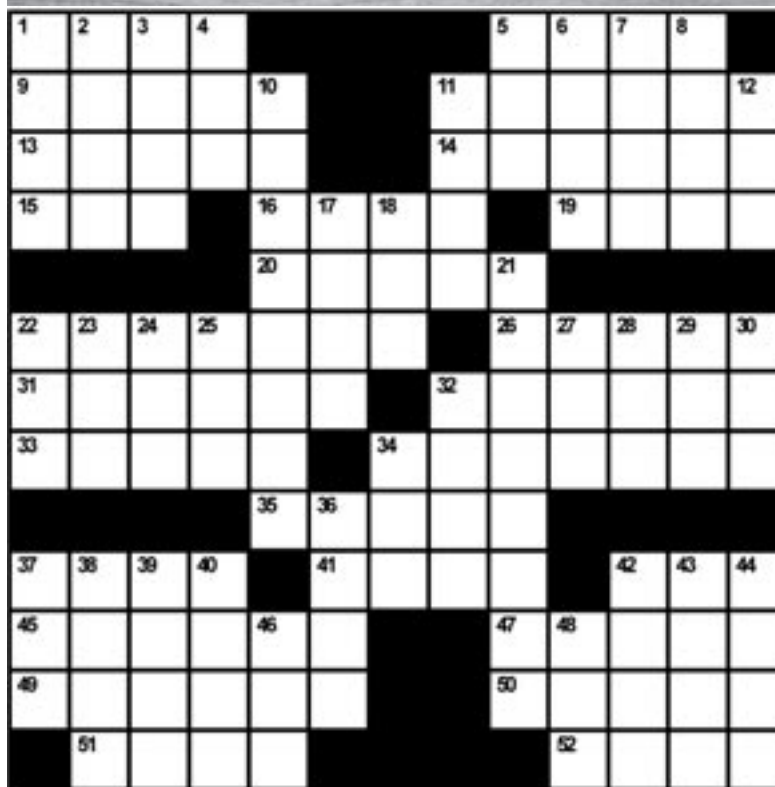
* Learn as much as possible about the relationships within the family, including areas of tension, especially if you'll be dealing with a blended family

If you've been asked to be an executor, or if you're considering who would be the best executor for your own estate, I can share an executor checklist, discuss options for executor compensation, and help you decide if executor liability insurance makes sense for your personal situation.

This column, written and published by Edward Jones, Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund, presents general information only. Insurance and annuities are offered by Edward Jones Insurance Agency (except in Quebec).

For more information, please contact Tammy E. Scuralli, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones, at 905-852-1244

COSMOS CROSSWORD



Across

- 1. Functions
- 5. Cable alternative
- 9. Went like the wind
- 11. Moves fast
- 13. Additional
- 14. Pay no heed to
- 15. TV doctor involved in space exploration
- 16. Deeds
- 19. Feeler
- 20. Artist's output
- 22. Without any delay
- 26. Rag
- 31. Hostile
- 32. "Lord of the Rings" character
- 33. Connecting
- 34. Simulate
- 35. "Wheat Fields under threatening ___" Van Gogh
- 37. Cairo inhabitant
- 41. Weather goes with it
- 42. Ardent devotee
- 45. Queen's residence
- 47. Wipe clean
- 49. Bathroom need
- 50. Mallards, e.g.
- 51. Bewildered
- 52. Good, better, ___

Down

- 1. Shoot up
- 2. Affirmation
- 3. Sound reverberation
- 4. Learn
- 5. Used a shovel
- 6. George Harrison's "___ It a Pity"
- 7. Kenneth Cole product
- 8. One of a matched set
- 10. Renderings
- 11. Insurer's calculation
- 12. Salon job
- 17. Freezing
- 18. Strive
- 21. Under pressure
- 22. Pizza ___
- 23. To some extent
- 24. Alpine gear
- 25. Malaysian export
- 27. Dig in
- 28. Epoch
- 29. Offspring
- 30. Objective
- 32. "50 first dates" star, first name
- 34. Pastry
- 36. Can be bended
- 37. Relevant
- 38. Stair part
- 39. That too
- 40. Low pitch
- 42. Model's asset
- 43. Invites
- 44. Robin abode
- 46. Golfer's hurdle
- 48. Irritation

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ANNUAL INTERDENOMINATIONAL SERVICE AT THE MEETING HOUSE. Sunday, June 11. The Committee of Friends Meeting House and the Friends Burial Ground invite you to attend. 6800 Conc. 6, 2:30 p.m. All welcome.

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The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

Big birds!

I was recently walking with a friend near a large pond when we heard a high-pitched wheezy cry. I noticed a big, dark bird land in a nearby tree. However, the copse between us made identification impossible. Lucky for us the trail gently turned in the bird's direction on the far side of the grove. We quietly advanced, and what a sight!

Perched high in the tree were TWO bald eagles. This was what made the kree-kik-kik-kik-kik call we'd heard. (Fun Fact: eagles are over-dubbed in movies because their song is not a powerful scream!) There was absolutely no doubt about what had made the sound we'd heard: snow white head and tail, dark body, with a large head and prominent beak. They were magnificent, majestic, amazing.

The largest raptor in this area, bald eagles stand 80-95 cm tall. Their wings spread out over two metres wide when they fly, a little larger

than a great blue heron. They soar with wings held very flat, unlike turkey vultures that hold their wings in a V-shape, or ospreys that look like big gulls with wings in an extended "m". The feathers at the edges of eagle's wings often look like fingers extended outwards.



The majestic bald eagle. Photo used with permission from CanStock

Young birds take four or five years to reach full adult plumage, spending their early years with mottled light and dark brown feathers.

My dad was an avid birder, and one brilliant summer day he saw an osprey circling overhead, keenly watching the water in the bay in front of our cottage. It suddenly tucked its wings, plummeting feet-first into the water near the dock. It surfaced quickly and rose back into the air with a beautiful bass in its talons. However, as it climbed into the sky it was attacked by a much larger bird, one that repeatedly jostled and bumped the osprey forcing it to drop its fish! The bald eagle (that's what the bigger bird was) swooped down to snatch the bass before it hit the lake and soared off with its prize!

When I was a child, just learning to identify birds, all the big birds of prey were extremely rare sights. Their return from near-extinction is due to the ban of DDT, which affected their eggs. Now, I see turkey vultures quite regularly. Ospreys are so successful now they nest on telephone poles. Bald eagles have also become more commonplace, and their majestic beauty still takes my breath away.

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

Teenland War comes to Uxbridge

War hits Uxbridge in a way that has never been seen before - teen style! Stupefied Theatrical Productions latest offering, "In Teenland War," is, according to director Shira Forsyth, reminiscent of the cult classic "Heather's" mashed up with "Mean Girls" and "Fast Times at Ridgemont High."

With the tag line "INFILTRATE. DEBATE. ANNIHILATE," "In Teenland War" is a story intended to make the audience think about life and family challenges, bullying, social status, and making the right choice even if the wrong choice is easier.

"WAR comes in many ways," explains Forsyth, "through the military, divorce, friends, and between misfits and the hierarchy in a school."

Not everyone can be a winner, and Simmie Williams knows this better than anyone. After her white-collar-criminal dad is sent to prison, Simmie fails almost all her classes and

moves into a dingy apartment with her mom, who can barely support them.

A new school promises a fresh start - except Ethanville isn't exactly like other high schools. It's ruled with an iron fist by a speech team that embodies the most extreme winner-takes-all philosophy.

Simmie is befriended by a group of fellow misfits, each of whom has been personally victimized by the speech team. With the help of her co-conspirators, Simmie comes up with a plan: If she makes Nationals, she can topple the corrupt regime from the inside out. But what happens when Simmie realizes she actually has a shot at winning?

"In Teenland War" is on at the Uxbridge Music Hall from June 7 - 11, at 7 p.m., with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. Tickets available through starticketing.com

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Elizabeth Anne (Betty) Murray

Elizabeth Anne Murray
 We are sad to announce the passing of Betty on May 29th, 2023, after a short illness at the Southlake Hospital in Newmarket in her 89th year. Born July 6th, 1933, Betty was well known by her friends and clients as a real estate agent and broker in Uxbridge, Ontario, where she lived and worked for over 30 years selling new homes built in several of the new home subdivisions on S. Beech St., and S. Balsom St., the subdivisions on Nelkydd Lane, Coral Creek, Village Green and Joseph St., selling over 500 newly built homes in the Uxbridge area in the past 30 years. Betty's hobbies included Bingo and she will be missed by her friends at the Delta Bingo Hall in Newmarket. She was a avid gardener, and will be missed by her friends and neighbours in Sunrise Circle, Bradford, Ont. Betty is survived by her sister Joyce Miller and her family in Oakville, Ont. Her 3 sons, Bill Murray and his family in Charlottetown, PEI. John Murray, Vancouver, BC and his family in Toronto, Ontario and Calgary, Alberta. Martin Murray in Innisfil, Ontario. Cremation will be in Uxbridge at the Low and Low Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the local food bank in Betty's name. For online condolences, please visit www.lowandlow.ca

To place a death or in memoriam notice

Visit: thecosmos.ca
 Call 905-852-1900
 Email: lwann@thecosmos.ca

 <p>COLDWELL BANKER R.M.R. REAL ESTATE, BROKERAGE Each Office Independently Owned and Operated</p> <p>ColdwellBankerUxbridge.ca 75 Brock St. W., Uxbridge 905-852-4338 Toll Free 1-866-666-2696</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p>  <p>Lakeside Community Across From Beach Deep Lot with Huge Backyard 2 Beds, 1 Bath, 875 sq.ft. 4 Season Bungalow Cottage</p>  <p>Gerald Lawrence Manager/Realtor® MultipleListings.ca Cell 416-556-0238</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p>  <p>2 + 1 bdrm bungalow, all season sunroom, two-tiered deck with gazebo, beautifully landscaped, fully fenced yard Call Judy today for more info.</p>  <p>Judy Esmonde Broker/Realtor® JudyEsmonde.ca Cell 416-677-8709</p>	<p>WANTED</p>  <p>Acreage and/or in-town properties backing onto trails, farms and single- family detached homes. Reach out to us today if you are thinking of selling.</p>  <p>Marie Persaud Realtor® MariePersaud.ca Cell 416-970-8979</p>
<p>FREE CMA</p>  <p>UXBRIDGE HOMES</p> <p>The Summer Market is Heating Up! With a Hot Seller's Market Upon Us So...if you're looking to discuss your options Let me help you find some answers.</p>  <p>Gwen Layton Realtor® GwenLayton.ca Cell 647-991-3276</p>	<p>WANTED</p>  <p>THINKING OF SELLING? We have approved, eager buyers searching for their new home in Uxbridge. Please feel free to reach out to our team if you're thinking of selling.</p>  <p>Chris Larmer Realtor® Powerofbluex2.ca Cell 416-500-6377</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>498 CENTRELINE ROAD, KAWARTHA LAKES This property was listed exclusively and during its first week sold firm. If you're considering buying or selling contact me today!</p>  <p>Shane Coxworth Realtor® Powerofbluex2.ca Cell 905-903-7965</p>	<p>JUST LISTED</p>  <p>58 WAGNERS ROAD This beautiful 3 bed, 2 bath home has been meticulously cared for, sits on just over an acre and boasts a gorgeous kitchen, finished walkout basement, a spring-fed pond and private river waterfront. Asking \$899,900.</p>  <p>Alyssa Persaud Realtor® AlyssaPersaud.ca Cell 647-232-8979</p>



WING & PIZZA NIGHT

Sponsored by **Vinces**

Tickets available at Boyd's Sports
or online at uxbridgerotary.com

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023
Community Centre, at Uxbridge Arena

7PM - 1AM | DINNER: 8PM
THIS IS A 19+ EVENT.

TICKETS \$35 OR \$40 AT THE DOOR
ENTRY FEE COVERS THE COST OF ALL FOOD AT THE EVENT

- DJ and Dancing
- Cash Bar
- 50/50
- Live Auction




Jewellery Event

1 day only
Saturday, June 17
10am - 4pm

Chances Are
20 Bascom Street, Upstairs

All proceeds to Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary