

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 12

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Bruins on to next level in playoffs • Thank a crossing guard today • What the Region does for you



JOSEPH - AND ELVIS - ARE IN THE BUILDING - This scene from OnStage Uxbridge's production of *Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat* appears to promise a unique retelling of Andrew Lloyd Webber's popular musical. *Joseph* opens March 23 at the Uxbridge Music Hall. See page 12 for details.

Photo by John Covers

Proposed communications tower nixed by council

Roger Varley

A proposed new telecommunications tower for Douglas Road failed to garner support from council on Monday.

In a report to council, Kyle Rainbow, director of Development Services, said an application for the tower was submitted by Bell Mobility Inc. early in 2022. It was proposed that the 22-metre tall tower be constructed at the end of the road. Rainbow said the Canadian Radio-communications Information and Notification Service (CRINS) reviewed the application and determined there is an existing Rogers Wireless tower only a few hundred meters to the west of the proposed location.

Uxbridge engages CRINS to review proposals for telecommunication facilities and undertake public consultation on its behalf.

Rainbow said Bell Mobility had argued it could not co-locate on the Rogers tower since it was not suitable for its specific needs. Nevertheless, council adopted Rainbow's recommendation that it not support the application.

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Birds of a feather *can't* stick together; avian flu a concern

Roger Varley

Just as our feathered friends are returning from sunnier climes, residents are being encouraged to take down bird feeders and remove opportunities for birds to congregate, due to concerns that avian flu may have arrived in the municipality.

The township issued a news release last Friday saying staff had responded to reports of geese in distress at Elgin Pond. Although avian flu (H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza HPAI), also known as bird flu, had not been confirmed at the time of the release, the release said the municipality is taking precautions consistent with avian flu because it has been detected in neighbouring municipalities.

The township recommends that residents be aware of steps that the federal government says

residents can take to reduce the spread of avian flu in migratory birds:

Keep a distance from wild birds and other wild animals, and don't touch, feed or handle them, especially if they look sick or are dead.

Report any animals, specifically geese or birds, found in distress, ill or dead to Uxbridge-Scuogog Animal Control, who can be reached at animalcontrol@uxbridge.ca or by calling 905-985-9547. The township will report the cases to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative.

Consider removing backyard bird feeders and/or bird baths, and if this is not possible, move them far away from pets and clean them with 10 per cent bleach at least once every two weeks. If sick birds are observed near feeders then the feeders should be removed.

Avoid contact with surfaces that appear to be contaminated with droppings from birds.

Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after touching any bird feeders, bird baths or any potentially contaminated areas.

Keep cats indoors and dogs on a leash to limit potential encounters with an infected bird.

Do not attempt to rescue birds in distress.

"We have a lot of farmers who are reliant on birds," said Mayor Dave Barton when the issue was brought up at Monday's council meeting. "Whether it's egg farmers or chickens, we need to do everything we can to protect them. If we're forgoing bird feeders for a little bit of time to make them safer, then we should be doing that."

According to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, as of press time on Tuesday, March 21, there were seven premises in Ontario actively infected with avian flu. Thirty-eight are previously infected, and approximately 757,000 birds are affected.

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for March and April, 2023

- Monday, March 27, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING
- Monday, April 3, 10:00 a.m.
GENERAL PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION MEETING
- Monday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.
HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING
Township office will only be open for this meeting (Easter Monday).
- Monday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
- Monday, April 17, 10:00 a.m.
GENERAL PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION MEETING
- Monday, April 24, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING
- Proclamations for March**
 March - Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month
 March 26 - Earth Hour at 8:30 p.m.
 March 31 - Transgender Day of Visibility
- Proclamations for April**
 April 2 - World Autism Day
 April 12 - Day of Pink
 April 16 - 22 - National Volunteer Week
 April 22 - Earth Day
 April 28 - National Day of Mourning

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

Let's Reconnect
 SENIORS INFORMATION FAIR
 10am - 4pm
 Uxbridge Arena Community Centre
 This project is funded by the Government of Ontario

Employment Opportunities

Complete details and qualifications required for these positions are available at uxbridge.ca/careers

Current Opportunities

- Uxbridge Historical Centre – Programming and Collections Assistant** - Closes Friday, March 24, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.
- Public Works and Operations - Crossing Guards**
 Resumés accepted on an ongoing basis

Summer Opportunities

- Community Services - Summer Camp Supervisor, contract**
 Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.
- Community Services - Summer Camp Counsellors, contract**
 Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.
- Community Services - Assistant Summer Camp Counsellors, contract** - Closes Friday, March 31, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.
- Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter - Animal Control Assistant/Kennel Attendant, contract**
 Closes Sunday, April 2, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.
- Parks - Adult Horticulture Worker, skilled, contract (Union)**
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
- Parks - Attendant, unskilled, contract (Union)**
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
- Park - Grass Cutting Attendant, contract (Union)**
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
- Parks - Horticulture, summer student, contract**
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
- Parks - General Labourer, summer student, contract**
 Closes Monday, April 3, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
- Development Services - Administrative Clerk, summer student, contract** - Closes Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
- Uxbridge Public Library - Children's Summer Program Coordinator, summer student, contract**
 Closes Friday, April 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.
- Uxbridge Historical Centre - Collections Associate, contract**
 Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
- Uxpool - Lifeguards and/or Instructors, summer**
 Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.
- Uxbridge Historical Centre - Community Engagement and Programming Associate, contract**
 Closes Friday, April 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
- Uxbridge Historical Centre - Interpretive Guides, contract**
 Closes Friday, April 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
- Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario - Project Assistant, summer student** - Closes Friday, April 21, 2023.
- Uxbridge Historical Centre - Community Museum Technician, contract** - Closes Friday, May 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.
- Tourism, Assistant Tourism Development Coordinator, summer student, contract** - Closes Friday, May 26, 2023

The Township of Uxbridge is an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The Township of Uxbridge will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process to applicants with disabilities and/or needs related to the OHRC. Personal information provided is collected under the authority of The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/business-and-development/bids-and-tenders.aspx?_mid_=23193

- U23-04 - Goodwood Baseball Diamond - Harold Bell Park – Closes March 24, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
- U23-13 - Uxpool Masonry Repairs – Closes March 31, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

INDOOR WALKING TRAIL
 January 9th - March 29th
 Mondays & Wednesdays
 Uxbridge Secondary School
 6:00pm - 8:00pm
 Register on ActiveNet or in-person at the Uxpool
 Learn more at Uxbridge.ca

Uxbridge Music Hall
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 For bookings call 905-852-3081 ext.2

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Spring Swimming Lesson Registration Opens
 Thursday, March 9 at 9 am
 Register online at www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool or calling 905-852-7831

Effective Mar. 1, 2023
Notice of Weight Restrictions
 Seasonal weight restrictions on Township roads are now in effect.
 Restrictions are in place until approx. May 1st. Weather conditions will determine the actual end to the enforcement season.

Uxbridge at a Glance *continued*

Board and Committee Appointments 2023 - 2026

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge invites applications from members of the public who are qualified electors of the Township of Uxbridge who wish to have their names considered for a four-year appointment (term of Council – expiring November 2026) to one of the various Boards, Committees, etc. **Any** person interested in offering their services, and would accept an appointment (including present members with expired terms), are invited to submit a Volunteer-Committee Member Application Form available on the Township's website <https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/your-local-government/boards-committees-and-initiatives.aspx> along with a letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience to the undersigned by Friday, March 24, 2023.

Any questions regarding these appointments may be directed to the Clerk.

Debbie Leroux
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
P.O. Box 190
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Fax: (905) 852-9674
e-mail: dleroux@uxbridge.ca

Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee

This committee of volunteers are appointed for the 4-year term of Council; additional members will include one or more members of Council, representatives of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. ESAC serves as an advisory body to Council. The Committee's focus generally is to protect and enhance the environmental health of the watersheds within the Township, including the implementation of watershed plans. The Committee provides a community perspective on watershed management and work supporting environmental sustainability. ESAC meets monthly and new members and visitors are always welcome.

Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee – 1 volunteer representing the Township of Uxbridge

TAC is a volunteer committee established by the Durham Region Transit Commission and Regional Council in 2006. An overview of the TAC and its Terms of Reference is available for viewing at <https://www.durham.ca/en/regional-government/committees.aspx/#Durham-Environmental-Advisory-Committee>. The goal of the DRT Advisory Committee is to "provide input to the Durham Transit Executive Committee on public transit matters as they relate to the provision of conventional and specialized transit services in Durham". The committee's Terms of Reference provide for each of the eight area municipalities to nominate one public transit user representing transit stakeholder groups through their use of DRT services and/or through their participation in community groups that access public.

Winter Ice Conditions

Elgin Pond

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

- No Flags** – Testing has not begun
- Red Flags** – Ice is not safe. Please stay off
- Yellow Flags** – Skate with caution

Flags are located at the north end of Elgin Pond, beside Mill Street. Please keep away from water inlets and outlets on the pond, as ice thickness is compromised.

Storm Water Management Facilities

Please keep off of all storm water management facilities. Water levels fluctuate at these facilities and as such are not safe for skating or other activities.



Snow Removal Reminder

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

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Meek leads Bruins to first round sweep

Roger Varley

A stellar performance by Quinn Meek last Wednesday, backed up by a full team effort, saw the Uxbridge Bruins sweep the Port Perry LumberJacks in the opening round of the PJHL Orr Division's playoffs. Meek scored all three goals in the Bruins' 3-2 victory at the Scugog Arena as the team peppered LumberJacks goalie Gavin Bradt with 52 shots.

Meek's first goal came less than two minutes into the first period, with assists going to Ben Schmidt and Peter Kerr. Despite Uxbridge's dominance in the first, the LumberJacks came back strong in the second, scoring the only goal of that period on a shot from a face off.

Meek combined with Kerr and Anthony Lamanna to score his second goal midway through the third, but Port Perry fought back to tie the game on a power play late in the period. But, with the clock winding down to the 45-second mark, Meek was credited with his third goal of the night on a shot that appeared to deflect into the goal from a defender's stick. Once again, Kerr and Lamanna earned assists.

The Bruins now face the Little Britain Merchants in a best-of-seven semi-final series, which begins Friday night at the arena at 7:45 p.m. The two teams face a hectic schedule: if the series goes the full seven games, they will play seven times in 11 days.

The teams play in Little Britain on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Then it's back to the arena on Monday for another 7:45 p.m. tilt, with the fourth game scheduled for next Wednesday in Little Britain at 8:30 p.m. Should the series go beyond four games, the schedule calls for an 8:15 p.m. face-off in Uxbridge on Thurs., March 30, a return to Little Britain at 7:30 p.m. on Sat., April 1, and a seventh game in Uxbridge on Monday at 7:45 p.m.

Bear pause: Kudos to the Port Perry LumberJacks who, despite feeling the disappointment of being swept in the opening series, all still took time to fist-bump the crowd of small kids waiting for them to come off the ice at the end of the game.

Kudos also to former Uxbridge resident Mike Hamilton who ended an 11-year career as an OHL official on the weekend, four as a linesman and seven as a referee.



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Our two cents

The great reveal

One can continually sweep dirt under the carpet, but eventually the carpet has to be lifted and the dirt is still there. It's a similar situation with winter: the snow hides a lot, but eventually it disappears to reveal what's hidden.

As Canadian YouTuber Brittlestar says in his latest offering, Spring in Canada "is a lot like cleaning up after a home invasion." That is evident as one wanders around the roads and highways of Uxbridge: litter is everywhere.

There are plastic bottles, soft-drink cans, empty paper cups, miscellaneous bits of detritus and (a legacy of the past three years) discarded face masks.

This editorial was originally going to focus on what we wish were unnecessary public service advertisements that urge us to do common sense things, such as recent ads put out by Durham Region telling residents to buy only the food they need: "Buy it, eat it, don't waste it." There's also an ad running on radio stations - created by the federal government, no less - telling us how to make newcomers feel welcome. You know, the kind of things we should already know.

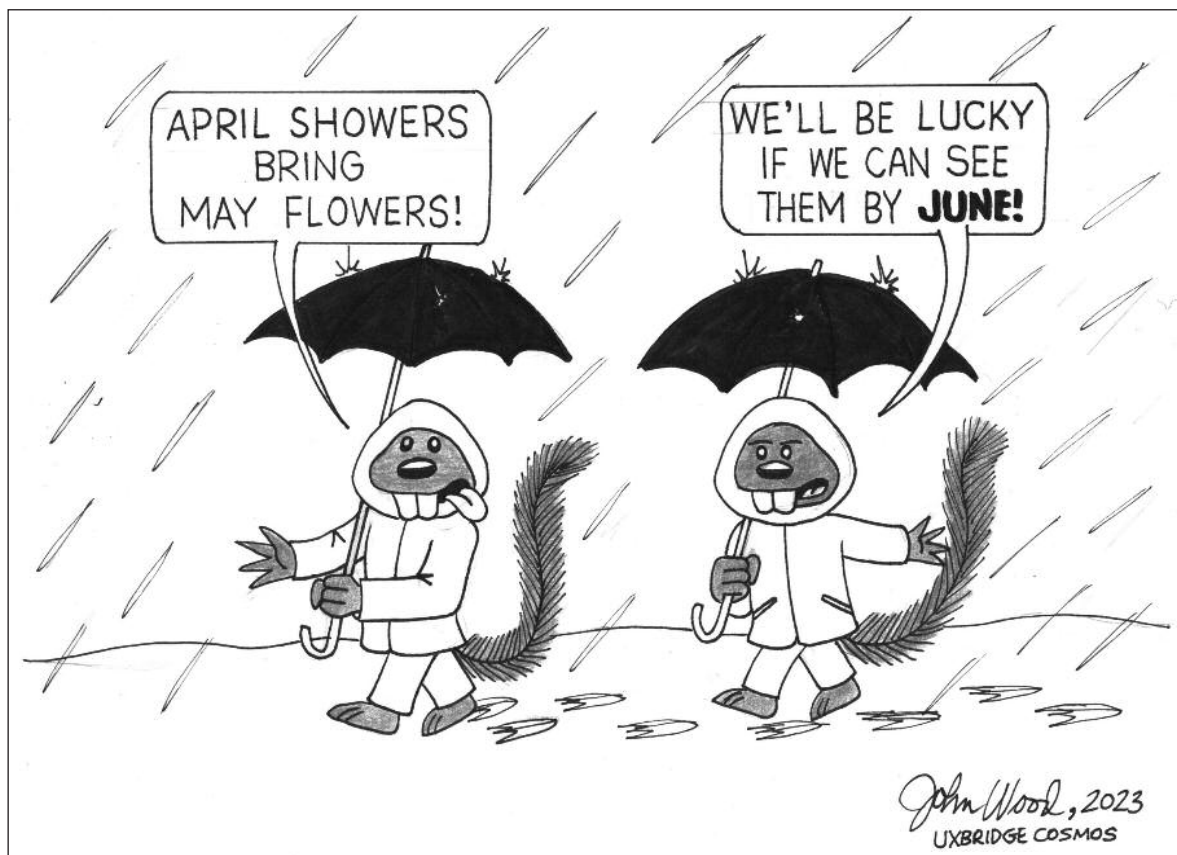
By the same token, we all know that littering is unsightly, unhealthy and irresponsible. And yet, it seems, people have to be constantly reminded they should not throw litter around. You know, the kind of thing we should already know.

But do the reminders (such as this one) really have any effect? Judging by the amount of litter currently strewn around the downtown area, and indeed, in many of the ditches that run alongside the roads that traverse the township, the answer would be "no." Having said that, however, perhaps all the blame should not be placed on the shoulders of the irresponsible. Twice a week, every week, garbage is placed at the curb for pickup in the retail area. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that a lot of that garbage is going to be blown around when the wind picks up, and we've had numerous windy days this winter. If that garbage was placed at the rear of the buildings where, presumably, it is more sheltered from the wind, it's likely there would be less litter floating around.

Anyone who spends any amount of time downtown knows how well the township's litter bins are used. The problem is, they are so well used that often they are overflowing. One of our favourite township staffers, smiling Joel Speers, spends a lot of time in spring and summer emptying those bins and driving his mobile vacuum along the sidewalks. But even so, the bins still overflow. Perhaps the township could arrange for those bins to be emptied more often.

Nevertheless, that doesn't explain why some people apparently think it's okay to toss an empty bottle or can on the road. Do they think it is going to magically disappear? And don't get us going on the number of beer cans and other alcoholic beverage containers we see lining the roads, namely the side roads. Disgusting.

One last thought. There are various locations around town where smokers go outside to enjoy their habit. Would it be too much trouble for some of these locations to place convenient butt cans to reduce the number of cigarette ends flicked all over the place? It's a small thing, but it would make the place look a little tidier.



Letters to the Editor

Re: Drinking, more or less, 'The Barris Beat,' March 9 edition

I am so, so tired of studies, surveys and reports whose results are obviously decided before they are begun. They are supposed to be beneficial to us, not the study.

I have chosen to ignore them and live my way. I drink four beers every evening - two English imports and two Canadian. I also prefer to use a frying pan over an oven, use only butter, drink zero water, as I prefer tea and coffee. I eat lots of cheese and five to six eggs per week.

I balance this by walking seven days and exercising four days per week. I choose stairs over elevators and climb them two at a time, and I eat zero junk food.

The benefits for me are a body fat index of 19 per cent, a blood pressure average of 126/70, and heart rate of 80 beats/min.

I do not take any prescription medications.

Finally, I have a birthday coming soon and it will be my 84th.

Brian White
Uxbridge

The 'Barris Beat' column of March 9, mentions the recently released study by the Canadian Centre of

Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA), which recommends severely reducing alcohol intake.

Before anyone rushes to change habits and begin drinking tasteless and joyless non-alcoholic beverages, they should be interested in finding out what the risk really is, rather than taking the sole advice of the appropriately named CCSA, which, in its narrow-minded approach, sounds like a modern version of the WCTU (Women's Cristian Temperance Union), which brought Prohibition to Canada.

It is clear that risk rises with consumption of alcohol, just as the risk of crossing the road rises with the level of the traffic.

But what *is* the risk? The risk, based on 16 selected studies relating alcohol to 20 diseases, is buried in tables 3 and 4 in the report. These statistics, which have been ignored by most press articles on the CCSA report, readily reveal that, while risk increases with consumption, the risk for an individual moderate drinker is extremely low.

For those interested in understanding what the risk really is, the report can be found at www.ccsa.ca.

Jon Baird
Uxbridge

I am sending this letter with regards to the parking situation at parking areas such as Glen Major and Walker's Woods.

I belong to a number of hiking groups, and we're choosing to no longer use the trails of Canada's trail capital.

On recent visits to the parking lots, I have encountered frustrated people that can't get the parking system to work for them, and they either choose to leave or risk getting a ticket. There's an assumption that everyone has a cellphone, that it's fully charged, that a cell signal is available, and that they're savvy enough to figure it out.

On a recent group hike in Northumberland county (which is now where several of the groups I belong to now regularly hike), one member of our group told us she had met five other ladies at East Duffins for a hike. None of them could get the system to work. All six of them got parking violation tickets. When this lady called the town, she was able to have the ticket cancelled, but the other ladies would have to all call in individually as well.

I understand that municipalities are looking for sources of income but they're losing sight of the economic spin offs, as we would often visit Annina's, Wixan's Bridge, The Second Wedge and other businesses after a hike.

Perhaps the benefit of the income raised far outweighs any economic spin offs to local businesses, but it might be worth a look.

James Gilbert
Whitby

Your Universe

The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Wandering the cosmos

column by Conrad Boyce

Shooting for even par

On January 22 of this year, a young Canadian golfer named Brooke Henderson won the Hilton Grand Vacations tournament in Orlando, Florida, against all the other women who had won LPGA (Ladies' Professional Golf Association) titles the previous year. Two weeks before, in Hawaii, a young Spanish golfer named Jon Rahm won a similar tournament, against all the male golfers who won on the PGA tour in 2022.

For her victory, Henderson won a respectable sum of \$225,000 USD. For his, Rahm won \$2.7 million USD. Eleven hundred per cent more. Put another way, Henderson's prize money was a little more than eight per cent of Rahm's, for a victory of identical stature in the sport.

The recent debate about pay equity for women in professional sport has been led by the Canadian women's soccer team. I doubt if the discrepancy between their pay, and those of the men's national team, is anywhere close to 1,100 per cent. That said, I agree there should be no discrepancy, and I feel the same way about Henderson vs. Rahm.

In case you're tempted to point out that Henderson's achievements in her sport don't match those of our women soccer players, let me point out that Brooke is, at 25, the most successful Canadian professional golfer in history. The Hilton tournament was her 13th victory. The previous record, for either men or women, was eight. Jon Rahm, by contrast, is three years older and has won three fewer PGA tournaments. Henderson has been ranked among the world's top 10 female golfers for the last six years.

Another dramatic contrast is between Henderson and Canada's male professional golfers. There are currently seven of them with status on the PGA Tour. Five have won tournaments (Henderson is the only Canadian woman currently competing who can say that). But none of them are even close in the number of victories; two have won twice, the rest only once.

In a recent tournament, the Players in Florida, two Canadian men, Adam Svensson and Adam Hadwin, ended up tied for 13th place, a full 10 strokes behind the winner. And what did they win for 13th place? Almost \$460,000, more than twice as much as Henderson did for her prestigious four-stroke victory two months earlier.

In many sports, such as baseball or football, women have a very low profile at the top professional level, so their arguments for pay eq-

uity are not so strong. In sports like hockey or basketball, however, Canadian women compete at a very high level, and the professional leagues in which they play which deserve much higher media exposure. With such exposure should come higher salaries. Professional athletes usually defend their obscenely lucrative contracts by saying that they are not just athletes, they're entertainers, so they deserve to be compensated to the same agree as actors or musicians. Assuming that's a good argument, then it should follow that if women soccer players or golfers provide an equal level of entertainment, they should be equally paid. So why doesn't that happen?

Sometimes it does. For instance, the four Grand Slam events in tennis have long provided equal prize money for men and women, although a lot of other events through the year can't say the same (like Canada's Rogers Cup). In alpine skiing, men and women are usually paid the same. In fact, in a 2017 study of 44 "professional" sports worldwide, the BBC found that only eight still persisted in gender discrimination. Unfortunately, they are also the sports with the highest participation or spectator rates, generating the highest advertising revenue, and by extrapolation the highest salaries or prize money.

To a large extent, the blame can be laid at the feet of the ever-expanding sports media universe, for largely ignoring women's professional sports. On my cable menu, TSN has ten channels, but most of them show duplicate coverage. Why? If I was a basketball or hockey nut, I would probably happily watch a women's game, particularly if it featured Canadian athletes.

On the Golf Channel, you can sometimes find coverage of a women's tournament, but unless it's a "major," it's usually way down the priority list, behind the European Tour, the seniors tour, the minor leagues, even college golf. There's no excuse for that. After too many years under male leadership, the LPGA has a dynamic new commissioner, Mollie Marcoux (a former hockey player!), and her principal focus should be increased media coverage. Everything else will follow.

Brooke Henderson has already made more money in her brief career than Jack Nicklaus ever dreamed of. But it's all relative. In virtually identical tournaments, her winning cheque was eight per cent the size of Jon Rahm's. That's ridiculous.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Canada's nuclear legacy

The archivist at the museum had no idea it was there. In fact, when Jean-Phillippe Stienne applied for and landed the job as new archivist and collections manager of the museum, archives and art gallery in Nelson, B.C., back in 2017, he knew nothing about the explosive history buried beneath his new office.

"I came here because it's a beautiful part of the world," Stienne, 43, told me during a speaking stop I made in British Columbia last week. "I'd actually been working here a few years before I knew about the mystery under the museum."

When I asked what he was talking about, Stienne, or "J.P." as everybody calls him, walked me out the front door of his museum (formerly the Nelson post office) and down a back alley to an adjacent building. He pulled out a key to unlock an exterior door, which revealed an inner door with a thick circular porthole window and a black-lettered sign that read, "Nelson's Cold War Bunker." Down several flights of concrete stairs, J.P. led me into an unexpected basement from a very different time.

In the early 1960s, the City of Nelson (600 km inland from Vancouver) issued a building permit to local contractor Louis Maglio on behalf of the federal government to excavate and construct a Zonal Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) shelter beneath the federal Gray Building on Vernon Street in Nelson. The underground facility – a.k.a. "the bunker" – would provide shelter and a workplace for about 70 people deemed essential by Ottawa to keep civic affairs moving in the event of an atomic bomb attack. Contractor Maglio, who would later serve as mayor of Nelson, estimated a final cost of \$57,000. The entire operation, to build, service and maintain the bunker, however, was done in secret.

But why would then Prime Minister John Diefenbaker direct the construction of an emergency shelter in the wilds of the B.C. interior? There are several plausible scenarios. In the 1950s and early '60s, sabre rattling between the Soviet-led communist bloc countries and the U.S.-led West had triggered the Korean War, the Berlin Wall, the Cuban missile crisis and the proliferation of nuclear weapons on both sides. In the face of a potential "shooting match" between East and West, Diefenbaker authorized Project EASE (Experimental Army Signals Establishment), i.e. the construction of nearly 50 nuclear fallout shel-

ters in the event of a nuclear attack. The largest facility – a 100,000-square-foot underground bunker at Carp, Ont., west of Ottawa – would keep 535 people alive for 30 days. It's no coincidence either that the Nelson bunker was also located near Trail, B.C., where zinc-mining firm Cominco was producing heavy water, a vital element in the development of nuclear weapons. That, of course, made the B.C. interior a potential wartime target.

All of this history, J.P. Stienne and his museum colleagues have displayed on the walls of the original Nelson Cold War shelter. Visitors can see the original decontamination showers, communications room, fully stocked kitchen and dormitories that would keep civic officials alive and comfortable for weeks underground, just like the shelter outside Ottawa. But there was yet another explanation for locating the so-called "Diefenbunker" at Nelson:

"Prime Minister John Diefenbaker loved fishing on Kootenay Lake," read one of the wall posters in the Nelson bunker. "If war broke out while he was on holiday, he would not have been far from a safe place to govern."

As a kid in the 1950s, I remember our elementary school teachers showing us civil defence pamphlets and movies in the classroom. They instructed us to practise survival techniques: "Hide under a desk to protect yourself against flying objects. Bury your face in your arms," the literature told us. Then in 1962, when Soviets placed missiles on Cuban soil just a hundred miles from Miami, and the Americans responded by threatening to sink Russian ships en route to Cuba, we all thought the world was on the brink of thermonuclear war. That's when all us kids wished our parents had taken things seriously and built air-raid shelters in our backyards.

As archivist J.P. Stienne led me back up the stairs out of the Nelson bunker last week, I asked him when the facility was finally closed.

"Well, as late as the 1980s, the bunker was visited by federal civil servants who checked the food supplies, the water and other services in the bunker," Stienne told me. In other words, even as the communist Soviet Union disintegrated and the Berlin Wall (symbol of the Cold War between East and West) tumbled down, Canadian officials still kept a protective eye on Nelson's Cold War Bunker. Just in case.

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



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Our industrial citizens: Fine art in metal

Conrad Boyce
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Perhaps you didn't know that at the corner of Brock and Franklin, where the used car lot now sits, there used to be a bustling factory that made... pianos. Yes, pianos. Also organs, but during the few decades it operated, into the 1910s, it was most famous for pianos. They became prestige items across Canada, and were apparently prized in Holland as well. See one the next time you visit the Foster Memorial.

Like a vintage car that had just a brief time on the production line, an Uxbridge piano is now a rare and valuable artifact, one that just happens to make beautiful music. There were probably only a few thousand ever made. And just a few kilometres away, at the corner of Highway 47 and Concession 4, there is a third generation family business that used to make just as rare and beautiful a work of art.

Not long ago, a customer went into

Cobra Metals and said to Norissa Sangalli that he was at a neighbour's house for a party on a recent chilly night, and noticed how toasty the place was, and wondered whether he



Mario Sangalli was the founder of Cobra Metals in 1971. Grandchildren (L to R) Nadia, Norissa and Nolan pose with an example of his handiwork.

Photo by Conrad Boyce

used gas or oil to heat the place. "Neither," said the neighbour, and walked him over to the living room and showed him a little wood stove in the corner that was working as hard as if it was in a Klondike cabin in the middle of a January blizzard.

"It was amazing," says the customer. "I need a new Cobra stove."

Sangalli had to break it to him gently that the last Cobra wood stove was finished in the Uxbridge shop in 2015. There are a few used ones in the showroom, but there will probably never be another new one.

Sangalli's grandfather, Mario Sangalli, emigrated to Scarborough from northern Italy in 1966. Back in his home town of Lodi, near Milan, he'd developed a bit of a reputation as an artist in metal, crafting fences, stairways, and fabulous ornamental garden gates. After he passed away a few years ago, his grandchildren made a pilgrimage to Lodi and were shown many of his creations, still bringing joy.

Only five years after arriving in Canada, Mario decided to try making something a little different in his Agincourt shop,

something just as finely crafted, but a little more practical. The Cobra wood stove was born (the name is a tribute to the Mustang Cobra, one of Mario's favourite cars). And for 44 years, every stove was made by hand, every part of it, from the chrome trim to the door's hand cut glass. Mario's son John, who now runs the business, estimates that between 50 to 75 stoves were made each year, one or two a week. That means there were fewer than 3,300 of them ever made, and most of them are un-



An early vintage Cobra wood stove, recently returned to its birthplace on Conc. 4. The shop will refurbish and resell it.

Photo by Conrad Boyce

doubtedly still working, creating warmth in the long Canadian winter. So why stop making them? Norissa's brother Nolan, one of the shop's metal fabricators, tells the story.

"In 2014, the provincial government changed the emission regulations, meaning Cobra would have to rework every unit to meet the new standards. We'd never had any issues with our stoves, but they said the changes had to be made by the next year, or they'd shut us down. And they warned us even stricter regulations were coming in 2020. We figured in order to make things that way, we'd have to put more than half a million dollars into meeting the new standards. We're a small family business, making everything custom, it didn't make financial sense. So Dad took the difficult decision to stop making the stoves. We sell other companies' wood stoves, gas fireplaces, too. But not our own, not any more."

The Sangallis do indeed sell a diverse line of stoves and fireplaces, grills and accessories, although they say they're pretty selective about what they bring in. But a couple of lines on the bottom of their website's home page really tell the story of Cobra these days.

One line says "Metal Fabrication," and that explains why, even though it no longer makes stoves, Cobra's shop is still busy. John, son Nolan, his brother Nick and their three co-workers will design and make just about anything you can dream up in metal. Just like a medieval blacksmith, except the forge is replaced by a welding torch. And just like Nonno Mario, they can give you a gorgeous garden gate as well.

Cobra moved to its current location in 1988. Thousands of Uxbridgers drive by the showroom on a regular basis, and if you're one of them, you've

...continued on page 11



Let's Reconnect

SENIORS INFORMATION FAIR



Saturday March 25th, 2023

10am - 4pm

Uxbridge Arena Community Centre

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Connecting with the Region

with Regional Councillor Bruce Garrod

What the Region does for us

In my inaugural article last December, I introduced the fundamentals of Durham Region and how Uxbridge fits within it. The key takeaway was that the Region is 2,500 square kilometers and has a population of about 723,000. Uxbridge is approximately 420 square kilometers, about 17 per cent of the Region, and has a population of about 22,500, representing only three per cent of the Region.

Typically, residents understand the services provided by Uxbridge Township. The list includes maintaining local roads, running recreation programs, operating the library, pool and arena and providing community halls, managing development applications and enforcing bylaws, to name a few! These services are paid for by a combination of grants from higher levels of government, a portion of commercial property taxes, and about 27 per cent of residential property taxes. Approximately 57 per cent of residential property taxes are collected by the Township and forwarded directly to Durham Region. This article focuses on the wide-reaching, but often little-known, services provided by Durham Region.

One of the key purposes of establishing Regional government is to centralize services that would be incredibly expensive to provide locally. It's inconceivable to think of how the eight Durham Region municipalities could provide the services that are supported by a \$2.2 billion (2022) budget.

Let's start with some of the more obvious services that affect our daily lives.

There are over 130km of regional roads in Uxbridge! The list includes Hwy. 47 (Toronto St.), and Reg. Rd. 8 (Brock and Reach Sts.), Brock Road (Coppin's Corners), Reg. Rd. 13 (in Leaskdale and Zephyr), Reg. Rd. 1 (leading north from town), Reg. Rd. 39 (Zephyr), shared responsibility for York-Durham Line 30, Reg. Rd. 21 (Goodwood), and Reg. Rd. 11 (Sandford). Repairing, rebuilding and maintaining these roads requires major investment. During significant weather events such as the storms we see every winter, if residents must travel, they are en-

couraged to use regional roads.

This is because the region has the staffing levels to provide snow clearing operation 24/7.

The second service most residents depend upon is waste management. The Region contracts bi-weekly garbage pick-up and weekly recycle and organics pick-ups. Major changes are coming to this service as the organics program expands and the blue box program gets rebuilt. The Region also provides yard waste pickup seasonally.

The next service urban residents rely on is the provision of safe drinking water and the management of sewage. Uxbridge is blessed with some of the best water in Durham Region. Fresh water is held in an underground reservoir at a facility on Concession 6. The wastewater treatment facility is located on Main St. north. There are also a number of pumping stations



Winter travellers are encouraged to use regional roads because the Region has the staffing to operate snow clearing machinery 24/7. Photo courtesy durham.ca

within the urban area to maintain water pressure. Durham Region also provides the kilometers of water and sewer pipes hidden under most roads. Few services are more important than maintaining the highest quality water. It's worth a quick note that in the event of a watermain or sewage pipe break, residents should immediately call 311.

Uxbridge residents rely on good roads, waste management and clean water practically every day. In contrast, many of the services listed below are often invisible on a day-to-day basis. In fact, it could be stated that the less a resident is aware of, or is utilizing these services, the more blessed their lives are. These services are critical to the safety and social fabric of Uxbridge and all of Durham Region.

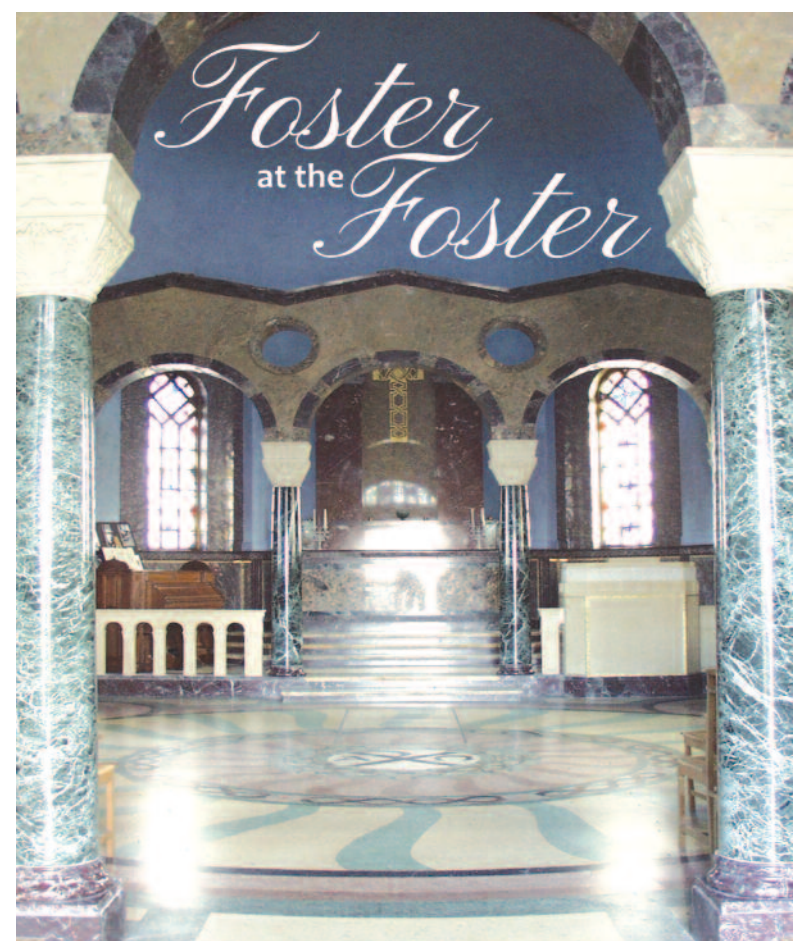
Durham Region Police Services (DRPS) provides services ranging from attending large public events to critical tactical services during the darkest of events. These brave women and men are always available. Remember the saying "Just because you don't see them, doesn't mean they aren't there"? That's them. There are approximately 950

officers in Durham Region, as well as over 300 civilian support employees. The North Division precinct is located on Hwy. 12, south of Reach Rd. Officers dispatched from this location are responsible for Uxbridge, Brock and Scugog Townships, a vast area.

Social services are the second biggest operating budget cost after DRPS. They include the Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation and Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation; child services, family services, income and employment services, and long-term care. During our new council orientation, regional councillors were introduced to some of the incredibly sensitive services

these highly trained individuals provide every day. I'm looking forward to sharing those insights in a future column.

Next week I'll continue to detail the many services provided by Durham Region.



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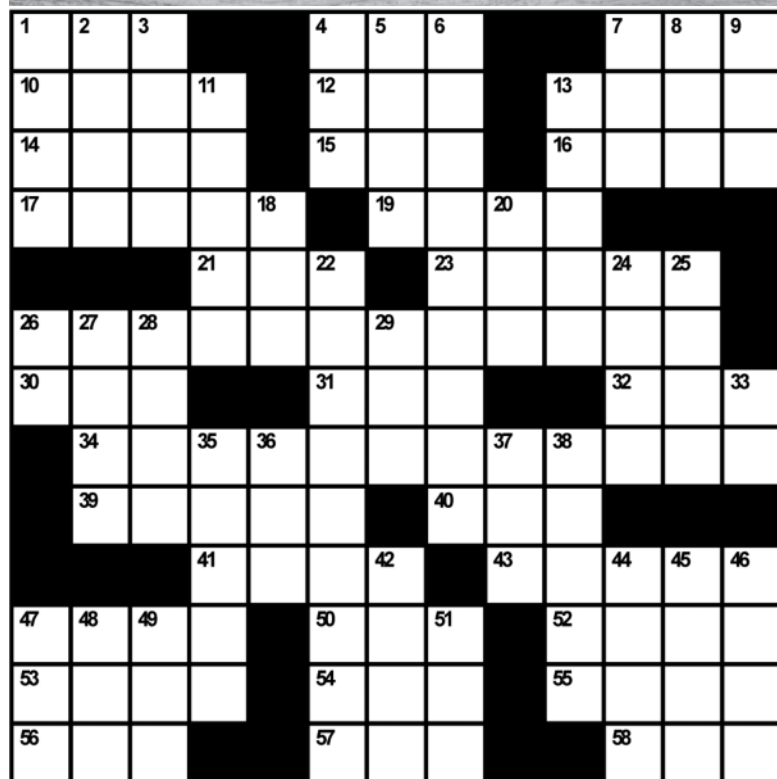
Rena Wolfesberger

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Directed by
Conrad Boyce

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- Across**
- Cookbook abbr.
 - Nada!
 - Caustic substance
 - Perched on
 - Pitching measure
 - "Where's the ___?"
 - Big sleep
 - Home Depot promotes it
 - Broadway's Mame
 - Certain sorority woman
 - Postpone
 - Stars and Stripes land
 - Orchestra instruments
 - Penetrate (2 words)
 - Reef dweller
 - Summer wear
 - Intent
 - Religious celebration period
 - Famous
 - Crack, so to speak
 - Reliable (2 words)
 - Type of orange
 - Aqua-___
 - ___ and Tina Turner
 - Old Italian coin
 - Passable
 - Venus or Mars
 - Assert
 - Moxie
 - Collar a suspect
 - Pompous fool
- Down**
- Bulletin board item
 - Covered walkway
 - Magnificence
 - Homer Simpson's neighbour
 - Purple flower
 - Settle, a concern (3 words)
 - Money in Moldova
 - Want a lot
 - Newt
 - Solomon islands locale
 - Marshy stream
 - Query
 - ___ system (re: blood)
 - Sergeant's order
 - "Good grief!"
 - ___ tsu massage
 - Exist
 - Exude
 - Pizzazz
 - Belonging to a lady
 - "I did it ___ way" Frank Sinatra
 - Drenched
 - "Tea for ___"
 - Roman pot
 - African antelope
 - Gumbo
 - Exclamation of acclaim (Italian)
 - Cupid's back up
 - Statutes
 - Cut off
 - Four-stringed apparatus
 - Afternoon siesta
 - Lessen gradually

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Appreciate a crossing guard - or better yet, become one

Conrad Boyce
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

They are there every day for your kids. Up bright and early like them, on the job at the lunch hour just in case they come home to you, and again after school until their last client is safely out of danger. With their bright orange vests, stop signs that light up in the dark, and cheery piercing whistles, they are a comforting presence at Uxbridge's busiest intersections.

Because crossing guards are chiefly responsible for getting students safely on the home stretch to school (although guards happily help moms with strollers or dog walkers), one might think they're employed by the school districts. But since the roads are a municipal jurisdiction, they are, in fact, hired and trained by the Township of Uxbridge. And the township needs more of them.

"There are nine crossings in town

regularly staffed by our guards," says Bill Rynard, supervisor of the team for the Public Works Department, "and like students or teachers, they occasionally get sick, so we like to have three supply guards on call as well. Right now, we only have eight people for those 12 positions, so for much of the winter, some of our public works people, including me, have been filling in, which makes it difficult when we should really be on the snow plows. Needless to say, we're hiring!"

What kind of person makes an ideal crossing guard?

"The job takes about 15-25 hours per week depending on the crossing," says Rynard, "and it suits three kinds of people very well: retirees, stay-at-home parents, or people who work from home but like to get away from the desk for some fresh air now and again. We supply the equipment and the training, you supply the smiles."

Cosmos cartoonist John Wood has

been a crossing guard for more than 25 years, the last 15 at the corner of Brock Street and Quaker Village Drive. What does he enjoy most about the job?

"The kids, first of all," says Wood. "They're all so polite and cheerful, and being on my corner so long, it's been fun watching them grow up! One of them even came back to say hello after being away for a few years. And it's a way to make a very important contribution to your community."

Retiree Joan Taber, who works a few blocks east of Wood, near the railway, started as a spare guard nine years ago.

"The hours are perfect. It gets me out of bed bright and early, gets me lots of fresh air. And no night shifts! And if you're worried about the weather, it's no different than any outdoor activity. Dress for it and enjoy it!"

March 22 is Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. Those who use crosswalks and crossing guards are encouraged to take the time to say "thank you" to one of the folks standing on guard for the kids.

To learn more about being a crossing guard, contact Bill Rynard at brynard@uxbridge.ca



Crossing guard John Wood mugs with some of his charges near Quaker Village Public School and St. Joseph Catholic School. Photo by Conrad Boyce



Crossing guard John Taber. Photo by Conrad Boyce

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Jazz concerts help refurbish Historic Leaskdale Church piano

Submitted by Barb Pratt, LMMSO

The Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario (LMMSO) is the new owner of a Knabe & Co. grand piano. It fits the church stage as though it were designed to be there!

The donation of this piano will allow more opportunities for concerts and recitals in the acoustically excellent and intimate space of the Historic Leaskdale Church.

After the piano was moved from Unionville, it became apparent that it would require some refurbishment to bring it up to performance standards.

Musicians Anne Mizen and Tom Baker offered to hold a series of jazz concerts to raise funds for the piano's restoration.

The first three concerts, held in February and earlier this month,

were delightful. Now Tom Baker and fellow musicians are offering three more Friday night concerts in the Historic Leaskdale Church.

Mark your calendars and come for these evenings of cool jazz, a glass of wine, and Tom entertaining with his witty stories while

bringing out the best from the Knabe.

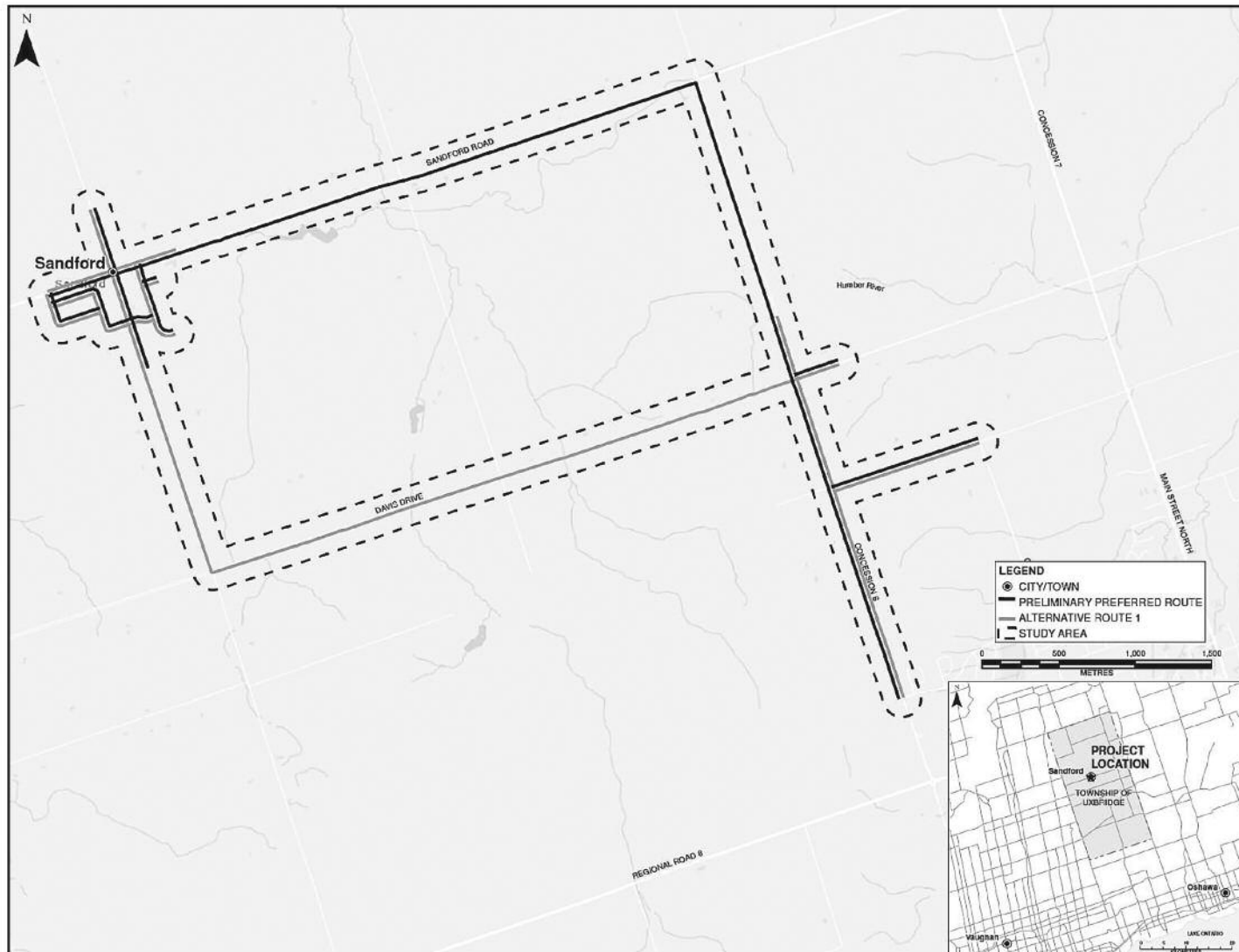
The next three concert dates are March 31, April 21, and June 16, all at 7:30 p.m. Admission is by donation toward the cost of piano restoration.

ENBRIDGE GAS INC. NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT AND VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE PROPOSED SANDFORD COMMUNITY EXPANSION PROJECT

Project Overview

Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) is proposing to construct approximately 13 km of a combination of 4-inch and 2-inch natural gas pipeline to supply the community of Sandford with access to natural gas services.

There are two routes being considered for the project. These include the Preliminary Preferred Route (PPR) and the Alternative Route (AR). Both routes are located in the Township of Uxbridge. The PPR and AR would begin at the intersection of 6th Concession Road and Bolton Drive and would travel north along the 6th Concession Road to Davis Drive. The PPR would continue north along 6th Concession Road to Sandford Road, and then west along Sandford Road toward the community of Sandford. Alternatively, the AR would extend west along Davis Drive to Concession Road 4, and then north along Concession Road 4 toward the community of Sandford. Both the PPR and AR include servicing portions of Davis Drive and Ball Road. To accommodate the increased supply of natural gas, the project may also involve the building of a new distribution station at the intersection of Concession Road 6 and Bolton Drive, the proposed location of which is to be determined.



Environmental Study

Enbridge Gas has retained WSP to undertake an environmental study for the project. An Environmental Report will be prepared in accordance with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) *Environmental Guidelines for the Location, Construction and Operation for Hydrocarbon Pipelines and Facilities in Ontario, Seventh Edition (2016)*. Upon completion, Enbridge Gas will file an application for a leave to construct with the OEB. If approved, construction is anticipated to begin Q1 2024.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the environmental study or the project, if you are unable to access the virtual open house, or would prefer an alternative format of the virtual open house materials, please contact:

Kevin McGillicuddy
Project Manager
WSP Canada Inc.

Kelsey Mills
Environmental Advisor
Enbridge Gas Inc.

Virtual Open House

Indigenous consultation and public engagement are fundamental components of the study. Input received from Indigenous communities and stakeholders will inform the study and identification of site-specific mitigation for the project. Enbridge Gas will host a **Virtual Open House** to provide information about the project and to present an opportunity for interested stakeholders to ask questions and provide feedback. We want to hear from you!

Virtual Open House Active Dates:
March 20, 2023 9:00 AM – April 2, 2023 5:00 PM ET
Website: www.SandfordEA.ca

For additional information about the project, please visit the Enbridge Gas project website: www.enbridgegas.com/SandfordCE

Project Email:
SandfordEA@wsp.com
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EVENTS

INTERESTED IN TRYING YOGA? Foundations Workshop starting April 2. Online or in-person. Private in-home training also an option, call Anna for availability at 416-844-8607. 3/23

UXBRIDGE MINDFULNESS/INSIGHT MEDITATION is holding in-person meetings at 10 a.m. every other Sunday. Whether experienced or new to meditation, all are welcome. Location is: 2 Campbell Dr., Ste. 201. Email Gail: ghorner550@gmail.com

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The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

Sugaring off

The old black-and-white photo brings back so many memories. Sugaring off was a spring ritual when I was a kid living on the outskirts of Montreal. We'd bundle up in winter clothes and drive to a sugarbush in the Laurentians to enjoy a day in the warm spring sun: tobogganing, skiing, and picnicking in the woodlot. At the top of the list was the sweet, special maple syrup poured out of steel jugs, steaming hot, right onto the trays of fresh clean snow. My brother and I



The author and her brother, tobogganing in 1958. Photo submitted by Nancy Melcher

were SO impatient, waiting until it had cooled enough to wrap around a wooden stick to enjoy as delicious sticky maple taffy. Fast-forward to March-Break with our son, and ski vacations that included this wonderful ritual slope-side at Mont-Sainte-Anne, where their *cabane à sucre* was right beside one of the ski trails!

Quebec is the largest source of maple syrup in the world, producing 70 per cent of the total global output! It's made from the sap of the sugar maple tree. In late winter the sugar-maker drills narrow holes into the trunks of mature trees, tapping a spout, or spile, into the hole to which a bucket or plastic pipeline is attached. A healthy tree can provide sap for over 100 years! Each hole, or tap, will produce 35 to 50 litres of sap each season. This is collected and boiled in a special ridged metal pan to evaporate the water and concentrate the sap into syrup. It takes between 30 and 50 litres of sap to make one litre of syrup.

Sap is about 98 per cent water and two per cent sugar. Modern reverse-osmosis procedures improve the process by removing much of the water before the sap is boiled. This reduces the boiling-time needed to reach the correct syrup content of 33 per cent water and 67 per cent sugar.

Long before European explorers and fur traders travelled across this country, Indigenous people made

maple syrup to cure meats, as a sweetener for bitter medicines and as an anesthetic. Maple syrup was also used as a trade item in the form of dried, portable sugar slabs. They collected sap in birch bark baskets placed below notches cut into the tree trunks. Small pieces of wood

served as the spile - the clear sap flowed out from the trees and dripped into the baskets. Overnight, temperatures dropped below freezing, creating a layer of ice at the top of the baskets. The

ice was removed in the morning, and the concentrated sap was poured into clay pots. The remaining water was removed by boiling the sap to make a golden-brown syrup, or, by more boiling, a light brown sugar which was stored in cone-shaped bark containers.

Syrup season is short, lasting between four to six weeks, starting when daytime winter temperatures climb above zero. Starch stored in the tree's roots over the winter rises through the trunk as sugary sap. Ideal weather is warm and sunny during the day, and cold (below zero) overnight.

I have fond memories of trudging through the snow at my in-law's sugarbush during Reading Week at university to drill holes, tap in spiles and hang buckets to prepare the trees for the warmer weather. We'd return mid-March to help carry 20-litre buckets of sap to the sugar shack, where the evaporator created huge clouds of steam as the sap boiled.

The first batches are light-golden in colour with a delicate flavour. As the trees begin to grow again the colour of the syrup darkens to amber, then light brown and eventually dark brown. The taste gets stronger and more savoury as well.

Only syrups made entirely from maple sap can be labelled "maple syrup" in Canada. Those with other ingredients are called "table syrup" or "pancake syrup."

Once the leaf buds begin to open, they give the syrup an unpleasant flavour, so the season is over for another year. It's time to clean the buckets, spiles, and pipelines with plenty of hot water to ensure it is stored safely until the following spring.

Maple products include various grades of pure maple syrup, taffy, maple butter and maple sugar, which are enjoyed on pancakes, waffles, ice cream, and yogurt, as well as in drinks and much more. They're also used to make butter tarts, sugar pies (there's a rush!), sauces, candies, granola bars and much more. Beverage companies now use concentrated sap to make refreshing canned drinks. Maple syrup is packed with essential vitamins and minerals so it's a healthier way to enjoy sweet treats.

Locally, you can see maple syrup being made on weekends in late-March and early-April at Pefferlaw Creek Farms, Purple Woods Conservation Area, Brooks Farms, and Bruce's Mill. Sunderland will hold a Maple Syrup Festival April 1 and 2. More information is available at each location's website.

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

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Various shades and grades of pure maple syrup. Photo submitted by Nancy Melcher

Cobra - pieces of art, from page 6

probably noticed that the company keeps adding modules on its western side. Some of them are rented by companies with no relation to Cobra, but the one right next to John's shop is occupied by FJ Stamping, also owned by the Sangallis (FJ stands for John and his mother Flora), and also exclusively concerned with making fascinating things out of metal, mostly for cars.

The last line on the website home page tells another story: Outdoor Kitchens. As Norissa tells it, although her father John never really had a choice but to work for his father Mario, he never wanted to force that on his own kids. Make your own way in the world, he said. Follow your own dreams. So Norissa went to school for kitchen and bath design. Then, a couple of years after the last stove shipped, her

mother Lucille came to her and said, "We're going to start designing outdoor kitchens, and we need someone. I don't suppose you'd be interested...?"

So Norissa came home to Cobra. Her brother Nick, a woodworker, also came back, and soon the shop was making things that combined metal and wood, like bar and restaurant furniture. Younger sister Nadia, trained as an environmental technician, now works in the showroom with Norissa, and helps her mother with the company books. Only Nolan, the youngest of the siblings, came to the Cobra shop right out of high school.

If you know many Italians, you know how much family means. So it's no surprise that all the Sangallis do their part to make their business thrive, and that every one of them has apparently inherited Mario's love for a finely wrought piece of metal.

The Family of the late Robert Bruce

Wishes to thank all those who offered condolences, support, flowers, cards, and hospital donations.

Also to Low & Low and staff for their compassion and professional services.



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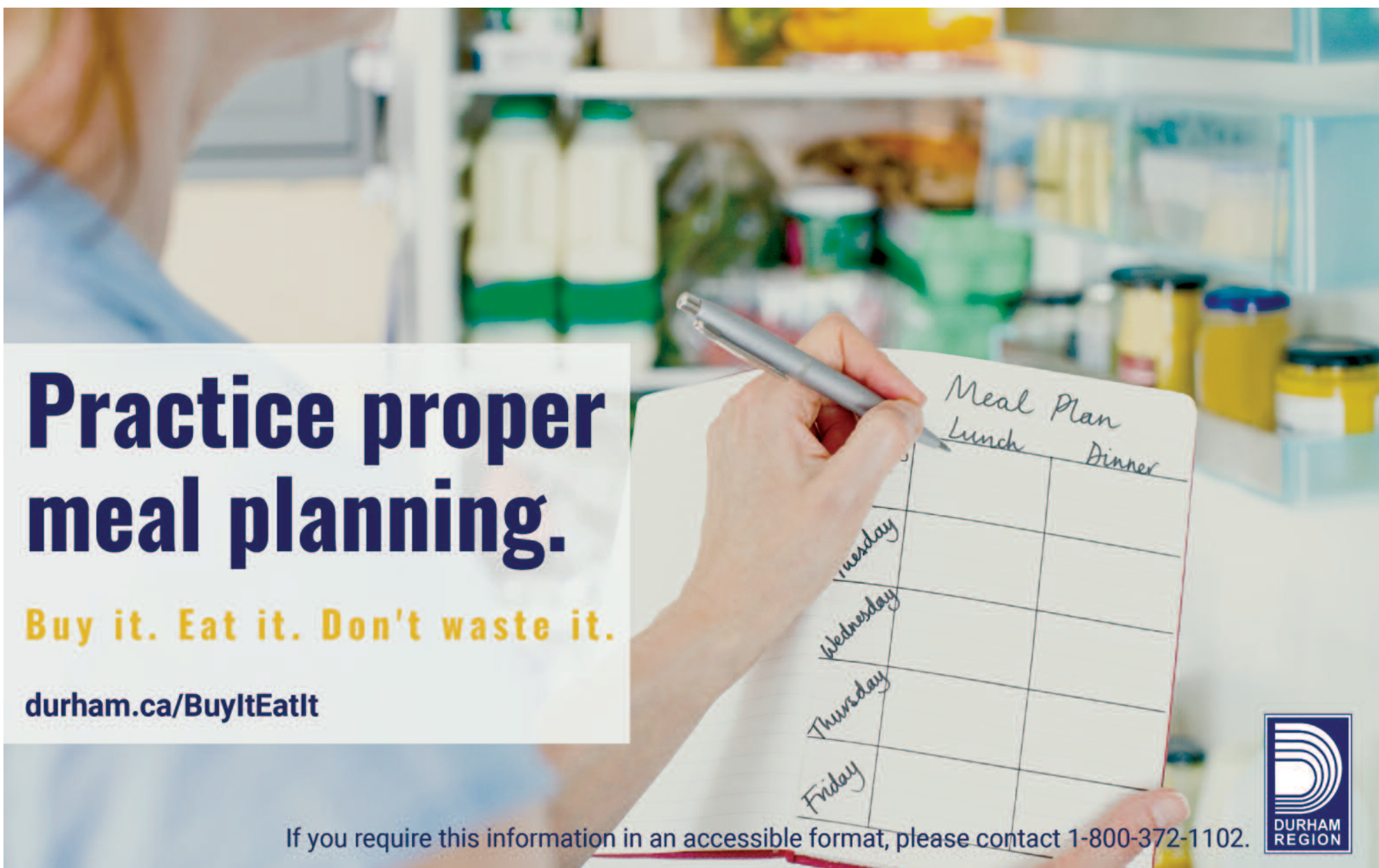
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