The Cosmos.ca Thursday, May 2, 2024

Would you run for a diamond? • Remembrance through art • A Spring treasure hunt



CONCESSION CLEAN-UP - The Durham Mountain Biking Association cleaned up the concession roads around the trails south of town on Saturday, part of an Earth Day initiative. They piled a large amount of garbage on the side of the road at the Durham Forest Main Parking Lot on Conc. 7, and said they bemoaned the abundance of beer cans and bottles.

Photo submitted by John Fisher, DMBA

Post office is staying put

Roger Varley

Although there are major changes afoot for postal operations in Port Perry, it appears the same does not hold true for Uxbridge.

The Canada Post operations in Port Perry, currently housed in a heritage building on that town's main downtown street, are scheduled to be moved sometime in 2025. The manager of the Port Perry post office said this week that the retail section of the post office will move to a new location on Water Street, while the processing and distribution facility will move to quarters close to the Walmart store.

An email to the *Cosmos* from a source who was not authorized to comment said that the Uxbridge Canada Post office was also closing next year, with distribution operations moving to Port Perry, and a "couple" of retail locations remaining in Uxbridge. Some employees at the Uxbridge office told the *Cosmos* that they have been told this is the plan. Sandra Preston, a supervisor at the Uxbridge post office said she

...continued on page 3

Colin Noble BEALTON CoingNobleResiEstate.ca







ROYAL LEPAGE MASTER SALES AWARD 2022

When one Chamber closes, another opens

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Five days after the Uxbridge Chamber of Commerce announced on Facebook that it was "permanently closed," the Scugog Chamber of Commerce announced the unveiling of the North Durham Chamber of Commerce.

On April 19, the Uxbridge Chamber of Commerce, posted "Announcement – as of April 19, 2024, UXCC is permanently closed. Thank you so much for your past membership and sponsorship. We wish all businesses much success on your journey. Thank you, UXCC Team." No further explanation for the seemingly sudden announcement was made.

On April 25, the Scugog Chamber of Commerce issued a press release that stated it was "excited to embark on a new transformative journey. With a steadfast dedication to progress and collaboration, we proudly introduce the North Durham Chamber of Commerce."

The release outlined that the North Durham Chamber of Commerce intends to bring businesses, professionals and community leaders from the townships of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge to "create a powerful force for positive economic change."

"This natural evolution of the chamber provides a regional perspective while encouraging each municipality to continue developing unique events that nurture their local strengths. Together, we can address common challenges, seize shared opportunities, and build a thriving business ecosystem that benefits us all," says the release.

The move to the creation of one Chamber of Commerce that covers all of north Durham was spearheaded by the Scugog Chamber of Commerce, which reached out to both the Township of Uxbridge and the Brock Board of Trade.

Karey Anne Large, executive director for the

Scugog Chamber of Commerce, explains that, through collaboration, the new Chamber sees itself "forging stronger connections, empowering businesses, and creating new opportunities across our vibrant communities. Together, we'll continue to thrive, innovate, and champion the economic growth of North Durham. We look forward to having businesses join the North Durham Chamber of Commerce."

The North Durham Chamber of Commerce says that it believes the three townships will be stronger together than they are apart, and that this "natural evolution" of the chamber provides a regional perspective while encouraging each municipality to continue developing unique events that nurture local strengths.

The release says that members of the North Durham Chamber of Commerce can expect a wide range of enhanced services and supports that are tailored to the "unique needs of our

...continued on page 3











What a farm! 100 acres, 5 bedroom, 2 bathroom home, 2 staircases, pond, 3200 sq ft workshop, 2 barns, working silo, excellent farmland. Excellent location in York Region. For more information, give us a call.

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Uxbridge at a Glance

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge 51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190 Uxbridge L9P 1T1 905-852-9181 info@uxbridge.ca

TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE







Council & Committees

Meeting Schedule for May, 2024

Friday, May 3

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE @ 8:30 a.m.

Monday, May 6

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING GENERAL PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE @ 10:00 a.m

Tuesday, May 7 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE @ 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 9

TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE @ 10:00 a.m.

Monday, May 13

COUNCIL @ 10:00 a.m MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE HERITAGE COMMITTEE @ 7:30 p.m

Wednesday, May 15 COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

@ 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 16 LIBRARY BOARD @ 7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 20 NO MEETING – VICTORIA DAY

Thursday, May 23

MUSIC HALL BOARD @ 9:00 a.m. BIA BOARD @ 7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 27

COUNCIL @ 8:00 a.m. DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION @ 3:00 p.m. **ENVIRONMENT AND** SUSTAINABILITY COMM. @ 7:00 p.m.

Proclamations for May

- May Asian Heritage Month
- May Community Living Month
- May 1 Doctor's Day
- May 4 International Firefighters' Day

Employment Opportunities

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

Development Services - Senior Planning Technician, full-time Closes May 13, 2024

Uxbridge Public Library - Summer Student, contract Closes May 17, 2024

Road Closures

https://www.uxbridge.ca/roads

GUIDED TRAIL WALKS in the Township's Trails Committee for a series of Guided Tra Walks taking place from April to Decemb-Each walk in this series is themed and p ation based on the topic. For information about the walks and how to register, scan here





Township's New Permit Parking System Now Operational

The Township of Uxbridge's new permit parking system, HotSpot, is now operational for all users.

Learn more about the system at:



Bids & Tenders

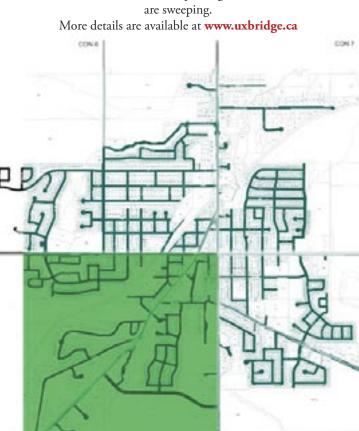
All current bid opportunities are posted to https://www.uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders

- U24-14 Tree Planting Closes May 2, at 2:00 p.m.
- U24-06 Project Management Pickleball and Tennis Court Facility - Closes May 8, at 2:00 p.m.

All bids must be received by the Township by the deadline stated, either electronically via the Township's website or in-person at the Township Office located at 51 Toronto St. South. Public tender bid results are posted at https://www.uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders



Please avoid on-street parking while crews are sweeping.



uxbridge huck finn

ALL SEASON LONG, STARTING APRIL 27TH



POP-UP PRIZES DELIVERED BY BOOMER THE BASS ON MAY 4TH, 11TH & 25TH

LEARN MORE AT UXBRIDGE.CA/HUCKFINN









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

New Chamber of Commerce in town, from page 1

business community." Support services will include access to the Chambers Plan, an employee benefits plan for small businesses that was available through the Uxbridge Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, the North Durham Chamber of Commerce says it will offer a wide spectrum of resources and initiatives, including networking events, educational programs, advocacy campaigns, and a wealth of accessible resources, and that its commitment is to "furnish members with the necessary tools and assistance vital for their sustained success and growth."

The new Chamber says it recognizes the need for innovation in North Durham. With a focus on improved broadband connectivity, infrastructure delivery and quality of

life, the new chamber says it can "attract the next generation of employers that will help to create jobs, drive economic prosperity, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the region."

Uxbridge Mayor Dave Barton says that he is "delighted to see the launch of the North Durham Chamber of Commerce, which symbolizes North Durham's dedication to cooperation and advancement. This unification of our townships strengthens our shared voice, improves services, and fosters an innovative economic environment that enriches both our citizens and businesses."

A little-publicized "Uxbridge Business Info Night" was held Tuesday evening at the Second Wedge Brewing Co., to offer more details about the new Chamber of Commerce, its vision and services.

Post office staying put, from page 1

had heard about a possible move, "but nothing is set in stone."

However, Valerie Chartrand of the corporation's media centre in Ottawa told the Cosmos there are no plans to close, sell or otherwise move out of the current location in Uxbridge. She was echoed by area manager Mike Prior, who



said he could categorically state no such moves are pending.

"You can reassure everyone that nothing is changing," he said.







Saturday, May 4 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Residents are invited to place unwanted items in good condition at the curb for anyone to pick up. Label items FREE and at the end of the Giveaway Day, return unclaimed items to your home.

durham.ca/CurbsideGiveaway

SUBJECT OF THE STATE OF THE STA

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact 311 (within Regional limits) or 1-800-372-1102.

Our two cents

Left hand, meet right hand

This week's story on the fate of the Uxbridge post office was a rather odd one to put together. A little birdie had let us know a couple of weeks ago that they had learned Uxbridge was to lose its post office in 2025 because the building had possibly been sold to developers. Well, given the fact that we rely on Canada Post, and the Uxbridge office in particular, to deliver the newspaper you're reading, we decided we needed to discover if this was mere rumour or if it had some meat to it.

A few emails and some preliminary questions had us flummoxed. We talked to a few people at our post office here in Uxbridge, and they told us that they had heard changes were coming down the pipes (as outlined in our story on page 1). But various emails, mainly from the media relations department at Canada Post's head office, either said they knew nothing about the closing/relocation/demise of the Uxbridge post office, or that it was definitely not happening. We tried reaching MP Jennifer O'Connell to break the tie, so to speak, but we didn't hear back from her office.

So the boots on the ground people say they've heard their future is changing, and the higher ups say that nothing's going on. One Cosmos reporter was convinced that someone is hiding something, that something is being covered up. We're more inclined to believe that, IF there are changes afoot (and we highlight that IF), it's quite possible that this is a case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing. Maybe the development and future planning department of Canada Post knows all the plans in progress, and they've trickled to the local level, while the media department hasn't quite received the memo yet. Maybe it's possible that this (ahem) venerable crown corporation is so large and laden with bureaucracy that the information it's creating and needing to disseminate within its own ranks is literally getting lost in the mail (paper or electronic). Who's to say?

We'll be keeping an eye on this story, to be sure. Bureaucracy moves as quickly as, well, snail mail. At this rate, maybe the left hand will have time to catch up to the right hand, and, if you'll pardon the mixed metaphor, everyone will be on the same page. Wouldn't that be a refreshing change?



Uxbridge Cosmus

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Uxbridge and delivered

by Canada Post.

Hill just conducted an aggressive program of removing buckthorn from its natural areas. Don't be to ask the TRCA how to get involved with initiatives centered

> Ozzie Zante Uxbridge

In a letter to the editor printed in last week's edition of the Cosmos, I wrote that the mayors' salary should include the monies received

at the Region of Durham. I presented a summary of the remuneration he would receive using (retroactive and moving forward) the figures from his public report, as well as the public report from the region's Commissioner of Finance which outlines the remuneration and expenses of all members of regional council and regional council appointees to local boards for 2023.

Mayor Barton, in a Facebook post, displayed a portion of his 2023 T-4 form in an attempt to show my numbers were in fact incorrect. Of course, the numbers wouldn't be the same. For example, the T-4 from the region/municipality would not show any monies received from the Toronto Region Conservation Authority - that would show on a separate T-4. Additionally, a portion of the monies realized for mileage is tax exempt and therefore will affect the figure shown on the T-4.

As I initially stated in my first letter. I do not have an issue with raises - what I have an issue with as a taxpayer is the lack of transparency, the amount of the increase and the fact that it was retroactive back to November 2022. Naturally a T-4 slip from 2023 will not reflect retroactive pay that was passed by council in

I will state publicly I feel that \$133,000+ for what Mayor Barton has continually stated is a parttime job for him, is more than fair.

Mayor Barton also wrote on social media "... a previous mayor

(whose mismanagement has literally cost us all millions of dollars) has chimed in on this..."

To publicly accuse me (as I am the previous mayor who chimed in) of costing the municipality millions of dollars with no evidence, is not only sordid behaviour but potentially libelous. I can justify and prove my numbers regarding Mayor Barton's salary. I trust he will publicly report on and prove the millions of dollars he is accusing me of costing the municipality. If by chance, the millions of dollars being referred to is the culvert project, I will remind Mayor Barton that although I was initially involved in this project and stated on numerous occasions that "this project is bigger than Uxbridge Township and the Region needs to be involved," Township staff did not agree and proceeded on their own. I was no longer at the Township during all the final discussions and the signing of any contract(s). Mayor Barton was.

May I suggest that perhaps its time council provide an updated financial report on the culvert project to the taxpayers. The last one I can find is dated May 16, 2022, written by the then treasurer, Donna Condon, showing a cost of \$24,215,001. It states under "Notes: 'Actual Cost' does not include salaries, wages and benefits of Township staff that worked on the culvert project, interest expense on debentures issued to fund culvert costs, invoices in



Letters to the Editor

Re: Letters, April 25 edition

I am writing in response to a letter on Thursday, April 25, about chopping down trees on the conservation lands at East Duffins Headwaters. I think you should get your facts straight before blowing off so much hot air.

If someone is chopping down or removing invasive species like buckthorn, that is a good thing for the native plants and trees that are being crowded out by these aggressive (not native to North America) plants.

Buckthorn does not get along with or support any native species or wildlife. It deprives wildlife of natural food and shelter. The wild turkeys, grouse, white tail deer, and many other birds and animals will thank you for it.

I would thank the individual involved and would ask how can I

Uxbridge has removed invasive species like Scotch pines from the natural preserve, and Richmond ridiculous and call this criminal. A step in the right direction might be around invasive species.

...continued on page 14



Am I wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Two sides to every story

Reading the news this week, I saw that the Alberta government is introducing a bill that would allow the provincial government to fire municipal councils if it didn't like what they were doing. That raised my ire somewhat. How dare the province interfere with the choices residents have made in electing their local governments? We wouldn't stand for it in Ontario, would we?

But then I came across another story regarding a municipal council, this one closer to home. Recently, Paul Calandra, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, ordered the mayor and council of Black-River Matheson to step down. ("Black River-Matheson mayor and council kicked out office," CTV News). The reasons for the move appear to be quite compelling.

According to the CTV News report, the municipality, located northwest of Kirkland Lake, has been in turmoil for some time. The town's unionized workers just ended a six-month strike, but there are still issues around the settlement to be resolved, including court cases; three councillors have refused to attend council meetings and three others have quit; and the town recently passed a budget that saw a property tax increase of more than 34 per cent.

Suddenly, I could see why the Ontario government would become involved and flex its muscle. As Calandra is quoted as saying: "It is the job of municipally elected councillors to ensure the continued provision of services for residents. This includes attending council meetings and filling council vacancies as soon as possible."

So it would appear there are two sides to the issue. On the one hand, critics in Alberta are saying that the province's proposed new legislation would give the government too much power over municipal councils, even to the point it could replace them for making decisions it didn't like. On the other hand, in Black-River Matheson's case, should the Ontario government just sit back and tell the local residents "that's what you voted for"?

Then again, maybe I'm comparing apples to oranges. In the northwestern Ontario municipality, the council would, on the face of it, appear to be completely dysfunctional and not serving the best interests of the residents. In Alberta's case, no such incident is being identified as a catalyst for the new legislation. What makes the two cases so different is that the Alberta government also wants to introduce party politics into municipal elections.

In my opinion, that would be disastrous. When my local council makes decisions, whether I agree with them or not, I want to know they are doing what they believe is in the best interests of the township, not because it will appease the leaders of some political party.

I have criticized the Ford government in the past for its interference in municipal affairs. For example, the introduction of "super mayor" powers, the boondoggle over the on again-off again dissolution of Peel Region, the carrot-and-stick approach to housing construction and ministerial orders to allow development without going through local councils. But when it comes to Black-River Matheson, it's hard to argue that Calandra is overstepping his authority. The people of that community deserve better than they appear to have been given by their council.

As I say, there are always two sides to a story. Recently, there has been much discussion on local Facebook pages regarding the recent salary increase voted on by Uxbridge council. Some are saying the raise is too much, others say it is reasonable. Most, however, seem to agree that it's the retroactive payments that are the problem. For a reasonable person, it is possible to see the merits of both sides of the discussion and one person's opinion is as valid as the next. But at least we didn't see a 34-per cent tax increase and half the council disappear.

It seems to me we should be grateful for small mercies.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Discipline in sips

When I was about 12, I had my first taste of alcohol. I guess my parents were breaking the law by allowing a minor to consume booze, but one Christmas when our extended family got together to celebrate at our house, my mother and father made a point of giving me a wine glass for what amounted to a couple of sips of the stuff.

"Merry Christmas!" we all toasted, and like the adults around the table, I was invited to clink my glass with theirs and enjoyed that first taste of alcohol.

From then on, it turned out, if I wanted a bit of wine with our family dinners, my parents always set the glass out for me. The same held true for my younger sister when she was about the same age. We were both underage. But clearly there was method to my parents' apparent madness. Their theory was if there's no taboo associated with something – a.k.a. access to alcohol – it was a pretty safe bet neither my sister nor I would crave it, steal it, or

drink it behind our parents' backs. Their the-

ory proved to be pretty practical.

I thought about that sip of wine this week as I watched news footage of Education Minister Stephen Lecce announcing the provincial government's ban on cellphone use in Ontario schools. The legislation means that cellphones are banned in elementary schools throughout the day, and during classes at the middle school and high school levels: Students in Grades 7 to 12 may only use their phones between classes and over lunch. Lecce announced the penalties too: If students violate the new rules, their phones will have to be "immediately surrendered." Exceptions are allowed for learning purposes.

"We need rigour in our schools," the minister said. One would have thought that was the objective when the Ford government established limits on cellphone use in schools five years ago, in 2019. At the media conference – held rather oddly on Sunday – the minister added, "at the end of the day, we're talking about behavioural and addiction issues." In a way, he's echoing the initiative of Ontario school boards suing social media giants TikTok, Snapchat and Meta (the owner of Instagram and Facebook) for allowing their content and users to deliberately damage students' mental health and interfere with their learning.

I checked the Technology Acceptable Use Policy (TAUP) prescribed by the Durham Public School Board. Its Clause 3040 outlines that "today's 21st century classrooms must use technology in order to achieve ... academic goals for its students (with such devices as) computers, interactive whiteboards, mobile devices, websites, networks, servers, the Internet, phones, copiers, facsimile machines, televisions, email accounts and licensed softwear." The clause further states that failure to comply could result in revocation of privileges, suspension or dismissal. Then, the policy outlines 14 lengthy guidelines. TAUP was adopted by Durham in 1996 and last updated in 2012. That's a dozen years ago. Since then, I suggest, what were minor disciplinary problems in schools have become epidemic.

I taught at the college level for nearly 20 years (until 2017) just as cellphone use became ubiquitous. As a journalism and broadcasting instructor, I tried in vain to incorporate my students' device use to internet data gathering, source searching, and wireless transfer of their photos and stories. Inevitably, all the other stuff they could find on their phones got in the way. My students continually texted in class. They group chatted all the time or YouTube surfed. Frankly, the horse is long out of the barn on intrusive phone use. What's more, teachers have enough to deal with in class without becoming cellphone use cops. It's a culture that needs addressing not with a ban, but with government funding to improve students' habits and mental health.

Nearly all students interviewed on the streets the past few days have called the government's actions "too authoritative," "an invasion of privacy" and "impossible to implement." Tristan Kim, president of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association, told the *Toronto Star* that taking students' cellphones away is like "handing over a wallet." Yes, rules are sometimes difficult to swallow, but I echo one parent's poignant reminder on CBC Radio, "Cellphones are a privilege, not a right," she said.

And there might be the heart of the problem. The Ford government can introduce legislation to ban all it likes and claim, as the premier did, "It's not that complicated." But I believe unless parents and grandparents deal with cellphone use at a child's homework desk, around the kitchen table and in the family car first, bans in classes won't likely work.

Perhaps a sip of permissiveness may avoid a whole vat of penalty.

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





PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION UNDER THE AGGREGATE RESOURCES ACT

Goodwood Pit Extension

Name of Applicant: Lafarge Canada Inc.

Application Details:

This application is for a Licence for a new pit adjacent to an established pit.

This application proposes a Class A licence to excavate no more than 1,177,000 tonnes of aggregate each year (annual limit) from a below the ground water table pit. The proposed site is 17.9 hectares in size with 15.4 hectares proposed for extraction. The pit extension is proposed to be located at Part of Lot 20, Concession 3, Township of Uxbridge, Region of Durham (4900 Concession 4, Township of Uxbridge).

Public Information Session

An in-person Public Information Session will be held on Monday, June 3, 2024, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Goodwood Community Centre, located at 268 Durham Regional Hwy 47, Goodwood, ON

Digital copies of the technical reports and Site Plan for the application can be downloaded from: www.lafarge.ca/en/goodwood-pit-extension

Applicant Contact Information:

For more information about the Application, please contact

Chris Galway email: chris.galway@lafarge.com phone: 905-738-7732 6509 Airport Road Mississauga, ON, L4V 1S7

Providing Comments on the Application:

Any person(s) wishing to comment on this application must send, in writing, their comments to the Applicant (at the email address above) and send a copy to: **ARAapprovals@ontario.ca** or if email is not available, Integrated Aggregate Operations Section, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 300 Water Street, Peterborough ON K9J 3C7.

The last day on which comment(s) may be filed with the **Applicant** and **Ministry** is:

The **2nd** day of **July**, **2024**.

Note: If you choose to participate in the *Aggregates Resources Act* (ARA) notification and consultation process, all personal information (PI) you provide may be subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA), whether provided to the Applicant or MNRF at any point during the consultation process. The MNRF collects your PI under the authority of s. 11, s.13.1, s.23, s. 35 and other provisions of the ARA and maintains it for the purposes of ensuring consultation and other requirements in the ARA are met. Under the authority of s. 11(2),s.13.1(3), s.23(7), s.35(2) of the ARA, your name and address will form part of the public record (that is available to the general public as described in s 37 of FIPPA) and will appear with your comments, unless you request in your submission that your name and address be kept confidential. If you have any questions about the collection and use of your personal information, please contact Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Natural Resources Information and Support Centre (NRISC) 300 Water Street Peterborough ON K9J 3C7 Toll free: 1-800-667-1940.

Run for the Diamond to help with new hospital build

Justyne Edgell Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On June 23, runners will be taking their marks for the 2024 Run for the Diamond in support of the Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary.

Seventeen years ago, a group of women from the Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary began this grass roots event as a family-friendly run or walk to raise money for the Uxbridge Hospital.

The Run for the Diamond is a timed event with a shirt, finisher medal and a bite to eat included for all registrants. And the name of the event doesn't disappoint. A diamond pendant has been donated by Rutledge Jewellers - all participants 16 and older will be automatically entered in the draw to win it.

"Last year we had approximately 325 runners signed up, and it was an exceptional year, raising approximately \$34,000," says Auxiliary

volunteer and Run for the Diamond coordinator, Michelle Baker.

With the build of a new Uxbridge Hospital on the horizon, the Auxiliary says that all funds raised by this year's run will be donated to the rebuild on behalf of the Auxiliary.

The 5km route will be a full road run, with the 10km route starting on the road then dipping into the Countryside Preserve for a chance

...continued on next page



The Uxbridge Cosmos Thursday, May 2, 2024

....from previous page

o experience some of Uxbridge's renowned trail system.

"We are following the same steps as the last two years," says Baker.

"The Lions Club will have its food booth open (in Elgin Park), the Uxbridge Fire Department will be on site with Sparky and Betsy, the old fire truck. Dan Pollard of 105.5 Hits FM will be our MC at the start and finish line. There will be random draws, and awards for top finishers. And of course the draw for the diamond!."

Those interested in registering to run can sign up at www.runuxbridge.com, and Baker says they are always welcoming additional sponsors and volunteers to lend a hand.

"Donations can be made online, and anyone interested in volunteering can email me at kukla1@hotmail.com. Without the local businesses and community support we wouldn't be able to pull this event off!"

Until the end of May Boston Pizza Uxbridge has a promotion where five per cent of proceeds will be donated to Run for the Diamond.

MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the April monthly draw for the 2024

Trip of the Month Club.

The 'Baja Beauty' trip was won by Scott Davidson ticket #435. sold by Fran Taylor.

2nd place, \$150, won by Joseph Ekpaha-Mensah ticket #144, sold by Cyndie Jacobs.

3rd place, \$100, won by Rosslyn Meissner ticket #430, sold by Fran Taylor.

Congratulations to our April winners, and best of luck for the May 2024 draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge, Trip of the Month Club! The trip package 'Aurora Borealis' includes round trip flights from Toronto to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories; 7-nights' accommodation at the 4-star Chateau Nova Yellowknife in a king room; 6-hour Northern Lights Tour to the Auroral Oval; and a 5-hour Yellowknife Cameron Falls HikingTour, including a picnic.

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

Rotary Club of Uxbridge



Early Bird Discounted Registration until May 15

for Hospice

June 2nd - Palmer Park, Port Perry



REGISTER OR DONATE: HIKE4HOSPICE.COM

Proceeds from the Hike for Hospice support compassionate end-of-life services at Oak Ridges Hospice

J.J.McGuire
Presenting Sponsor

Energizing Life

hydro Gne

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The heart of lake country has a bright future with growing needs. With new local businesses in town and thriving education and healthcare sectors, it's a beautiful place to call home.

Hear from locals on the value our system upgrades bring to town.

Benefits to you and your community



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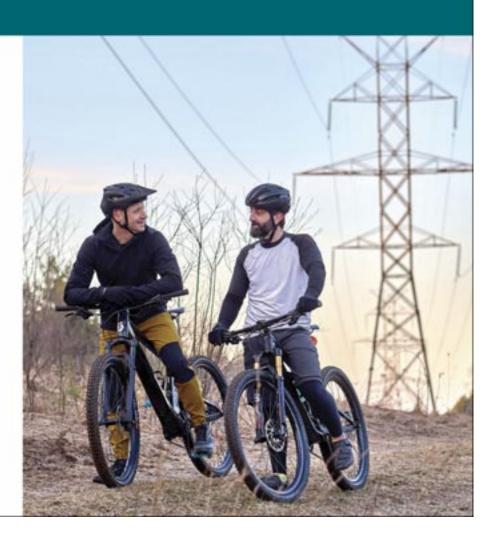


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Learn more: HydroOne.com/everyday



The Uxbridge Cosmos Thursday, May 2, 2024



It's time to put you first.

Are you overwhelmed by running your household? If so, consider the convenience and freedom of personalized retirement services and the warmth of a vibrant community at Aspira Douglas Crossing.

Call 1-866-959-4848 to book a tour today



6 Douglas Road, Uxbridge aspiralife.ca



The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

Spring treasures

Thanks to Mark for suggesting a spring treasure-hunt-checklist. It'll soon be lush and green along the trails of Uxbridge. Wildlife, tree, shrubs, and wildflowers will be bursting forth. Here's a dozen things to look or listen for while you're out exploring:

- 1. Chickadees singing their threenote ("I'm sex-y") breeding call,
- 2. Trilliums white ones, red ones, and unusual green-white combos,
- 3. Marsh marigolds gleaming bright yellow in wet ditches,
- 4. Coltsfoot looking like dandelions in dry gravel patches,

- 5. Trout lily with six drooping yellow petals and mottled oval leaves,
- 6. Bloodroot with a big wavy leaf cradling a flower-stem with several white petals,
- 7. Violets blue, purple, yellow, and white with heart-shaped veined leaves,
- 8. Ginger with bold heart-shaped fuzzy leaves,
- 9. Fiddlehead ferns gently unfurling,
- 10. Wrens declaring LOUDLY that this is their place in the world,
- 11. Redwing blackbirds squawking "conk-a-ree" from cattails,



12. Red squirrels proclaiming that everything the light touches is theirs!

There's SO much more – swans, ducks, swallows, tulips, daffodils, dandelions, maple syrup, butterflies, bird nests, baby bunnies, leaves on trees, lawns to mow, veggies to

plant, BBQ grilling - but you can make those discoveries yourself. What's on your list?

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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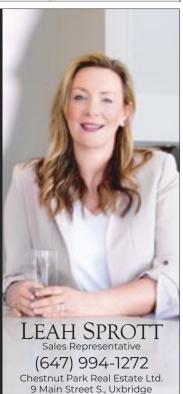
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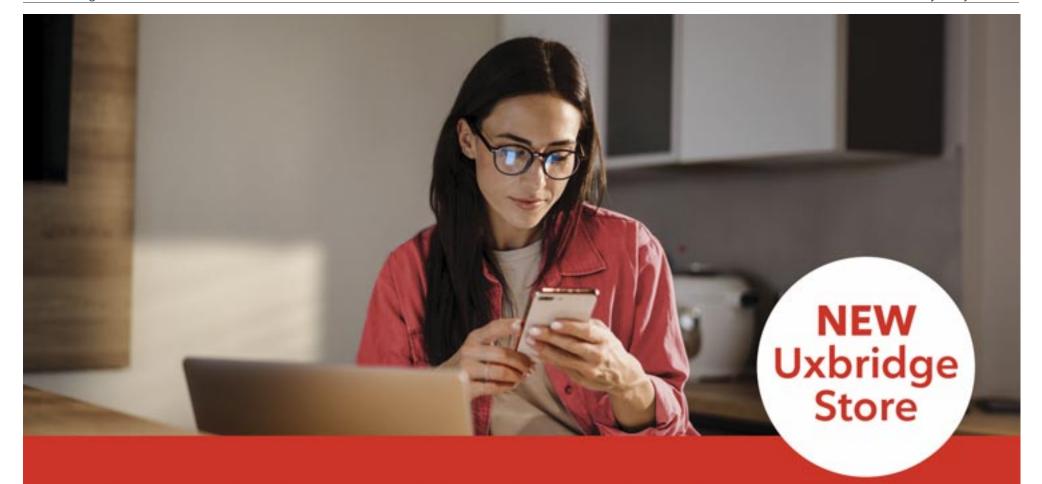
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Veterans, youth celebrate remembrance through art and literature

Over 100 people gathered at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 170 Uxbridge on Sunday, April 21, to recognize the accomplishments of all the participating students in the Royal Canadian Legion Annual Remembrance Poster and Literary Contests.

Through the contest, Canadian school children honour Canada's veterans through creative art and writing, and ultimately perpetuate remembrance.

Veterans, students, Legion members, teachers, family, and friends

gathered to view the exhibits, celebrate the accomplishments of the award winners and all of those who entered the contest, listen to guest speaker, D-Day veteran Jim Parks share a few words about his service and remembrance, and enjoy a time

of fellowship.

"It was our pleasure to watch the students show their contest entries to their family members," said Tish MacDonald, program director for the Honour Them Well Remembrance Program. "And then at the end of our ceremony, it was an absolute delight to watch the students show their entries to the veterans and engage in wonderful conversations."

Said UN Peacekeeping veteran Al Bainbridge, "I was really pleased to see all the talent, individuality, and work put into the artwork by the students. I was really impressed by one family with four children who won prizes and were very knowledgeable about what the veterans did."

Each year, thousands of students across the country submit entries for the National Poster and Literary Contest. MacDonald says she is thankful to Uxbridge teachers and parents for encouraging their students/children to take part in the contest and participate in the action of Remembrance.

Information for the 2024-2025 contest will be distributed to schools in the fall and shared in print and on social media. Information can also be found at legion.ca/.../youth.../remembrance-contests



Local students show off their award-winning artwork and writing at an awards ceremony at the Legion on Saturday, April 21. Their pieces were personally shown to local veterans who attended the ceremony.

*Photo submitted by Tish MacDonald**





A nod to Maud - celebrating 150 years

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

As space permits, from now until Maud's Nov. 30 birthday, the Cosmos is offering a short excerpt from LMM's own journals, written during her Leaskdale years. The journals, edited by Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston of the University of Guelph, are published by Oxford University Press.

Maud's first son, Chester, was born in July of 1912. Understandably, he featured prominently in the journals for several months afterward, including in this entry of December 1, 1912:

"Sonny Punch keeps well and good, sunshiny and happy. He is growing so fast. His dear little body is so firm and plump and shapely and comical. I love to handle it, and he has such darling, funny smiles, and chuckles, and the most enviable knack of always laughing at exactly the right place in your remarks.

But happy and sheltered as he is, he cannot escape the common foes of humanity. From the beginning he was acquainted with pain. Yea, at his first breath, he met that grisly enemy, and the other day the second greatest woe of our race came upon him. Fear entered into his little experience. I never saw him afraid before, but one morning I was nursing him in the dining room. Frede opened the kitchen door, Daffy was just inside, and on the threshold was a stray tom whom the soul of Daff hated. Both cats

split the air with that fiendish shriek of conflict, which only cats can give. Poor little Punch shrank away from my breast with a cry of terror, the pitiful, agonized cry I've heard him give when a spasm of pain shook his wee body. Into his little eyes came a questioning, haunted look of dread, his darling face, blanched and quivered. I caught him close to me and comforted him until he forgot about it, but ah, little son, someday there may come a fear into your life, such as not even your mother can

charm away."





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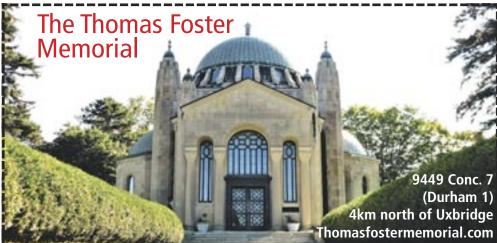
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May 17 - Justin Dillon - Hand Pan

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May 24 - Wayne Madder - Guitar

Wayne's music is jazz/blues, country, folk. Single "Crack in the Wall" was on the winning album at the 2022 Oshawa Music Awards.

May 31 - Harpin Norm Lucie, Harmonica & Guitar

Folk music. He writes music & has played in many other countries, in Nashville & across southern Ontario.

June 7 - Ferrport Ensemble

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June 14 - Bob Vopni - Fingerstyle Guitarist

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June 21 - Scot Benson & Susan - Flute & Guitar

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EVENTS

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LEASKDALE LOOP DAY, Saturday, May 11. Self guided tour to 11 unique destinations: art, woodworking, pottery, historical sites, farm market, cider, syrup, flowers and more. For details, visit leaskdaleloop.ca



USC swimmer, alumni going to Olympic trials

There's no treading water for the Uxbridge Swim Club (USC) - it's dived right into the season, and hard work is paying of for both swimmers and coaches.

Club member Chloe Walker will represent USC at the 2024 Canadian Olympic Trials, which launch May 13, at the Toronto Pan AM Sport Centre. Additionally, USC Alumni Hannah Cornish and Shannon Meadway will also be swimming at the Olympic trials.

At the beginning of April, several members of USC attended the 2024 Speedo Canadian Swimming Open

Recently (April 10 - 14, 2024), Swimming Canada hosted the Speedo-sponsored event, also held at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre. This first annual Canadian open was an international event that showcased the top athletes in the nation, as well as visiting nations. With a qualifying standard of senior nationals, USC was represented by three athletes - Tristan McKinney, Haseeb Tariq and Chloe Walker. Both McKinney and Tariq advanced to the finals - McKinney in the 200 Breast, and Tariq in the 50

USC recently hosted a swim meet

in Uxpool for the first time with the new diving blocks and lane ropes. USC hosted seven swim clubs from the Durham region and



Uxbridge Swim Club head coach Sarah Steinke has been accepted to an elite coaching program by Swimming Canada. Submitted photo

The Uxbridge Swim Club is hosting four weeks of summer swim camps, beginning July1 and running until July 26. Interested parties reach out uscuxinfo@gmail.com for more information.

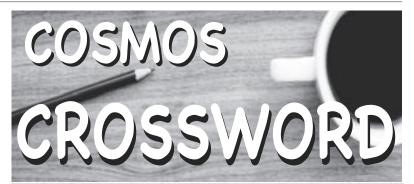
Finally, the USC has announced that its head coach, Sarah Steinke, has been selected as one of 12 coaches from across Canada to participate in Swimming Canada's High-Performance Coach Development Program.

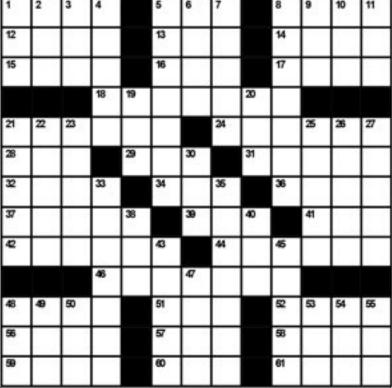
The program begins in September 2024, and runs for 15-18 months.

"The additional skill set Coach Sarah will gain from the program will no doubt add to her already formidable Uxbridge Swim Club toolbox, for the benefit of all USC swimmers" said Laura Lee, president of the USC board of directors, adding, "We are so proud of her achievements."

According to the USC, in the Select Coach program, coaches learn practical skills in eliciting positive training adaptations through creating an environment for growth, through knowing how to plan and implement appropriate training progression, and through embracing transformational leadership. A key focus will be to "Build the Engine" through consistent aerobic development and distance work.

The program will be led by Swimming Canada high-performance staff and will include structured initiatives over a 15-month period.





Across

1. Expert

5. Ciao

8. All ___ Jazz

12. Blood-related 13. Blockhead

- 14. Uncivil
- 15. Office fill-in
- 16. Bobby of the Bruins
- 17. Eager
- 18. Oriental
- 21. Victory symbols in World War II
- 24. Hanging strand
- 28. Finale
- 29. Hither's partner
- 31. Florida city
- 32. Trot or canter
- 34. Spoil
- 36. Nip partner
- 37. Underway
- 41. Linda ____, Supergirl's alias
- 42. Spice
- 44. Together
- 46. Postman's tote
- 48. Indian dress
- 51. By way of
- 52. Strip of wood
- 56. Ballyhoo
- 57. To is human

- 58. Mishmash
- 59. Skirt lines
- 60. Seize suddenly
- 61. Kind of column

Down

- 1. Hood's gun
- 2. Four stringed guitar (abbr.)
- 4. Pull out a dowel
- 5. Develop well
- 6. Turkic tent
- 7. Protected bird
- 8. Pass through
- 9. Expression of affection
- 10. Commotion
- 11. In___rity
- 19. Whatever
- 20. Butt
- 21. Vegetarian
- 22. In a state of chaos
- 23. Fool
- 25. ___ Ste. Marie
- 26. Master of ceremonies
- 27. Was sweet on
- 30. Shuteye
- 33. British troops, in slang
- 35. Pie content
- 38. Drink with jam and bread?
- 40. Code of life
- 43. Accepting that...
- 45. Eskimo dwelling
- 47. Italian currency
- 48. Movie theatre talk
- 49. Yes, captain
- 50. Dashboard abbr.
- 53. Austrian peak
- 54. Knot
- 55. Construction site container

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Letters to the editor, from page 4

dispute, change orders in dispute, invoices yet to be received by the Township, cost of claims covered or expected to be covered by the Township's insurance policy (via DMIP) and any and all current or future claims (including related future legal costs), which have yet to be settled.'

Two years have now passed since this report was written. An update

doggy daycare and

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is overdue.

I am looking forward to a full financial report on the culvert project and expect a full report from the mayor outlining my alleged mismanagement of funds. It is up to Mayor Barton, as my accuser, to provide proof to back his claims.

> Gerri Lynn O'Connor Uxbridge

The mayor probably knows that he will never be elected in



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Uxbridge again. Same is probably true for the PM in Ottawa for Canada. So this is their last hurray.

Suck it to the public, bleed them dry, let's grab as much money as possible and run.

They must hate everyone of their citizens, otherwise they'd act differ-

We now have a chance to find out which of our town councillors is truly in it for the love of the town and the people. The ones who refuse to go along with this insane money grab should be reelected next time around.

We're sure there has to be some real honest thinking people among them. We're also sure none of them would be starving without the extra few dollars in their pockets.

Let's see if anyone steps forward to refuse the mayor's money grab. We couldn't believe our eyes when we read that the increase goes even back to 2022, is this guy out of his mind? This is criminal.

> Louise Mueller Uxbridge

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While all residents are indebted to our council members for the considerable time, effort, creativity and commitment they bring to their work on Uxbridge council, I

don't think any are prepared to reimburse them inappropriately without seeing a factual case being presented to justify any increases.

Upon reading of the salary adjustments, my first thought was, "How do these new salaries and benefits compare with the salaries and benefits paid to councillors in similar-sized municipalities in the GTHA?"

Absolutely no one begrudges our councillors fair remuneration for their work on our behalf, but all increases should be transparent and factually justifiable.

I think the CAO should publish: a justification for any proposed increases in councillors' remuneration, and a comparison of remuneration schedules for councillors in Uxbridge Township, Scugog Township, Town of Clarington, King Township and perhaps one more small munici-

Interested taxpayers could obtain a copy at the municipal office.

> Tom Robinson Uxbridge

Re: 'Am I wrong?' April 25 edition

Well, to each his own. But for Roger Varley to blame Uxbridge for changes in, or the demise of past attractions is a bit much. Guilty for being the location? Not exactly the only place in the world where this happens.

Attractions usually alter their format because the formula isn't working anymore. Interests and populations change. It's a constant challenge to keep the subject rele-

I would have expected a bit more investigation into the whys and not just bemoaning the what.

The Huck Finn Derby - looked successful pre-pandemic, but was it already experiencing a decline in interest? 2023 tried an expansion to one week. Why? What was learned from it - was the extended time really popular? What was the reasoning behind the 2024 format - surely it wasn't just an arbitrary decision?

And you can't even compare the YDHR situation unless you are suggesting mismanagement underlies all the examples given. And that would be pretty arrogant. Come on, Roger. Things aren't like they used to be.

> Judy Bracewell **Uxbridge**

Re: Uxbridge getting firearms store, April 25 edition

It seems as though the plan to add a gun store to downtown Uxbridge is well advanced. As residents and taxpayers, we certainly have not had an opportunity to express our views on this proposal. How has this happened? Is it a bizarre attempt to enhance the tourist options in our town?

It's entertaining to see that the proprietor prefers the term "firearms" to "guns." Understandably so, I suppose. Thanks to the U.S., we've seen that guns kill people; "firearms" have a lesser reputation. But for the sake of clarity, why don't we look at how a firearm is defined in section 2 of the Criminal Code of Canada:

"2. In this Act, firearm means a barrelled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other projectile can be discharged and that is capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to a person, and includes any frame or receiver of such a barrelled weapon and anything that can be adapted for use as a firearm...'

So let's forget about guns or firearms and start talking about barrelled weapons. That has a good ring to it and gives a better sense of what can happen if you get in the way of a malicious individual

...continued on next page



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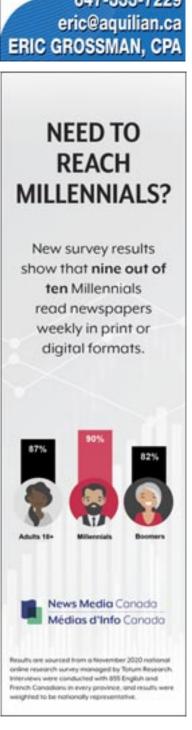
3 Brock Street West

Letters, from previous page

with a firearm.

In looking for more information on this subject, I found a photograph of a gun store in Windsor with, literally, hundreds of weapons on display. Is this what we have to look forward to? How will this store be secured? What will happen to "our" store if it is swarmed by a horde of young people one Saturday afternoon? Will our community have to deploy more police officers to patrol in the area of this new store to prevent such swarmings? Who will protect an individual exiting the store with an obvious new purchase? I almost ignored the reference to "archery equipment" in the article.





I assume the proprietor wasn't talking about cute little multicolour bows and arrows. Instead, that same source I found in Windsor shows highly refined crossbows with model names such as Assassin, Wolverine, or Twinstrike. Archery equipment indeed.

One final comment. A gun store

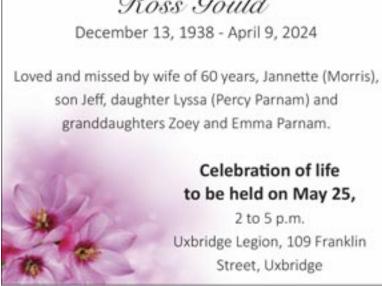
in rural Ontario that I found a reference to offers a shooting range so that an individual can try out a weapon before purchasing it. This makes a lot of sense - but will be totally unavailable (one hopes) in downtown Uxbridge. So what's the solution? Converting the paved vacant land north of Brock Street

into a shooting range? Or perhaps a convoy out to a range where an individual can randomly try out a couple of rifles? What could possibly go wrong?

In a downtown that is struggling, we do not need a gun store and the prospect of violence that it introduces.

> Dianne Horton Uxbridge

Ross Gould





On April 20, 2024, after a long and brave battle with Lewy Body Dementia and Parkinson's disease, Tom passed from this life with his wife, Sharon, by his side.

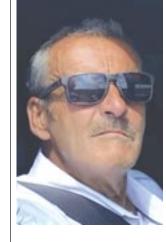
Tom was born in Toronto to Thomas and Agnes Davidson (deceased). He lived in Toronto and Scarborough until November 2015, when he and Sharon sold their home and moved to the town of Uxbridge to enjoy the peace and quiet of small-town living.

Tom had a very successful 42-year career as an electrical design draftsman until his retirement at age 60. During his life, he played many sports, including bowling, curling, golf and hockey, which he played right up until his early 50s. He also coached his son, Todd, in soccer and hockey. He was a passionate supporter of the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Toronto Blue Jays. Tom enjoyed woodworking, and many family members and friends have his projects in their homes. He especially enjoyed getting together with family and friends during the holidays at his home and at his in-law's cottage in Muskoka. Tom was a gentleman, kind and generous to all.

Tom is survived by his wife of 38 years, Sharon; son Todd (Terri); stepchildren Donna, Stephen (Denise); grandchildren Mackenzie, Tyrone, Tavish, Kristyna, Ryan, Matthew and Cameron; and greatgrandchild Nolan; sister Pat (Joe "Moose"); nieces Brenda and Tricia and families; and brother-in-law Mike (Lonnie). Tom will be dearly missed by many including close friends Bill, Corinne, Marg, and good buddy Doug.

The family would like to send a special thank you to the staff at Uxbridge Hospital and the Beaver River unit at Lakeview Manor LTC in Beaverton, for their care, compassion, and the love that they showed Tom. Especially to those who joked around with Tom and brought out his sense of humour and that wonderful smile of his.

A Remembrance Gathering will be held in Tom's honour at a future date to be announced. To send a donation in Tom's memory, the family has chosen the following organizations: The Alzheimer's Society Durham Region or Uxbridge Hospital Foundation.



Dale, Mark Ronald

Peacefully, at Quinte Health Care North Hastings Hospital, Bancroft, on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

Mark Dale, age 63, of Cardiff, was the beloved husband of Darlene (Hayward) Dale. Loving father of Lucas (Karley) Dale, and Halle (Alec) Dale. Son of Ronald Dale and Donna Leitch, and brother of Perry and Ronnie. Fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Mark's Life will take place at The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 170 (109 Franklin St. Uxbridge, ON) on Saturday, June 8, 2024, from 1 - 4 p.m. As expressions of sympathy, donations to a charity of choice would be appreciated by the family.

Arrangements entrusted to M.G. Daly Funeral Home, Maynooth. 613-338-3259 Condolence messages may be e-mailed to dalyfuneralhome@bellnet.ca or visit www.mgdalyfuneralhome.com

Walker, Helen Adele (née Darlington)

July 27, 1930 - April 28, 2024

Passed away peacefully, after a brief illness at Uxbridge Hospital, at the age of 93. Adele was born and raised in Toronto, the daughter of Harold and Phyllis Darlington. She was a graduate of John Wanless Public School and Lawrence Park Collegiate. She then attended the University of Toronto to train as a



dental nurse. On September 27, 1952, she married Donald Ian Forbes Walker and was a full-time mother to their three sons - Douglas, David and Derek - in addition to actively caring for her parents and grandchildren. She was an avid crossword puzzler and reader; kind, generous and giving to everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Adele was predeceased by her husband Donald and son Douglas. She is survived by sons David (Lisa) and Derek (Leslie), daughter-in-law Teresa, sister Norein, niece Deanne (Ray) as well as her grandchildren Elizabeth, Christina (Joe), Catherine (Chaitanya), Cheryl (Mark), William, Alexandra, Liam and step-grandchildren Jennifer and Robert, as well as many great-grandchildren.

Many thanks to the staff at Douglas Crossing Retirement Community, and the staff at the Uxbridge Hospital.

Cremation has been entrusted to Low & Low Funeral Home, Uxbridge. Friends may express their condolences or make donations to Muscular Dystrophy Canada or to The Uxbridge Hospital by visiting





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