

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 20 No. 9

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Help plan the Region • The Legion goes on a spree • Bruins almost in playoffs



STARS IN TRAINING - A small group of young people learn to navigate skates, ice, a stick and a puck all at the same time during lessons at the Uxbridge arena on Monday evening. Looking for something to do over March Break? The arena has public skate times for adults only, as well as parents and tots. For full details on times and rules, visit uxbridge.ca/en/explore-and-play Photo by John Covers

Scouts want to 'adopt' Elgin Park

Roger Varley

Scouts take "ownership" of Elgin Park: Proudly wearing her Scout uniform, Kathryn Marlatt appeared before council to ask that the township put in place an Adopt a Park program, similar to the current Adopt a Road.

Noting that 1st Uxbridge Scouts had received the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Young Conservationist Award last October, Marlatt said the award has inspired the group to take on community environmental efforts. To that end, she called for the Adopt a Park approach to cover all public parks in Uxbridge and requested that the Scouts be allowed to adopt Elgin Park. As is the case with the Adopt a Road program, the scout group would periodically visit the park to pick up litter and trash.

Councillor Willie Popp said Marlatt's suggestion was "a wonderful idea" and would benefit the community.

...continued on page 6

Hospital helipad getting new (temporary) home

Roger Varley

It's possible that people using the skate park and pump park might have to duck a few times in the near future: the hospital helipad is going to be temporarily relocated to the Fields of Uxbridge.

In a presentation to Uxbridge council on Monday, Elena Pacheko, vice-president and COO of Oak Valley Health, said construction of the new hospital and long-term care facility on the grounds of the current hospital will require removal of the helipad for about three years. Eventually, she said, the pad will be situated on the roof of the new hospital building.

Pacheko said the helipad has to be moved

because ORNGE helicopters would not be able to land safely amid all the construction. She said it was not feasible to move the helipad to another part of the site. She added that the hospital averages about two helicopter touchdowns a month.

Pacheko said residents will see construction of the new hospital and LTC begin in the relatively near future, with two dates set for "shovels in the ground." The first, in November of this year, will be to prepare the site for the general construction work. For the actual construction of the hospital, Pacheko expects "shovels in the ground" in the summer of 2025.

As for the new hospital itself, Pacheko said it will cover 124,000 square feet, compared with the current hospital's 25,000 square feet.

This will mean a significant increase in the number of in-patient beds. Currently at 20 beds, which can be squeezed up to 22, the new hospital will have 31 beds, which can be adapted to serve 49. An additional 50 beds will be available in the new LTC for long-term or complicated health recovery. She said 90 per cent of those beds will be in single rooms.

Additionally, the new facility will be safer and more comfortable. The current hospital has no sprinkler system or air conditioning. The new facility will have sprinklers throughout and a central air conditioning system.

Pacheko said a virtual town hall meeting for the community will be held on May 31 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., with herself and Jo-anne Marr, president and CEO, taking questions.

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE

Trail Capital of Canada



MORE INFO www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for March, 2024

Monday, March 11

NO MEETING – MARCH BREAK
HERITAGE COMMITTEE, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13, 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

Thursday, March 14, 10:00 a.m.

TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday, March 18

GENERAL PURPOSE AND
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE,
10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC MEETING, ZBA 2021-09, 10850

Conc. Rd. 4 -ENG, 12:30 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT AND

SUSTAINABILITY COMM., 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD

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, 3:30 p.m.

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY

Thursday, March 28, 7:00 p.m.

BIA BOARD

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:

Office of the CAO - Communications Assistant, summer student

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Parks Department - Horticulture Gardener, contract, Union

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Parks Department - Horticulture Summer Student, contract

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Parks Department - Skilled Labourer, contract, Union

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Parks Department - Unskilled Labourer, contract, Union

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Parks Department - Unskilled Labourer-Grass Cutting, contract,

Union - Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Parks Department - General Labourer Summer Student, contract

Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Public Works and Operations - General Labourers, summer

students, contract - Closes March 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter - Animal Control Assistant /

Kennel Attendant, contract - Closes March 13, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Community Services - Uxpool Swimming Instructors / Lifeguards

- Summer - Closes March 29, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Community Services - Arena Attendant Assistant, summer student

(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)



Gravel pit fill-in plan meets opposition

Roger Varley

The owners of the Harcow pit on Wagg Road are seeking approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources to fill in the gravel pit to grade level in order to make it usable for farm operations. The company estimates it would require 2.6 million cubic metres - or 5.2 million tons - of fill to accomplish the task.

Councillor Willie Popp was of the opinion that "this is a further opportunity for pits to expand the life of their pits so they can make money on the backs of the township." He said such a move would double the amount of time local residents have to put up with fleets of trucks travelling to the pit, noting that the pit operator would make money by charging for each load of fill that was brought in.

The pit owner said that restoring the pit to a "natural" state would leave slopes that made the land unsuitable for farming operations. Popp said the pit company's suggestion is "above and beyond" what is required for restoration and the township would have to pay for the upkeep of the roads the trucks would be using.

"This is a big deal for us," he said. He noted that the Region of Durham has already voiced its opposition to the pit company's request. He also noted that the pit company had proposed that any incoming fill be checked by the company's own inspector.

Council, being told there was a March 15 deadline it had to meet to respond to the request, directed staff to write a letter opposing the move.

Popp said council will be looking to MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy and the minister of natural resources for support.

Our two cents

A guarantee of trust

This little newspaper took a huge leap of faith last week when it took a full page to reveal to the township that it was having trouble keeping its head above water and was facing extinction. We (namely the publisher) had been agonizing for an incredibly long time over what direction to take the paper, and we often wondered whether we'd even be missed. Wise counsel suggested that, before we made any drastic moves and locked the office door forever, we let Uxbridge know what we were facing. The *Cosmos* was, after all, not our newspaper, but Uxbridge's newspaper. Uxbridge deserved to know what was up, and help make a decision on its newspaper's future.

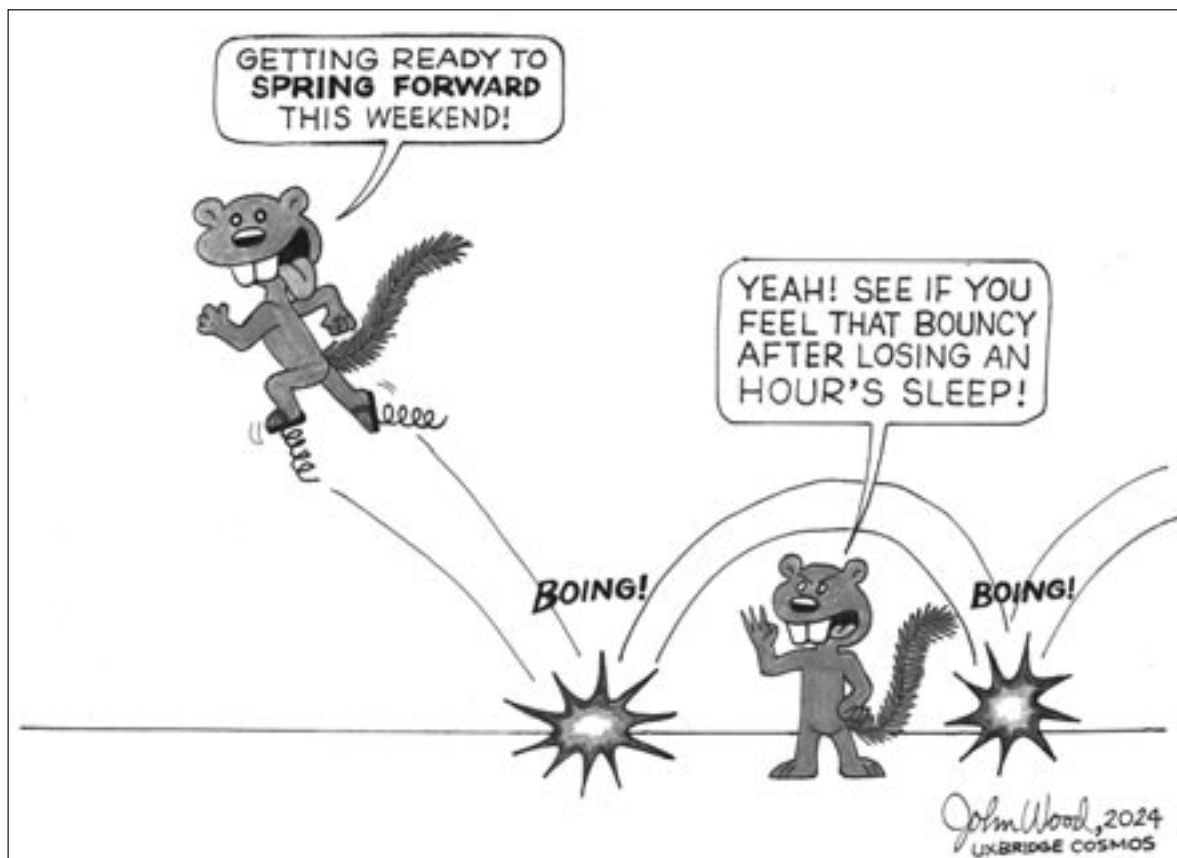
We have been humbly overwhelmed by our readers' response so far, and we cannot say thank you enough. Along with the voluntary subscription notices, we've had some very thoughtful questions, which we thought we'd address here.

Every penny of the voluntary subscription funds will be used to help cover the ongoing costs of printing and distribution. Because this is a private corporation, we will not be making our financial records public. But when the *Cosmos* continues to arrive in your mailbox each week, you'll know that your 'voluntary subscription' was effective and used appropriately.

We cannot issue tax receipts as we are not a not-for-profit, nor do we meet the criteria to be a Qualified Canadian Journalism Organization (QCJO), which would enable us to issue tax receipts.

If you wish to help the *Cosmos* but are not comfortable doing so online, feel free to pop into the office to say hello; e-transfers work well, too! Lvann@thecosmos.ca

We recognize that a lot of trust is happening in this relationship right now. Trust went into us sending our situation out to the township, and trust is coming from the readers sending their hard-earned money to us to help. We are a part of this community, and we guarantee we won't be doing anything to betray that trust (we want to tell the story, not *be* the story!). Uxbridge, journalism, this newspaper - it all means way too much to us. Thank you for trusting us.



Letters to the Editor

Re: Enbridge Gas in Sandford

I was happy to see that Enbridge Gas Inc. supported the local newspaper with a full page advertisement (Feb. 29 edition). Lots more to come, I think.

I hope no one in Sandford will sign up to pay \$23.98 every month, even in summer when they do not need gas. There is a customer charge every month. I hope that Sandford residents, selected by Enbridge to receive gas, have read the fine print saying that they will pay \$0.23 more than other gas customers in Uxbridge for every cubic meter of gas. All gas customers will also pay to install gas for new subdivisions all over Ontario if Bill 165, just referred to the Standing Committee of the Interior, is passed.

Enbridge Gas thinks that once connected, you should find lots of other uses for gas. "Natural gas lamps are a more efficient alternative to electric lights — without the cost and hassle of changing burnt-out bulbs," from their website March 1, under more uses for gas. (enbridgegas.com/en/residential/using-natural-gas/more-uses-for-gas#:~:text=Outdoors%2C%20patio%20heaters%2C%20gas%20lamps,the%20use%20of%20your%20property).

*Elizabeth Carswell
Sandford*

Re: '2024 decides if the Cosmos lives or dies,' Feb. 29 edition.

We were distressed to read that the

Cosmos might have to cease publication. This would be a tragedy for Uxbridge.

There are few things that bind a community together; prime among them is a community newspaper. As we know, community newspapers are disappearing or struggling across the country. The recent disappearance of the *Uxbridge Times-Journal*, along with 69 other community's newspapers, is evidence of that. And "going digital" is not the answer; there are many, particularly older folk, who simply don't "go digital."

Uxbridge is lucky to still have a truly local newspaper - with local ownership, reporting, writing and commentary. Without the *Cosmos* how could we keep tabs on what council is (or is not) doing; how could we follow the Bruins hockey exploits; how could we know about upcoming public meetings regarding zoning or street repairs, or planned housing developments; where could small businesses find essential market exposure; and how could the arts community promote upcoming theatre productions, concerts or exhibits?

The answer lies in ensuring the *Cosmos* remains (or becomes) a viable business. As individuals, there's really only one way to do that - which is to pay something for the value we receive - which is very normal. Example: a subscription to the *Saturday Globe and Mail*, costs \$7 - that's for one newspaper per week. And we've been getting the *Cosmos* (one newspaper per week) free for the

past seven or eight years.

We've discussed this, and are prepared to make a "voluntary subscription" of a few dollars a week. But let's be clear - this is not a charitable contribution, it's payment for a valued product. We believe there may be a few hundred other concerned residents who feel similarly (putting their own value on their "voluntary subscription").

Together with increased advertising, we believe the *Cosmos* can have a viable future as the voice and conscience of our community.

*Wynn & Mary Margaret Walters
Glen Chapman
Eileen Winnington-Ball
Uxbridge*

Editor's note: The Uxbridge Cosmos has been distributed at no charge to the township since its first publication in September 2005.

Yes. We need the *Cosmos*.

We check it every single week, for council news, for upcoming events, for obits, for commentary from Conrad, Roger, and Ted... We would certainly miss it if it disappeared.

It seems the most viable and immediate way to support the paper is by voluntary subscription, paid online. And we are in. A few dollars a week for our local newspaper is a small price to pay for a service we deem necessary to the health of our community.

The new web site is inviting and user friendly, although there will be some reluctance by some to pay

...continued on page 9

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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EDITORIAL POLICY: Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of The Cosmos. Letters must be signed and the telephone number provided (number will not be published). Requests that a name be withheld will be honoured only if there is a compelling reason. Errors brought to our attention will be corrected. The Cosmos reserves the right to edit and/or refuse to publish unsolicited material. ADVERTISING POLICY: The Cosmos reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The Cosmos is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors in advertisements or any other errors or omissions in advertisements. All material herein, including advertising design, is copyrighted, and may not be reproduced in any form without permission.





Am I wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Lost...or abandoned?

Every year around this time, Uxbridge council receives a report that I dread reading. The report arrived on Monday and, once again, it left me feeling angry and helpless.

The report is animal control's year-end tally of animals that the service has taken in during the previous year - and the latest is no different from previous years. The report states that during 2023, the animal shelter impounded a total of 166 cats from Uxbridge and Scugog. Of that number, 32 were either dead on arrival or euthanized. That leaves 134 cats. The sad thing, the thing that makes me boil with anger, is that only 14 of those cats were reclaimed by their owners!

What kind of community do we live in when 120 cat owners couldn't even be bothered to check with the animal shelter to see if their lost pet had been taken in? Admittedly, 110 of the impounded cats were adopted, but that doesn't alter the fact that the original owners just don't give a damn about their pets. Perhaps it's the disposable world we live in, where even cats are now considered disposable.

When I adopted my friend Smudge from the animal shelter almost eight years ago, he wasn't exactly what I was looking for. I wanted a short-hair kitten; Smudge was a long-hair adult. But when I was told he had been a resident of the shelter for six months, I just couldn't leave him behind.

My concern about his long hair proved to be correct. I often joke that I should have named him Blizzard, because his white hair sheds constantly. I find cat hair everywhere; it's a never-ending battle that I can't win. However, I took on the responsibility of caring for this animal, for giving him a home, and I take that responsibility seriously. And so should every pet owner.

For most of us, our pets become an integral part of the family, as much loved as

any human member. Apparently, however, 120 cat owners in Uxbridge and Scugog don't feel the same way.

I can understand people not wanting to have a pet in the house. They have to be fed, groomed, cleaned up after and taken to the vet occasionally. If a family vacation or trip is planned, that often requires the pet to be boarded for a few days. A lot of people don't want the bother or the hassle and I understand that. But if you take a pet into your home, you have to be prepared to care for that pet for the duration.

The story on dogs isn't quite as bad, but it is disturbing, nevertheless. In 2023, the shelter impounded a total of 95 dogs, six of which were either DOA or euthanized. Of the remainder, only 54 were reclaimed and 31 were adopted. But what about the nearly 40 dogs who were not reclaimed by their owners? Did their owners just become tired of them?

I believe much can be learned about a person by observing how they treat animals. If they can't show kindness and compassion to a pet, it's a fair bet they won't display those traits when dealing with people. God forbid they should have children!

Animal control told me that people reclaiming their pets from the shelter are charged a \$15-a-day boarding fee. In these difficult economic times, it is feasible that some might find that charge a little onerous. If that is the case, I'm sure the animal shelter could come up with some arrangement that would see the pet returned home. But leaving a pet abandoned, curled up in the corner of an uninviting cage, cannot be condoned for any reason.

It seems to me that, instead of requiring licences for pets, we should be requiring licences for pet owners.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

'Like-minded' equals 'contempt'

Outside his residence in Florida, several weeks ago, a former United States president made sure the cameras were running, raised his fist in the air and then verbally slammed Judge Arthur Engoron. The justice of the Supreme Court of New York had just handed down his ruling in the civil business-fraud trial against Donald Trump. The former president reacted.

"A crooked New York State judge has just ruled that I have to pay a fine of \$355 million for having built a perfect company," Trump said, and he went on to call New York Attorney General Letitia James, who initiated the case, "totally corrupt."

If any politician, no, make that if any individual had said that in Canada, she or he would have been charged with contempt. Contempt in this country is when a person fails to appear in court, fails to comply with a court ruling, refuses to testify in court, or interferes with the process of the courts. It's also ruled contempt if anyone *criticizes the administration of justice*, or, as in the case of Donald Trump, when one *criticizes the conduct of a judge or suggests the judge had improper motives*. In Canada anyone found guilty of contempt faces a fine and imprisonment. Period.

I am not a lawyer. But 25 years ago, when Centennial College's school of communications approached me to teach entry courses in print and broadcast journalism, including two semesters on law and ethics, I spent the summer (before the teaching) reading law and media books by the score. I learned that the primary rationale for journalists understanding laws of contempt had little to do with whether a person despised a judge or the justice system. I had to teach journalists covering the courts that above all, courts and journalists had to ensure a person's right to a fair trial. But as I prepared my course outline, I also learned that had anyone in this country spoken as contemptuously as Donald Trump did about a judge or a decision in Canada, he'd be in jail by now.

My summer study of law and ethics and several years of teaching students in the Centennial journalism program (not to mention reading my own ethical compass) have been riled by Premier Doug Ford's announcements in the past few months about choosing judges. Two weeks ago, the *Toronto Star* reported that the premier had appointed two former members of his senior staff - Matthew Bondy and Brock Vandrick - to join a committee recommending candidates as Ontario judges. When challenged by reporters, Ford

commented repeatedly:

"We got elected to get like-minded people in appointments. I'm not going to appoint some NDP or some Liberal," he said. "I'm putting like-minded people that believe in what we believe in, keeping the bad guys in jail."

As Andrew Phillips pointed out in a recent *Star* editorial, the premier's office tried backpeddling his comments. More of Ford's senior staffers suggested that it's quite appropriate for governments to get more judges and justices of the peace with similar attitudes; they further claimed Ford was just talking about the selection committee members. But then Premier Ford made it crystal clear, no, "I'm going to make sure we have like-minded judges!"

Well, just a minute, Mr. Premier. In 1988, during the premiership of David Peterson, a pilot project recommended a non-partisan model to evaluate and recommend the appointment of provincial judges. The Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee (JAAC) was thus established in 1995, during Bob Rae's time as premier. And that selection committee grew to incorporate legal associations and the general public, all of which both Liberal and Conservative governments have since accepted.

Not so for the Ford administration which has pushed for "like-minded" judges since 2021. And that has not only riled this former journalism law and ethics prof, but much more competent legal minds than mine. The Federation of Ontario Law Associations told the *Star*, "JAAC's independence and the public's confidence is eroded when influence appears to be driving the process by which judges are selected."

University of Waterloo professor of political science, Emmett Macfarlane went further when he said, "I'm not sure I've seen such blatant examples of patronage." And he alluded to current public opinion in the United States, where citizens' perception of the legitimacy of its Supreme Court has fallen to its lowest level ever "largely as a result of the extreme partisanship around its appointments."

I for one do not want Ontario's justice system to become a carbon copy of the American one - with partisan hardline judges throwing more people in jail at the behest of politicians, or politicians throwing contemptuous epithets at judges.

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Region looking to residents for input on 2025 Strategic Plan

Residents throughout the Region of Durham are invited to offer input on the Region's 2025 Strategic Plan.

According to a news release from the Region earlier this week, work

is currently underway to develop the 2025 Strategic Plan, which will guide the direction of the Region's work over the next few years.

"Durham Region's 2025 Strategic Plan will outline how we will de-

liver a sustainable future for our Region through leadership, collaboration, innovation and environmental stewardship," says the release.

This input can be given online at

durham.ca/StratPlan2025, and should take approximately 5 - 10 minutes to complete. Responses are anonymous.

Elementary and secondary school students are also invited to submit

an entry to a regional art contest. Students are invited to share their vision for the future of Durham Region. Art can be submitted online through the same website as the survey, at durham.ca/StratPlan2025.

Both the "Design Our Future" contest and the Strategic Plan Community Survey are open online now until March 31.

MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the February monthly draw for the 2024 Trip of the Month Club.

The 'Rocky Mountain High' trip was won by Gurpreet Singh Chohan, ticket #229, sold by Mike Banh.

2nd place, \$150, won by Andrew and Bobbi Pick, ticket #484, sold by Dale Hickey.

3rd place, \$100, won by Marie Theberge, ticket #360, sold by Kerin Lloyd.

Congratulations to our February winners, and best of luck for the March 2024 draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge Trip of the Month Club! "Marvel in Marseille" includes round trip flights for two from Toronto to Marseille, France, 7 nights' accommodation at the Novotel Marseille Est in a classic city view hotel room, guided tours of "Vieux Port," and the "Old City."

A gift certificate from Getaway Travel worth \$2,500 or cash of \$2,250 is available instead of the trip. Trip must be taken in the month following the draw.



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Adopt a park, from page 1

In a later report, Courtney Clarke, deputy director of public works, said the Adopt a Road program could be expanded to include parks, noting that in the roads program participating groups and individuals agree to maintain a designated section of Township property to ensure its cleanliness. She recommended that such an expansion take place and also recommended that the Scouts be assigned Elgin Park. Council agreed unanimously.

2024 is the year the Uxbridge Cosmos decides if it lives or dies.

The Uxbridge Cosmos recently shared with you that its existence is in peril. Advertising dollars, the primary income source for most newspapers, have been gobbled up by digital giants like Meta (Facebook and Instagram) and Google, and additional support is needed to keep this newspaper alive

The Cosmos is not *our* community newspaper, it's *your* community newspaper, and we feel it's important to be as honest as possible with you about what's happening.

We believe with our whole hearts that Uxbridge needs this community newspaper. Now, perhaps more than ever, a free, independent press is vital to the way of life we hold dear. It may be a cliché, but it's the truth. And truth is everything to us.

We'll do everything in our power to keep *your* independent community newspaper alive.

We hope you'll join us!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove
Publisher/Editor

Uxbridge Cosmos

What we're doing about it

We're looking hard for someone to sell print and digital advertising. We are asking for your help to save your community newspaper.

What you can do

Become a Voluntary Subscriber

Right now, we're in crisis mode, but our long-term plan is to blend advertising revenue with **voluntary** subscription revenue. The Cosmos will continue to be delivered via Canada Post for free to the entire Township, but voluntary subscriptions ensure that the Cosmos can continue to provide the news, information, and stories that matter most to readers.

Visit our website - thecosmos.ca - and support your local newspaper with a voluntary subscription. You can also send an e-transfer to Lvann@thecosmos.ca Every penny directly supports continued publication of the Cosmos.

If you're a business, advertise

Print is still an excellent way to deliver your message, especially when you pair it with our digital and social options. Please, give us a chance to prove this to you. For advertising details, email us (Lvann@thecosmos.ca) or call 905-852-1900.

Be a Shop Local advocate

If you're chatting with a local business owner, remind them that advertising in the Cosmos is the only way to reach 9,800 households in the township. Social media can't guarantee those kinds of numbers.



Bruins will eventually be in the playoffs

Roger Varley

A difficult task faces the Uxbridge Bruins. They will be facing the Georgina Ice in the next round of the PJHL Orr Division playoffs after the Ice eliminated the Little Britain Merchants in four straight games in the opening round.

What should be of concern to the Bruins is the manner in which Georgina won. The Ice scored a total of 28 goals, while the Merchants managed to find the net only three times.

To make things a little more difficult, the Bruins have to sit by nervously waiting for a schedule of games to be set by the league.

As of press time, no schedule had been announced. Fans of the Bruins are advised to watch local social media sites for an update.

In preparation for the upcoming series, the Bruins held an alumni game at the arena on Friday, pitting the current team against players who donned the Uxbridge sweaters over the last six seasons. The Bruins executive explained they decided on relatively younger alumni in order to give the current team a good practice workout and boost their confidence. But, the alumni managed to defeat the team 7-5.

The alumni, coached by Mike Spataro and Trevor Cox, featured such recent heroes as Aiden

Reilly, Daniel Girgio, Declan Meek and Adam Batholomew.

In other playoff action, Lakefield Chiefs dropped the Port Perry LumberJacks in four games, outscoring them 18-3. The Clarington Eagles were in a position to end their series with the North Kawartha Knights on Tuesday. The Eagles won the first three games, notching 24 goals to the Knights' one.



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Uxbridge Legion goes on charitable spending spree

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #170 recently went on a spending spree, donating almost \$21,000 to five local charitable organizations. The money donated was raised by the Legion through events and fundraisers in the community.

Photos submitted by Paul McLoughlin.



Royal Canadian Legion Uxbridge Branch #170 vice-president Gloria Eng (left) and president Peter Viney (right) present a \$3,000 cheque to Don Mertens of the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank in Uxbridge.



Ladies Auxiliary president Low and Legion president Viney present \$8,875 from the Ontario Provincial Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries Charitable Foundation to Uxbridge Hospital Foundation executive director Michele Varela.



Vice-president Eng and president Viney present a \$3,000 cheque to Bev Northeast of the Salvation Army in Uxbridge.



Branch #170 vice-president Eng and president Viney present \$3,000 to Garlice Tsang and Courtney Munn of North House in Uxbridge.



Ladies Auxiliary president Marion Low (left) and Legion president Peter Viney (right) present \$3,000 from Branch #170 Uxbridge to Uxbridge Hospital Foundation executive director Michele Varela.

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Because horses at the school serve almost as assistant instructors themselves, the CITs will be immersed in the world of equine management and have hours of hands-on experience working with the horses.

Participants will be learning the art of effective communication, how to actively listen to others, and ways to treat everyone with empathy and respect.

Through the mentorship provided, participants will learn to lead others as they join in the daily farm tasks. Hard work, collaboration, and self-awareness are all skills that the CITs will build on, which will help nurture a strong foundation for future leadership roles.

March 11-15, 2024

Please note that this is a non-riding program.

LOCAL MATTERS.

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Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?

Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

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Letters, from page 4

online. For many of us, it's not a comfortable thing to do.

But a voluntary subscription is too close to a being a donation. A business should not be acting as a charity, relying on the generosity of subscribers. There must be a better way of ensuring readers pay for what they receive.

In the long run, perhaps local businesses will see the reaction to the alarm you have raised, and realize that many people read the *Cosmos*, and could be reading their advertisements on its pages.

Until then, yes, we will be voluntary subscribers, gladly, and with thanks for the years of local news and views.

*George & Barb Pratt
Uxbridge*

When she was a little girl, one of my granddaughters was having trouble with math at school so I played Store with her. We used all the cash in my wallet, plus what was in the piggy bank and "under the mattress" and I stuck price tags on various items around the house. She would pretend to sell them to me, and in so doing, would learn how to make change. She was a shy little girl but she finally got up the nerve to whisper to me, "Granny, I don't need to know this. The cash register always does it for you."

And so it goes. The newspaper reading habit is no longer necessary today. None of my grandchildren or their peers are newspaper readers. They get all of their information, such as it is, from their phones. If we had wanted them to

read newspapers, the practice should have been introduced to them as part of their public school education. As it is, they don't even realize what they have been missing.

At school, back in the "good old days," we had a thing called Current Events every morning when we discussed items in the news for a few minutes before the regular classwork began. It was a good way to consider the sources, as well as the relative significance of the various items the kids found worth bringing to everyone's attention.

There was also a great program that my class and I participated in for awhile, in the 70s, I think. Once a week, the *Toronto Star* dropped off a few copies of the paper for free and I devised a series of questions involving math, geography, history, etc., that could only be answered by skimming through the newspaper. It was a competition of sorts to see which group finished first, and a welcome change from the regular routine. I'd like to think that most of those kids became newspaper readers.

I don't know if there are any programs like that in school these days, but I hope that at least the teachers help the kids to under-

stand that journalism is what has traditionally been called The Fourth Estate, the watchdog that helps to keep democracies towing the line. Hard-working journalists need the newspapers to publish their findings and pay their salaries.

*Eleanor Todd
Goodwood*

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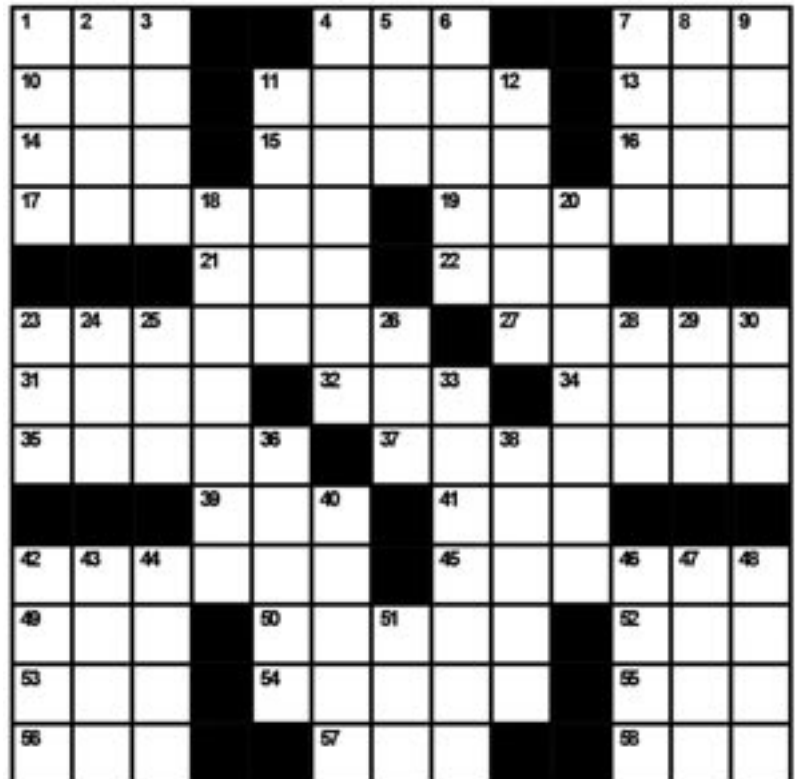
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Across

1. Junk mail
4. Outmoded, with been
7. Something you could be drafted into
10. Boot part
11. Protection
13. Muhammad ____
14. Ditty
15. About to explode
16. The "I" of T.G.I.F.
17. Cheerleader's gear
19. As a whole
21. ____ vapeur (steamed)
22. CSI stuff
23. Bowling equipment
27. Robin Hood weapon
31. Fig Newton alternative
32. Quill point
34. Palm tree
35. Powerful person out East
37. Starts up the computer
39. SW Missouri river
41. Grasped
42. Separate seed
45. Ugly treatment (2 words)
49. "That's a laugh!"
50. Marketing dept. concern
52. Fraternity letters
53. Temper
54. Alpha opposite
55. Troublemaker
56. Calypso alternative
57. Apple or pecan?
58. Play (with)

Down

1. At the summit of
2. Dumb cluck
3. Feel as if
4. Writer, ____ Hesse
5. Turkish title of honor
6. Placed
7. Cry out
8. Highest male voice
9. Computer processor, for short
11. Garlic mayonnaise
12. Plant with showy yellow flowers
18. Native American baby
20. Bird of the night (2 words)
23. Truck weight
24. Pitcher performance measurement
25. Kan. neighbor
26. Elton John, for one
28. Brazilian town
29. Select
30. Equaled
33. Surround
36. Male singing voice
38. Exceedingly light wood
40. Winner
42. "____ Is It," Michael Jackson film
43. "Listen!"
44. Flightless bird
46. Apartment
47. Big guy wrestling
48. Detect
51. Orchid arrangements

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Remember when
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Focus on Finance with Tammy Scuralli, Edward Jones

2024 tax facts: What you need to know

It's that time of year again, and the deadline for filing your 2023 taxes is just around the corner. With that in mind, let's recap some key dates and information.

Important dates

For most individuals, the deadline for filing your 2023 taxes is Tuesday, April 30, 2024. If you or your spouse or common-law partner is self-employed, the tax-filing deadline is extended to June 17, 2024, (since the normal deadline of June 15 falls on a Saturday this year). Note, however, that although the tax-filing deadline is June 17 for those with self-employment income, any balance owing must still be paid by April 30, 2024.

Tax deductions and tax credits

A tax deduction is not the same as a tax credit. A tax deduction reduces your total income and happens be-

fore the calculation of your taxes owing. A tax credit can then be applied to this amount to reduce your tax bill accordingly. It may help to think of this like the movies – the credits come at the end.

Common income tax credits for the 2023 tax year:

basic personal amount, medical expenses, charitable donations, and education and tuition.

Common income tax deductions for the 2023 tax year:

RRSP contributions (the RRSP contribution deadline for the 2023 tax year was February 29, 2024), home office expenses (documentation is essential), and employee expenses (some employment-related expenses, such as tools required for your job or certain professional fees, may be deductible - keep detailed records to

support your claims).

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HARDING, Earl Reginald

June 30, 1939 - March 1, 2024



Surrounded by his family at home, Earl passed away peacefully at the age of 84 years.

He will be lovingly remembered and dearly missed by his devoted wife, Christine, of 58 years; three children: Jennifer (Graham) Wilson, Rebecca (Bryan) Ferguson, and Matthew (Chas) Harding; 12 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sister, Nancy (Ross) Flight; sister-in-law Vicky (Dave) Million; brother-in-law Louie (Susan) Micheff; and many relatives and friends. Earl was predeceased by his parents, Reginald and Mabel Harding.

Earl described each season of his life as "the best of times" and lived with a wonderful sense of humour and quick wit. He married the love of his life, Christine, in 1965, and together they raised their family and built or renovated 11 homes, two cottages, and a condo in Florida during their married life.

At 17 years of age, he dropped out of high school and started working as a junior clerk at National of Hartford Insurance Company. Ten years later, he started his own company – Harris Harding and Bickers Ltd. Insurance Adjusters and Marine Surveyors. In 1980, he was elected president of the Ontario Insurance Adjusters Association, and his business continued to grow and thrive. At 56 years of age, he jumped at the opportunity to sell his company to Lloyds of London and began his early retirement.

The following 28 years were filled with simple pleasures – the cottage on Canal Lake, cooking on the Findlay Oval wood stove, winters in Florida, travelling the world with Christine and their friends, reading a novel a day, and staying connected with his kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids. His favourite pastime was bragging about his family to anyone who would listen. As his health began to fail, Earl and Christine's faith in God sustained and guided them.

Six months before his death, Earl self-published his memoir entitled "The Best of Times" – a very proud and final accomplishment (see QR code below).

A Celebration of Life was held at St. Paul's Leaskdale on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Memorial Donations may be made in Earl's name to the beloved Uxbridge Hospital Redevelopment Campaign.

The family wishes to send a special thank you to Dr. Cal Doobay, Dr. Dave Dancy, the visiting palliative nursing team, and the staff at the Uxbridge Hospital for their care, compassion, and willingness to listen to all his stories repeatedly.

Please enjoy Earl's fabulous memoir, "The Best of Times," by clicking on this QR code.



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