

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 20 No. 10

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, March 14, 2024

St. Patrick's Day debunked • Bruins off to a shaky play-off start • Special Olympic silver



BAKING UP A STORM AT THE BRIDGE - A small group of grade 3 students spent the Tuesday morning baking with The Bridge Social's co-owner, Rebecca Harman, as part of The Bridge's line-up of March Break activities. *Photo by John Covers*

Provincial award honours local veteran

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

An Uxbridge-area veteran was recently honoured with the 2023 Ontario Senior Achievement Award. Joseph James (Jim) Parks, a resident of Mount Albert, received the award namely for being, according to the citation given at the ceremony, "relentlessly committed to sharing his stories and keeping the memories alive of other Canadians who fought these battles, ensuring their valuable fight for our freedom is never forgotten."

Parks, 99, was one of 20 Ontario seniors who received the award on Feb. 29, at a ceremony that was presided over by Lieutenant-Governor

Edith Dumont, and Minister for Seniors and Accessibility Raymond Cho. The annual ceremony recognizes noteworthy seniors throughout the province who have helped improve the lives of Ontarians through community service and humanitarian activities, such as volunteering, fundraising, advocacy work and more.

Parks is a member of the Uxbridge Honour Them Well Veterans Outreach Program, run by Tish MacDonald.

"We were delighted to see Jim honoured with an Ontario Senior Achievement Award," says MacDonald. "Jim has always been a passionate advocate for remembrance education. He is a

treasured member of our program, and we have been humbled to host him on many occasions at local schools, where he shared his story of service with our students."

According to the Honour Them Well website (Parks's photo is on a banner that is part of the Honour Them Well banner program), Parks was born and grew up in Winnipeg, the son of a First World War soldier. He joined Army Cadets at 10, enlisted with the NPAM (Reserves) with the Winnipeg Rifles and then the Active Force Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders at 15 years of age, and was transferred

...continued on page 11

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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 Uxbridge L9P 1T1
 905-852-9181 info@uxbridge.ca

TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE
Trail Capital of Canada



MORE INFO www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committees

Meeting Schedule for March, 2024

- Thursday, March 14**
TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE @ 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, March 18**
GENERAL PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE @10:00 a.m.
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC @ 12: 00 p.m.
PUBLIC MEETING, ZBA 2021-09, 10850 Conc. Rd. 4 – ENG @ 12:30 p.m.
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE @ 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 21**
LIBRARY BOARD @ 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 25**
COUNCIL @ 10:00 a.m.
PUBLIC MEETING, DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BACKGROUND STUDY @ 11:30 a.m.
DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION @ 3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 26**
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY @ 3:30 p.m.
- Thursday, March 28**
BIA BOARD @ 7:00 p.m.

Proclamations for March

- Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month
- March 8 International Women's Day
- March 18 Transit Operator and Worker Appreciation Day
- March 21 World Down Syndrome Day
- March 23 Earth Hour (8:30pm-9:30pm)
- March 31 Transgender Day of Visibility

Road Closures

Visit

Uxbridge.ca/roads

for up-to-date notices.

Employment Opportunities

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

Summer Employment Opportunities:

- Community Services - Uxpool Swimming Instructors / Lifeguards - Summer**
Closes March 29, 2024 at 4:00 p.m
- Community Services - Arena Attendant Assistant, summer student (age 15+), part-time, contract**
Closes March 29, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.
- Clerks Department - Clerks Jr. Assistant, contract**
Closes March 29, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.
- Community Services - Assistant Summer Camp Counsellor (age 15+), contract**
Closes March 29, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.
- Community Services - Summer Camp Counsellor (age 16+), contract**
Closes March 29, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.
- Community Services - Summer Camp Supervisor, contract**
Closes March 29, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.
- Uxbridge Historical Centre - Museum Assistant, contract**
Closes April 5, 2024
- Uxbridge Historical Centre - Collections Assistant, contract**
Closes April 5, 2024
- Uxbridge Public Library – Summer Program Coordinator, summer student**
Closes April 12, 2024
- Community Services - Assistant Tourism Development Coordinator, contract**
Closes April 19, 2024
- Uxbridge Historical Centre - Museum Educators, contract**
Closes April 19, 2024
- Uxbridge Historical Centre - Museum Preparator, contract**
Closes April 19, 2024
- Lucy Maud Montgomery Society Of Ontario – Project Assistant, summer student**
Closes April 19, 2024



Notice of Statutory Public Meeting Regarding Development Charges

Take notice that Township of Uxbridge Council is holding a public meeting on March 25, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. to discuss proposed development charge rates as well as the policies that will be applied throughout the Township. Council will be considering the approval of an updated development charges by-law on a date following this public meeting.

Development charges are fees on new developments that fund growth-related costs to a municipality which are governed by the Development Charges Act, 1997. The Development Charges Background Study relates to the provision of DC eligible Services which includes Library Services, Fire and Rescue, Parks and Recreation, Services Related to a Highway: Public Works and Fleet, Services Related to a Highway: Roads and Related, and Storm Water Drainage and Control Services. The DC Background Study also includes Development-Related Studies for consideration in the DC by-law but the inclusion of studies would be subject to future legislative changes to the DCA.

The public meeting is an opportunity for the public to review and provide comments on the Development Charges Background Study and the proposed Development Charges By-law(s), as required under The Development Charges Act, 1997.

All interested parties are invited to join the public meeting which will be held in a hybrid format allowing for in-person attendance or virtual viewing of the meeting.

Date: Monday, March 25, 2024

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Council Chambers, Township of Uxbridge, 51 Toronto Street S., Uxbridge, ON, L9P 1T1

Please contact the Clerk's Department prior to 4:30 on Friday, March 22, 2024 if you wish to receive the online call-in information before the meeting.

The proposed development charges by-law will not be considered by Council at this meeting. The by-law will be considered by Council at a future meeting, after considering comments received as part of the public meeting and the consultation process.

The Development Charges Background Study and the proposed Development Charges By-law(s) will be available on the Township's website at <https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/index.aspx> on March 7, 2024. Any person may attend the public meeting and make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the study and by-law. Registration to speak and written comments should be directed to Carly Somers, Deputy Treasurer no later than 12:00 noon on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, so that necessary arrangements can be made with respect to the agenda. Comments can be sent electronically to Carly Somers, Deputy Treasurer at csomers@uxbridge.ca or to the address below. Comments received before and at the public meeting will be considered by Council before making any changes to the development charges by-law.

Carly Somers, CPA, Deputy Treasurer, Township of Uxbridge
 905-852 9181, ext. 210 csomers@uxbridge.ca Web: uxbridge.ca



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



Uxbridge at a Glance continued

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR A ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

This Notice is to inform you that the Township of Uxbridge has received a Zoning By-law Amendment Application which has been deemed complete in accordance with the requirements of Section 34 of the Planning Act. The Planning Committee of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge will hold a statutory public meeting to make available adequate information to the public regarding, and to consider, a proposed Township Zoning By-law Amendment pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, (Henry Eng).

The statutory public meeting will be held in a hybrid format allowing for in-person attendance or virtual viewing of the public meeting. The Township of Uxbridge will be processing the Zoning By-law Amendment as required by the Planning Act and welcome any comments that you may have.

PURPOSE OF PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT:

- The purpose and effect of this application is to amend the Zoning By-law to permit a soil mixing operation on the subject property.
- The subject property generally designates the east portion of the lands as "Prime Agricultural Areas" whereas the west portion is designated "Major Open Space Areas" under the Durham Regional Official Plan, as amended. The subject property is dually zoned "Environmental Protection (EP)" zone and "Rural (RU)" zone under the Township of Uxbridge Zoning By-law No. 81-19, as amended. The "Rural (RU)" portion of the property is proposed to be rezoned as a separate Rural exception zone.

LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:

The subject property is located between the west side of Concession Road 4 and the east side of Concession Road 3, north of Ashworth Road. It is municipally known as 10850 Concession Road 4 and legally described as Part of Lot 14, Concession 3, SCOTT, Part 1 on 40R18863, Township of Uxbridge, Region of Durham. The location of the property is graphically illustrated on the key map below.

FILE NO.: Zoning By-Law Amendment 2021-09 (ZBA 2021-09)

APPLICANT/OWNER: Henry Eng

Jennifer Beer
Permits & Approvals Analyst, Development Services

Township of Uxbridge
51 Toronto St. S., Box 190
Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1
Email: jbeer@uxbridge.ca
(t) 905-852-9181 Ext. 225 (f) 905-852-9674

PLANNING ACT REQUIREMENTS:

This Notice is being given in accordance with Planning Act requirements. A final recommendation on the application will not be presented until after the Township Public Meeting and all technical comments have been received.

The public meeting is being held in a hybrid format allowing for in-person attendance or virtual viewing of the public meeting. The livestream public viewing can be accessed by visiting <https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/your-local-government/council-meeting-calendar.aspx>

The meeting date and time is as follows:

MEETING DATE: Monday, March 18, 2024
TIME: Public Meeting 12:30 p.m.

REPRESENTATION

ANY PERSON may participate in the public meeting and/or make written or oral representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

1. Written Submissions

Written submissions should be addressed to the Township Clerk at the address shown below. Written comments should be submitted before **Friday, March 15, 2024**. If you wish to be notified of the adoption or the refusal of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must also make a written request to the Township Clerk before the adoption of the by-law.

2. Oral Submission

Oral submissions may be provided to Council at the meeting on livestream, you must pre-register with the Clerk's office by email at dleroux@uxbridge.ca, or telephone at 905-852-9181 ext. 228 or mail at the address below before **12:00 p.m. (Noon) on Friday, March 15, 2024**. Please include your full name, address, and a call-back phone number. You will be contacted by the Clerk's office to confirm your participation and receive the online call-in information before the meeting. Technical assistance may be provided to ensure you are able to participate.

PLANNING ACT REQUIREMENTS

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Uxbridge before the proposed application is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Township of Uxbridge to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

If a person or a public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Uxbridge before the application is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

DATED AT THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE THIS 27th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024

Debbie Leroux, Clerk
Township of Uxbridge
51 Toronto St. S., Box 190, Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1T1
Email: dleroux@uxbridge.ca
(t) 905-852-9181 Ext. 228 (f) 905-852-9674

KEY MAP (not to scale)



Effective March 1, 2024

Notice of Weight Restrictions

Seasonal weight restrictions on Township roads are now in effect.

Restrictions are in place until approx. May 1. Weather conditions will determine the actual end to the enforcement season.

Durham Region Transit Launches New Route in Uxbridge!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the travel route and schedule.

Route 605!

New family business 'tailor-made' for Uxbridge

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Have you set your warmest winter coat aside, ready for the garbage bin, because the zipper broke, you certainly can't fix it, and you don't know anyone who can? A new Uxbridge business can help you keep your coat, and the owners have come from Afghanistan to offer that help.

Rouhina Sadaqat and her mother, Majabin, opened Uxbridge Tailoring two weeks ago, on March 1. Tailoring is a family business - Sadaqat has an uncle, an aunt, and siblings who oper-

ate tailoring shops around Ontario. If one travels to Orangeville, one finds Orangeville Tailoring. Owen Sound - Owen Sound Tailoring. Tillsonburg - you know who to look for. Each one is owned by a member of Sadaqat's family, which hails from Afghanistan. They have all moved here at various times over the past several years and set up their sewing machines in communities that seemed to need a tailoring service. When asked how Sadaqat chose Uxbridge, she explains that a quick Google search revealed that there appeared to be few tailoring or

alteration services in Uxbridge (many home tailors and seamstresses offer tailoring services, but these may not have been found using a search engine). "It was a choice between Uxbridge and Bradford," says Sadaqat, "and we came to Uxbridge and liked it, so we chose Uxbridge."

Sadaqat explains that she, along with her parents and her younger brother, left Afghanistan in 2019, for what she says were "security reasons." "We were not safe," she says. The four moved to Tajikistan, where Sadaqat found employment at a

clothing company sewing clothes. After three years in Tajikistan, the four, along with Sadaqat's sister and brother-in-law, moved to Canada and settled in Orangeville, eventually setting up the family trade.

"People in Canada are so kind," exclaims Sadaqat. "They are honest and friendly, I really love it."

Moving to Canada meant Sadaqat left her fiancé from Afghanistan behind. The two recently reunited in Iran, and married on Feb. 13. He remained in Iran, and Sadaqat

...continued on page 7

Our two cents

The magic and myth of St. Paddy's Day

Fairies, leprechauns, green beer, shamrocks, cauldrons overflowing with gold - St. Patrick's Day, celebrated this Sunday, March 17, has made all these things synonymous with Ireland's greatest gift to the world, apart from Riverdance and Guinness.

But how much of the lore surrounding this one-day green-fest is actually based on fact? Not much, it turns out.

It's March Break, so we thought we'd offer a little down-time, here, and find out whether donning a green flat cap on Sunday is part of the real deal.

Myth-bust #1: St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, wasn't actually Irish - he was Welsh! He was born Maewyn Succat in the fifth century, and he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and sold as a slave. Eventually he fled back to Britain and returned to Ireland, of his own volition, years later as a missionary. He reportedly changed his name to *Patricus* (Patrick) upon entering the priesthood.

Myth-bust #2: St. Patrick didn't drive snakes out of Ireland - there were never any there because it's an island and it's cold. More than likely, the legend is a metaphor for driving out opponents to Christianity.

Myth #3: St. Patrick is all things green. Apparently, the earliest images of the good saint show him in blue. He even had his own shade, dubbed "St. Patrick's Blue."

Myth #4: Cutting a cross on the top of a loaf of Irish soda bread lets the devil out. This may be true, or may not. Depends on your thinking. No matter what, it lets the steam out!

Myth #5: St. Patrick's Day is all about drinking, but it hasn't always been. For most of the 20th century, Irish pubs were reportedly closed by law as it was a religious holiday; this law only changed in the 70s. Guinness, as well as other alcohol companies, have capitalized on the spirit of the day, however, and encourage revelers to have a sip or two to celebrate all things Irish.

No matter whether you sip, celebrate, or don't give a leprechaun's patootie, *sláinte is táinte* ("slawn-che iss toin-che") - health and wealth to you all. (References: cbc.ca/news/ottawa and everythingzoomer.com/lifestyle)



Letters to the Editor

Re: "This is not a good news story," Feb. 29, edition

It's disheartening to see local news struggling to survive everywhere.

At a time when democracy seems fragile and taken for granted, when we're trying to teach our kids how to tell real from fake news (and struggling to tell the difference ourselves), and when online platforms are making it harder to access information, independent and community-based news organizations are precious, and we should do what we can to support and protect them. I'm happy to be a volunteer subscriber to the *Cosmos*, and I have no doubt that Uxbridge

will rally - as we do - to support our community newspaper.

**Christine McKenzie
Uxbridge**

Re: "Lost... or abandoned?," "Am I Wrong?," March 7 edition

No, Roger, you are not wrong, you are so right on.

This is a personal battle I have fought for more years than I can remember. It never gets better. The fact is SOME people just don't give a damn about animals, to them, animals are disposable. We certainly saw this in full motion after COVID, yes - as predicted by many, the shelters were overflow-

ing with animals no longer of use to these self-centered, arrogant people, so hey, just toss them out wherever and whenever you have another toy to amuse you.

It should be required by law, humans require a license to have a pet. Actually, in many cases, so should people who have kids.

Roger, please keep telling it like it is. I rely, as many others do, on the *Cosmos* to keep me informed of the happenings in our wonderful town.

The *Cosmos* can not die.

**Joanne McClory
Uxbridge**

A nod to Maud - celebrating 150 years

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

Each week, as space permits, from now until Maud's Nov. 30 birthday, the Cosmos is offering a short excerpt from LMM's own journals, written during her Leaskdale years.

The journals, edited by Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston of the University of Guelph, are published by Oxford University Press.

p.m., my little son was born. In the last weeks, every night as I was dropping off to sleep, and frequently



make his birth safe and painless for me. Well, whatever he may develop into, he is certainly strong and healthy now.

As for me, I have heard much of the agony of the birth chamber. That such agony is the rule rather than the exception, generations of suffering women have testified since the dawn of time. But I know no more of it than I did before my child's birth. From first to last, I had no severe pain. I have suffered more many a night with toothache. Dr. Bascom said he could not understand it. He said it was perfectly marvellous, in a woman of my age, at a first birth, and with a child having such a large firm head."

In the last Nod to Maud, she spoke of finally being pregnant at the age of 36.

"Sunday, July 7, 1912, at 12:40

through the day, I repeated over and over the command to my subconscious mind: Make my child strong and healthy in mind and body, and

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



Support our local businesses so they can support The Cosmos.

Because without them, we can't continue to deliver the news you want and need.

The Uxbridge Cosmos

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9,800 copies of The Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge and delivered by Canada Post.





Am I wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Be a reporter: ask questions

A rumour was circulating on local social media sites that the *Cosmos* quickly put to rest. The rumour was that Chances Are was leaving its current location on Bascom Street and moving to the Rexall plaza on Elgin Park Drive. It took just one phone call to the Uxbridge Hospital auxiliary to find out that Chances Are is not moving.

On the face of it, no damage here, but one has to ask: who was the first to start that rumour? Did they hear something they misinterpreted? Did it start as a joke? We'll probably never know. But the rumour would not have spread if someone had just asked one question of the right people.

On YouTube this past weekend, I came across a video "news report" that stated bluntly that Mike Johnson, speaker of the U.S. senate, had resigned. No ifs, ands or buts. The problem is that the whole report was completely false and contained numerous inaccurate statements, including one that said Johnson had held the position for years! He was elected speaker just months ago.

How did I realize that the report was fake? Because, being the news junkie that I am, I know I would have seen reports on every mainstream media if Johnson had indeed resigned. The report, put out by some outfit called U.S. Politic News, was completely fabricated.

Then I came across a second video, also put out by U.S. Politic News, that reported Judge Aileen Cannon, who is overseeing Donald Trump's classified documents case, had abruptly ended the trial and declared Trump guilty! Once again, no corroboration from mainstream media - or any other media, for that fact - and full of errors. It was all - excuse the expression - BS!

Neither of these videos was presented as "opinion." Both were put out as "news." Yet YouTube allows such obvious and blatantly false reports to run on its site. I reported both videos to YouTube as "misinformation," but U.S. Politic News continues to upload videos.

I cannot imagine what U.S. Politic News was hoping to achieve with this nonsense, but such fake reports are dangerous, particularly given the political atmosphere in the U.S.

today. There are MAGA fanatics who could see - and believe - such tripe and might decide to take some kind of action. Donald Trump found guilty? Surely Cannon must die!

This danger can be mitigated to some extent if people would start checking facts before accepting anything as the truth. Be a reporter! Ask questions!

For example, if you find it hard to believe a report in the *Cosmos* concerning our council, all it would take is a phone call to either the township or the *Cosmos* itself to check it out. That goes for any article published in this newspaper. There are always ways to verify the facts we have presented. And if you find we have something wrong, tell us and we correct the record. You won't find any corrections on YouTube or Facebook or any other social media.

When numerous politicians from the province, region and township gathered on the old Gan Eden site last year to tell us about the new urban provincial park we are supposed to be endowed with, I asked questions. I pointed out that everyone who spoke at the event had used words like "might," "probably," "perhaps" and "likely," but not one had actually said straight out that the park *was* going to be. I wasn't about to celebrate a new park without definite assurances. So it should be with everything we see and hear, particularly in this day and age when we have such "news" organizations as Fox News, who regularly spout falsehoods and inaccuracies.

The Canadian government is currently working on legislation to overcome such misinformation and disinformation on the internet in an attempt to reduce the harm that can be done by such postings. An ad the government is currently running says that if something you see or read causes you to raise your eyebrows, just maybe you should dig a little deeper to find out whether it is true or not.

And, as a final thought, holding up your cell phone camera to record something does not make you a reporter. Asking questions of the right people does.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Are you glad 'it's happening here?'

There I was, a few weeks ago, settling into my TV easy chair on a Saturday night, prepared to watch the Leafs play somebody. And suddenly the screen was awash with picturesque images of rural Ontario. Next, there was a guy in a tractor cab.

"Is this a trailer for a CBC series I haven't seen?" I asked myself.

Then the same guy was offloading sacks from a flatbed near his barn. And there was a lush soundtrack of orchestral music rising behind him. And I realized this was an advertisement. "It's gotta be a beer commercial," I thought, "because they're the only sponsors who can afford commercial spots on Hockey Night in Canada."

The music fades and a voiceover chimes in. "What if we told you there's a place where it's all happening?" he asks rhetorically. And the scene cuts to a rapid camera pull-back amid people in a subway or bus.

"OK," I thought. "Maybe this is an ad for an insurance company or a car manufacturer," again because only deep-pocketed corporations such as those could possibly be buying ads on the network in HNIC primetime.

"Pretty high end," I thought. That was followed by travelling shots of young people in laboratories and classrooms and a voiceover about "people training for tomorrow." Then, swooping drone videos of cars on highways and a basset hound hanging out of a car window, as the voice says "a place that's building roads and highways." More industrial shots with sparks flying, robotic assembly lines and electric charging stations. "And what if we told you, you already live here?" the announcer says as the Ontario government logo arrives on screen.

It wasn't selling beer, cars or insurance at all. The Ontario government had just unveiled a new taxpayer-funded advertising campaign - called "It's Happening Here" - promoting the Doug Ford administration's economic development, highway expansion and electric-battery production plans. Within days, I began hearing the same spots on radio, seeing them on social media, billboards and transit posters. Promoting what? The provincial government's policies, that's what. This wasn't a product or service ad. It was Ford's Conservatives promoting Ford's Conservatives. And we're paying for it!

To be fair, all governments spend our money to promote their agendas. As Mike Crawley pointed out on CBC recently, in December 2016, then auditor general Bonnie Lysyk lambasted the Kathleen Wynne government for

spending millions in 2015-16 promoting its policies. But the Ford Conservatives love this kind of spending. They did it with their so-called "pat on the back" ads against carbon taxes in 2017. Then, leading up to the provincial election in 2022, Lysyk informed Ontarians that the PCs had spent \$13.5 million on their "Ontario Is Getting Stronger" campaign. And we paid for that too!

The difference is that it's 2024! Ontarians and their public services are straining from post-COVID fatigue, chronic neglect and inadequate funding. Jay Goldberg, the Ontario director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation said, "We shouldn't be seeing these kinds of ads that are just political puff pieces." What's worse, one can imagine with the Ford government's behind-closed-doors record on Greenbelt mismanagement that they didn't bother to clear such ads with the auditor general. By law they're supposed to.

Now, about financing those "It's Happening Here" ads? They're ultra-expensive. Let's start with production costs. You've got multiple locations, indoors and out, professional actors, technical crews, production gear and transportation. A day's shooting - with lights, cameras, drones, production professionals, performers and catering - can easily consume \$75,000 to \$100,000, not to mention overtime. And post-production assembly can cost \$20,000-plus per day. Then, there's the placement of those ads ... in primetime. About 10 years ago, it cost advertisers - and governments don't get special rates - about \$95,000 for each 30 seconds of air time on Hockey Night in Canada. Add inflation and the ad executives' cut, and we're talking a million of your taxpayers' dollars for one Saturday night's promotion of the Doug Ford agenda on HNIC.

So, are you glad "it's happening here"? Or, would you be more glad if the Ford government spent those feel-good millions on keeping long-term health facilities safer (remember the government's "iron ring" promise?), more health-care professionals on staff for the next pandemic, and better wages for primary, high-school and post-secondary staff (such as those striking York University educators)?

By the way, did somebody ask if the Ontario government ad geniuses paid to use the copyrighted "A Place to Stand" theme at the end of those TV ads? Or did they just assume that composer Dolores Claman and lyricist Richard Morris are content knowing "it's happening here"?

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

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MARCH 23 2024

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Pipes and a pub crawl celebrate St. Paddy

Justyne Edgell

This Saturday, the Uxbridge Legion Pipes and Drums will be doing a St. Paddy's Day pub crawl through downtown Uxbridge, spreading good luck and cheer to the town!

"We've been doing the pub crawl informally for years, prior to the beginning of COVID," says Pipe Major Nathan Maskerine. "It began as a way for some band members to get together for an extra gig, enjoy some camaraderie and a few libations."

Maskerine says that over the years, more and more people asked to join in, and the event has now been put on their yearly parade sheet.

They will begin at Universal Wings and Burgers (21 Brock St. W.) at

7:30 p.m., this Saturday, March 16. They will then proceed to Col. McGrady's Pub & Grill (44 Brock St. W.), move on to Wixan's Bridge (65 Brock St. W.) and finish off the crawl at The Corner House Pub and Grill (104 Brock St. W.).

"We plan to play for about 10 minutes at each establishment," says Maskerine. "We have four quick sets of tunes, and will be hanging around each place to have a bevvie and socialize, and of course, if the crowd would like more - we'll have a few encores ready to go."

The Uxbridge Pipes and Drums meet every Monday evening at the Uxbridge Legion, and offer free pipe and drum lessons from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit uxbridgepipeband.com



The Uxbridge Legion Pipes and Drums are doing a St. Paddy's Day pub crawl downtown this Saturday. *Cosmos file photo*

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Tailor-made, from page 3

returned to Canada because she and her mother were scheduled to open their 24 Brock St. W. shop on March 1.

The Sadaqats currently commute to Uxbridge from just outside of Barrie, and are looking for a place to live in or around Uxbridge.

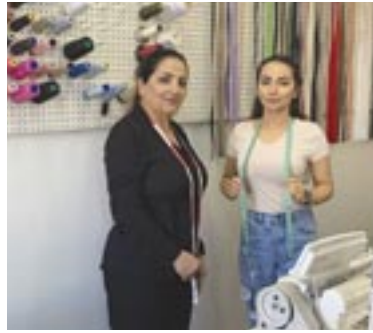
Sadaqat and her mother can accommodate most tailoring and alteration requests on site, as they offer everything from pant hemming to zipper replacement to wedding dress and formal dress alterations to drapery hemming.

Sadaqat notes that they do not do custom work. "We don't do custom work, but we can customize anything," she explains.

The quiet, uncluttered shop is set up with two sewing machines, a serger and a blind stitching machine at the ready. The only wall decorations are colourful spools of thread and various sizes of zippers.

"If you have a piece of clothing that needs repair, don't throw it away," says Sadaqat. "Bring it to us and we can bring it back to life. We're good for the environment!"

Uxbridge Tailoring, 24 Brock St. W., 905-852-9888.



Rouhina Sadaqat, right, and her mother, Majabin, recently opened Uxbridge Tailoring on Brock St. W., continuing a family tradition of sewing and alterations.

Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove



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Katie Bottomley, Soprano
Jonathan Liebich, Bass-Baritone

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Uxbridge Special Olympian comes home a silver medallist

Justyne Edgell

Uxbridge figure skater, Alicia Smith, recently returned home from the 2024 Special Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, with a silver medal in her luggage.

Placing second place in her free skate and fourth in her dances, Smith says she felt that the games went really well.

“I feel excited and happy when I’m skating at a national competition. I get a bit nervous, but everyone says that’s a

good thing!”

Smith says that her experience was made even more special by being there with her coach, Alison MacLean. “We worked hard but also had so much fun,” says Smith.

It wasn’t, however, all compet-

ing and no play; Smith loves how traveling for competition allows her to connect with others.

“I loved seeing my skating friends from across Ontario. I was able to spend time with some of my long-time friends and also made some new ones.”

Smith also had the unique experience of a training session with Elizabeth Manley,



Uxbridge figure skater Alicia Smith, centre, celebrates a silver medal with other Team Ontario medal winners.

Photo submitted by Miriam Smith

Canada’s figure skating gold medalist at the 1988 Olympics.

“She was so great and there were things I learned from her that made me better on the ice. She really inspired me,” says Smith.

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Tickets - \$25 at the door

Uxbridge Chamber Choir

Shaky playoff start for Bruins

Roger Varley

It was a shaky start to the playoffs for the Uxbridge Bruins on Sunday as they were defeated 6-2 by the Georgina Ice in Keswick in the first game of their best-of-seven semi-final series.

Despite giving up a goal in the first minute of play, the Bruins kept pace with the Ice for the rest of the period, including surviving two back-to-back penalties that gave Georgina a two-man advantage for one minute and 41 seconds.

Early in the second period, Evan Gilbert tied the score with a back-handed loop shot, assisted by Nolan Winter. But the Ice regained the lead a few minutes later on a power play. Near the midway point, the Ice intercepted an attempted clearing pass and scored again.

An errant pass by Georgina led to the Bruins' second goal when Gavin Graham gobbled up the puck and skated in on the Ice net alone. Then the Bruins' defence fell apart. Georgina's Ryan Cutler, who had a hat-trick in the game, picked up the puck in his own end and skated the length of the ice to score an unassisted marker. Then, as the period wound down, Cutler scored again. Finally, as the Bruins' Ty Roberts


tried to pass the puck out from behind the Bruins' net, it went straight to the lone Georgina forward standing in front of goalie Andrew Cloughton and the Ice picked up the sixth goal.

Georgina reached the semi-finals by obliterating the Little Britain Merchants in four games. The Bruins had the bye in the first round.

The Bruins and Ice were scheduled to meet in the second game Wednesday at the arena, with another game in Keswick on Friday and a fourth game in Uxbridge on Saturday. Should a fifth game be necessary, it

will be in Keswick on Tuesday night.

Bear pause: Last Friday, the Bruins held a second alumni game at the arena and, for the second time, the alumni won. The Bruins did have one reason to celebrate this past week, however. Evan Gilbert, who was acquired from the North Kawartha Knights late in the season, was named the 2023-24 PJHL Orr Division Rookie of the Year. The 17-year-old had a total of 38 points in the 39 games he played with the Knights and Bruins in the regular season.




For complete season and player information go to
uxbridgebruins.pjhl.on.hockeytech.com

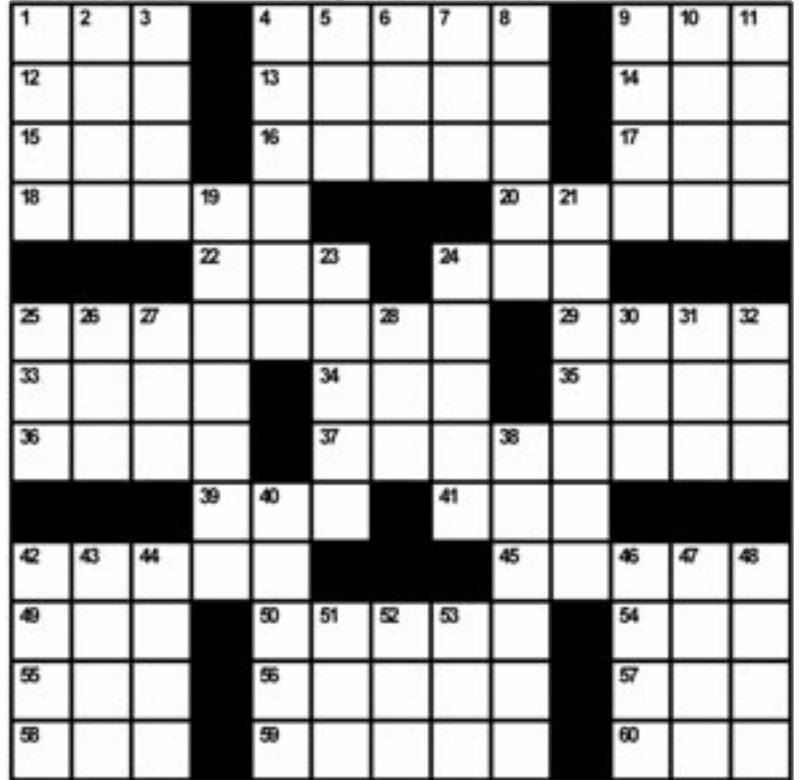
Friday, March 15, vs. Georgina at the Georgina Ice Palace, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 16, vs. Georgina at the Uxbridge Arena, 8:10 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, vs. Georgina at the Georgina Ice Palace, 7 p.m.



COSMOS CROSSWORD



Across

- 1. Drop
- 4. Previously
- 7. Visited
- 10. French way
- 11. Black color
- 14. C.E.O.'s degree
- 15. Dependence
- 17. Musician's asset
- 18. 1973 Supreme Court decision name
- 19. Matinee hero
- 21. Home ____
- 24. Nonstick pan
- 27. Farm team
- 28. Greenery
- 29. "Yes, ___!"
- 30. Bake eggs
- 32. Tear
- 33. One who leaves prison without permission
- 35. Sparkling wine
- 36. Daze
- 37. Monopoly purchase
- 38. Formal accessory
- 39. Hilo garland
- 40. "O.K."
- 42. In between liquid and solid
- 47. "___ Maria"
- 48. Decree
- 49. Protein source
- 50. Fuse
- 51. ESPN sportscaster
- 52. Compass direction

Down

- 1. Great time
- 2. Larry ___ Melman
- 3. Growing area
- 4. Necktie
- 5. Entry point
- 6. Kimono sash
- 7. Be suspicious (3 words)
- 8. Lawyer's org. for short
- 9. Combat
- 12. Stand about idly
- 13. Make lovable
- 16. Clothes presser
- 20. Not edible any more
- 21. Medical quantities
- 22. Subsist
- 23. Tapped firmly
- 25. Pointed arch
- 26. Kathmandu's land
- 28. Story
- 30. Partner
- 31. Crowded
- 34. Likely
- 35. Spring
- 37. Trash bag, brand name
- 39. Human parasites
- 40. Pilot's problem
- 41. Apple picker
- 43. "Thanks a ___!"
- 44. Bring to bear
- 45. Kind of chamber
- 46. Salon job

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Veteran receives provincial honour, from page 1

soon after to the Royal Winnipeg



Veteran Jim Parks recently received the Ontario Senior Achievement Award.

Submitted photo

Rifles, with whom he remained for the duration of his wartime service. He sailed to England in August 1941 aboard the *SS Orbita*, and on June 6, 1944, he landed on Juno Beach at *Courseulles-sur-Mer*. He fought battles in France, Germany and Holland, and on numerous occasions, narrowly escaped with his life.

Parks finished the war in Emsden, Germany, as a sergeant. He spent time in the Netherlands and in England before boarding the ships to return to Canada. He returned to Winnipeg, where he worked with a fire department, and then in government jobs at both the provincial and federal levels. As an advocate for remembrance,

Parks has spent time travelling and speaking at schools on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion. He has taken part in several veterans'

memory programs, and raised more than \$20,000 for the Juno Beach Centre.

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Sheilagh Mann
née Logan-Hamilton

Sheilagh passed away peacefully in her 86th year at her home in Uxbridge. Pre-deceased by her husband Norm Mann, and sister Jean Garside. Survived by her daughters Maureen and Norma, grandchildren Steve and Valerie, sons-in-law Terry and Dale, sister Brenda Cox, brother-in-law Ron Garside, sister-in-law Mary Gould, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Sheilagh volunteered at Chances Are, the Uxbridge Legion, and knit blankets for the cats at the local shelter. She loved spending time with family and friends, telling stories of her adventures. She had the most hearty laugh. You couldn't help laughing with her. She will be missed for her generosity and strong spirit.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Uxbridge Legion on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at 12 noon.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Low and Low Funeral Home in Uxbridge. Memories for Sheilagh can be shared on lowandlow.ca



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With heartfelt gratitude,
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Lisha Van Nieuwenhove
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"We've saved all kinds of money by converting to natural gas. And we no longer have to worry about paying for propane tanks or getting them refilled."

**Phil D, Homeowner,
Fenelon Falls**