

# The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 18

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, May 4, 2023

Photos mark Red Dress Day on May 5 • Olympic dreams • A quick media lesson



**A TOOTH FAIRY IN UXBRIDGE** - Uxbridge's favourite variety show, 'uxperience,' is back this weekend at the Uxbridge Music Hall, raising money for the Uxbridge Youth Centre. Above, the "skitters" practice a scene from "A Day in the Life," this year's 'uxperience' theme. For tickets to this year's show, visit [starticketing.com](http://starticketing.com) For information on dates and times, see ad on page 9. *Photo by John Covers*

## Pre-cast company makes concrete decision to be quiet neighbour

Conrad Boyce, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The *Cosmos's* series on the township's industrial sector is slowly getting closer to the urban centre. It began out at Uxville, west of Goodwood, then moved to Slabtown Cider, south of town on Conc. 6. Then it moved into town with Hela Spice, across the street from Uxpool. And now, right on the edge of downtown, is one of the town's longest-established industrial citizens. But long-time residents and newcomers like might not have noticed that Newmarket Pre-Cast is even there, because the seven-acre site is surrounded by woods on the east and a high wall on the west. Even a regular visitor to Victoria Street, shopping at the Farmers' Market or dining on the patio at the Second Wedge Brewing Co. (both of which will be coming back to life on the Tornado-versary weekend,

May 19-21, although indoor dining at the Wedge will still have to wait a while), might not have noticed the busy-ness at the north end of the street. Things are just a lot quieter at Pre-Cast these days.

As the name suggests, the company actually got its start more than 50 years ago, on Davis Drive just east of Leslie, when Newmarket was still a small town, and Highway 404 just a dream on paper. Leo Spiering had actually begun the company in his Holland Landing garage, but when he decided to move his family back to the Netherlands in 1970, he sold out to a customer, Roy Weddel, and a family dynasty began.

Spiering had dabbled in just about everything concrete - even garden sculpture - but Weddel decided to focus on septic tanks and other large concrete products. In 1982, he purchased the

site of Uxbridge Concrete on Victoria Street, which had been here since 1960, and entrusted the operation of the satellite plant to his son Brian. Only a few years later, he shut down the Newmarket operation and expanded the Uxbridge one, and the reputation of NPC spread. The company is now the industry leader in Ontario, and will ship anywhere in Canada if the customer needs it.

So that explains the first part of the name. But what does Pre-Cast mean?

"Building a septic tank is a lot like making a cake," explains Brian Weddel, "except that our pans are a bit bigger. Our smallest tank, for the system of a small house, is 3,600 litres, producing a four-ton tank. Our biggest, the kind most industrial facilities would use, is 68,000 litres. We make them all right here."

...continued on page 6

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# Uxbridge at a Glance

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The Township of  
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Trail Capital of Canada

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MORE INFO  [www.uxbridge.ca](http://www.uxbridge.ca)

## Council & Committee Meetings

### Meeting Schedule for May

Monday, May 8, 10:00 a.m.  
COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.  
HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 10, 7:00 p.m.  
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

Monday, May 15, 10:00 a.m.  
GENERAL PURPOSE AND  
ADMINISTRATION MEETING

Tuesday, May 23, 7:00 p.m.  
BIA BOARD MEETING

### Proclamations for May

- Asian Heritage Appreciation Month
- Community Living Month
- May 1-7 - Mental Health Week
- May 4 - International Firefighters Day
- May 5 - Red Dress Day
- May 8 - National Nursing Week
- May 10 - Anti-Asian Racism Day
- May 17 - International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- May 18 - Global Accessibility Awareness Day
- May 19 - Personal Support Worker Day
- May 20 - Asian Gold Ribbon Day
- May 20 - World Bee Day
- May 21 - World Day for Cultural Diversity
- May 21-27 - Paramedic Appreciation Week
- May 25-29 - Durham Pride Week
- May 28-June 3 - National Accessibility Week
- May 31 - Red Shirt Day

## Horseshoes at the Museum

Come try playing Horseshoes at the Uxbridge Historical Centre any Tuesday evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m., behind the red brick schoolhouse. Cost is \$20 to play for the season (May to October), and includes membership to the Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society. This membership entitles you to free guided tours of the UHC, use of the UHC archives, invitations to member-only events such as exhibit openings and our guest speaker series. For further information, contact Bob Kirvan at 905-852-9176.

## Employment Opportunities

Complete details and qualifications required for these positions are available at [uxbridge.ca/careers](http://uxbridge.ca/careers)

### Current Opportunities

**Treasury – Deputy Treasurer, full-time, permanent**

Closes Friday, May 5, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

**Uxbridge Public Library – Facility Custodian, contract**

Closes Friday, May 5, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

**Public Works and Operations - Crossing Guards**

Resumés accepted on an ongoing basis

### Summer Opportunities

**Parks – Horticulture Worker, Adult Unskilled, contract (Union)**

Closes Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

**Uxbridge Historical Centre - Community Museum Technician, contract**

Closes Friday, May 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

**Tourism – Assistant Tourism Development Coordinator, summer student, contract**

Closes Friday, May 26, 2023

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

## Road Closures

- Lake Ridge Road from south of Chalk Lake Rd. to Townline Rd., May 1 - June 4  
Rehabilitation of Lake Ridge Road will require closure of the roadway.
- Main St. N. between Brock St. and Davis Dr., beginning approximately May 1. Road resurfacing will require the area to be closed to parking. Expect some delays in the area.
- Victoria St. between Brock St. W. and King St. W., Sundays beginning May 7 to the end of October, 7am and 3pm to facilitate the return of the Farmers' Market, located along Victoria St.
- Uxbridge East Gwillimbury Townline from north of Durham Reg. Rd. 39/Queensville Sideroad to south of Holborn Road, East Gwillimbury will be closed for bridge repairs, to 2024.
- Uxbridge East Gwillimbury Townline from York St. 500m south of Ravenshoe Road to Zephyr Road will be closed for bridge repairs, to January 2024.

## The Thomas Foster Memorial

9449 Conc. 7 (Durham 1) 4km North of Uxbridge  
[www.thomasfostermemorial.com](http://www.thomasfostermemorial.com) Fridays at the Foster 2023 Concert Series. Every Friday night from 7:30pm - 8:30pm, May until September, 2023. Admission is by donation at the door.

### May

- 5 - Django Djunkies
- 12 - Garth Dynes - Blues Singer
- 19 - Justin Dillon - Hand Pan
- 26 - Bob Vopni - Fingerstyle Guitarist

### June

- 2 - Now and Then
- 9 - Wayne Madder - Guitar
- 16 - Ferrport Jazz Ensemble
- 23 - Douglas Mackenzie - Guitar
- 30 - Melanie Hebert - Vocals

### Meditation Sessions

May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14 and September TBA.

To Register: Call Beverly Northeast at 905-640-3966 or email at [beverlynortheast@gmail.com](mailto:beverlynortheast@gmail.com)

### Tours

July and August: The Foster is open for tours Wed to Sun. 11:30am - 4:30pm (except 3rd Sun. of July).

### Purchase a Plaque

In memory of a family member or family name (limited number to be sold). For more information: Beverly Northeast at 905-640-3966 or email at [beverlynortheast@gmail.com](mailto:beverlynortheast@gmail.com)

## Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to

[https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/business-and-development/bids-and-tenders.aspx?\\_mid\\_=23193](https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/business-and-development/bids-and-tenders.aspx?_mid_=23193)

- U23-15 - Traffic Control Marking. Closes May 4, 2023, at 2:00pm.
- U23-10 - Tree Planting. Closes May 5, 2023, at 2:00pm
- U23-08 - Sidewalk Installation and Repairs. Closes May 11, 2023, at 2:00pm
- U23-05 - Fire Extinguisher Maintenance. Closes May 18, 2023, at 12:00pm
- U23-14 - Supply, Deliver and Installation of Library shelving for Uxbridge Public Library. Closes May 25, 2023, at 2:00pm

## Street Sweeping

Street sweeping has begun and will take 6 – 8 weeks to complete, weather permitting. Please try not to park on the streets during this time. Please leave the sand on the road as there will not be any special pick-up of sand left in piles or in pails. It is acceptable to rake any sand that has accumulated on the boulevard into the curb and gutter prior to the sweeping of the street. Any areas that are missed due to parked cars will be redone after all sweeping is complete. **Schedule for sweeping:**

1. S/E corner of town
2. N/E corner of town
3. Rural subdivisions and hamlets
4. N/W corner of town
5. S/W corner of town
6. Town parking lots

(The town portion is divided into 4 areas with Brock & Main Streets as the centre point.)

**AVIAN FLU SAFETY**

- do not handle ill or dead birds
- leash pets, keep away from birds and bird droppings
- wash hands with soap and water after touching feeders
- consider removing feeders

Report ill or dead birds to Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Control at 905-985-9547

**COMPOST GIVEAWAY**

**Saturday, May 27th**  
8:00am to noon, or while supplies last  
Uxbridge Arena & Recreation Centre  
291 Brock St. W., Uxbridge

Learn more at [www.Uxbridge.ca](http://www.Uxbridge.ca)

**EFFECTIVE APRIL 28TH**

**THE FORMER FIRE HALL HAS BEEN SOLD**

Public parking is no longer available at 17 Bascom St.



Township of Uxbridge documents are available in alternate formats upon request. Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at [uxbridge.ca/accessibility](http://uxbridge.ca/accessibility)

email: [accessibility@uxbridge.ca](mailto:accessibility@uxbridge.ca)  
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209

## Artist's powerful photo series supports missing and murdered Indigenous women

Justyne Edgell

In time for National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women on May 5, local photographer and Preston Gallery owner, Sabrina Leeder, is showcasing her photo project, Reclaimed Voice, with purchases supporting the Native Women's Association of Canada.

Leeder, who has a background in Indigenous studies from university, was partly inspired by the model in her photos.

"My model, Megan Lheureux, wanted to do something to honour her heritage and her mother, and from there we came around to the idea of the handprint imagery that has been used in protests across Canada and the United States to bring light to missing and murdered Indigenous women."

The series is a portrait photography project that captures sorrow, courage, and resilience, while honouring the missing and murdered Indigenous women who can no longer speak for themselves.

"This emotionally-charged collection is a sobering reminder of an often ignored injustice, and a timeless tribute to the strength of the human spirit," says Leeder.

Leeder shares that she hopes this project will grow to be a traveling show, involving Indigenous women across the country.

"The next steps are really just getting in touch with more Indigenous women from across Canada who would like to participate in the project," says Leeder. "I'm hoping to start locally, but I'm also looking for women across the country to represent that this is not a localized issue."



One of a series of photos taken by Sabrina Leeder to acknowledge and honour Canadian murdered and missing Indigenous women. Photo by Sabrina Leeder

Currently, the Reclaimed Voice series can be viewed at: Preston Gallery; the PineRidge Arts Council's juried photography show in Ajax; at Forms Faces and Spaces: Figuratively Speaking, which is a contact satellite show location in Georgetown; La Galerie Perkins in Danville, Quebec; and at the Silo Gallery, located at the Dufferin County Museum as part of its "Unity in Diversity" juried show.

All the works in the series are for sale, with 20 per cent of the proceeds being donated to the Native Women's Association of Canada.

To purchase the pieces and to learn more, visit Preston Gallery online at [prestongallery.com/products/reclaimed-voice-by-sabrina-bia-leeder-2](http://prestongallery.com/products/reclaimed-voice-by-sabrina-bia-leeder-2)



## Uxbridge swimmer now an Olympic hopeful

Justyne Edgell

Uxbridge Swim Club member Chloe Walker has qualified to compete at the Olympic Trials in 2024.

On Friday, March 28, just two weeks after her 13th birthday, the young swimmer qualified for her first Olympic trials by meeting a time standard established by Swim Canada.

"Chloe qualified in the 1500m freestyle, swimming a time of 18:04.79, well under the standard of 18:11.55 set for all 18 and under athletes," says Uxbridge Swim Club coach, Sarah Steinke.

Ahead of trials next May, Walker will compete at her first nationals this August.

"She is so young, it is wild to think her second large championship meet of her life will get to be an Olympic trials," says Steinke.

Walker says that, when she looked up at the scoreboard at the end of her qualifying race, she was surprised.

"My goal for the race was to breathe every three strokes; I wasn't even

thinking about my time for this race. I feel as though my hard work, dedication to my training and trust in my coach has led to this success," exclaims Walker. "I did it!"

Steinke says that Walker is a textbook performance athlete.

"To me, a performance athlete is anyone who takes their sport home. Meaning, they don't just show up to practice every day but they are putting the work in at home to sleep on time, stretch, eat well, etc. That is truly what it takes to be high performance in sport."

Steinke has no plans to change Walker's training routine for the time being.

"Chloe is still a young kid! The most important part is that she is happy and enjoying her own journey," says Steinke. "I spend most of the time simply trying to keep her as positive and light-hearted as possible, because she puts more than enough pressure on herself"

Follow the Uxbridge Swim Club on Instagram, Facebook or visit [gomotionapp.com/team/canuscl/page/home](http://gomotionapp.com/team/canuscl/page/home)



### Udora Leaskdale Lions Club 37<sup>th</sup> Canoe River Run Fundraiser Saturday May 6, 2023

In past years, this event has raised over \$100,000 for Community Service

This year the proceeds will be donated to  
**UXBRIDGE HOSPITAL FOUNDATION**

The Start and Registration is on the Zephyr Road at the Pefferlaw River  
2 km west of Durham Road #1 and finishes at the Pefferlaw Dam  
Registration is from 8:00 am to 10:00 am

Minimum Pledge / Donation \$30.00 per Paddler  
Prizes for the most Pledges/Donations  
Top Prize is a Offset Smoker



A BBQ Hot Dog lunch at the Finish and a shuttle service back to the Start

**PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES TO JOIN THIS EVENT**

You must have a PFD/Life Preserver for each person in/on your watercraft

Download a Sponsor/Pledge Sheet at our website

[udoraleaskdalelionsclub.ca](http://udoraleaskdalelionsclub.ca) under the Activities page / Canoe River Run

or email Dave Minns at [ulic\\_events@gmail.com](mailto:ulic_events@gmail.com)



We Serve



Chloe Walker, left, and coach Sarah Steinke.

Submitted photo

# Our two cents

## Those who can, teach

Now that the Toronto Maple Leafs are in Round 2 of hockey play-offs, we are certain that the number of armchair coaches and hockey pros has increased tenfold. Almost every person watching the upcoming games will know better, do better, play better than the people actually doing the job on the ice/screen.

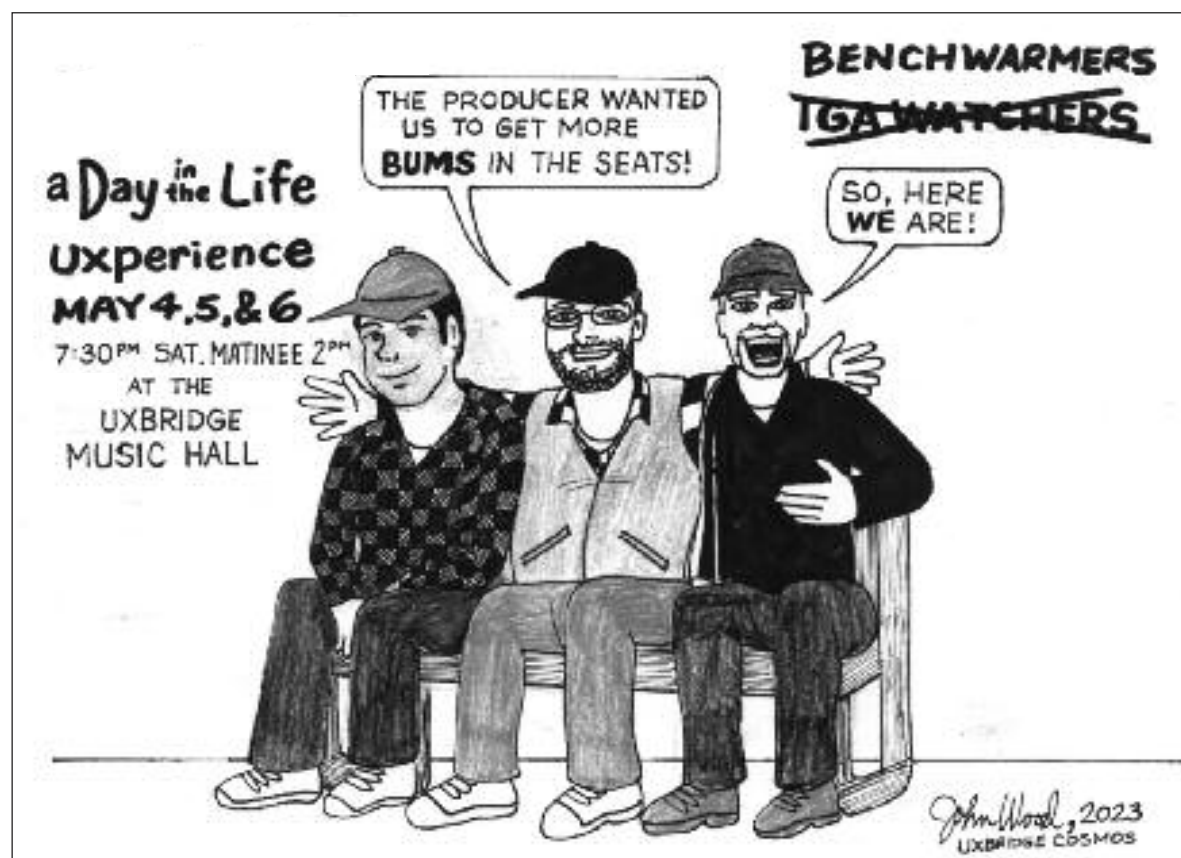
It appears that knowing better than those who *do* the job is a wide-spread phenomenon, as is evidenced by some of the letters to the editor we received regarding Roger Varley's "Am I wrong?" column from last week. So, what follows is a little lesson in media literacy.

To begin, Mr. Varley's piece, entitled "They walk among us," was an *opinion piece*. Not an article. For those who wrote that "an article should be fair, unbiased, present both sides," etc., etc., you're absolutely correct. A news article about an event that was covered should be exactly that. And the *Cosmos* strives to do that when writing and publishing news pieces. Opinion pieces, however, are exactly that. *Opinion*. They don't have to be balanced or fair - in fact, they're most often not. They must be factually accurate, should any facts be present, and not use language that, according to the National NewsMedia Council (of which the *Cosmos* is a member) "crosses a line." Other than that, they're one person's opinion at one point in time. You can either agree or disagree, or fall somewhere in between.

Mr. Varley was also scolded for somehow denying the gathering about which he was writing their "constitutional right to assemble." We offer a brief reminder of the constitutional right to freedom of expression. What's good for the goose...

We'll repeat here an offer that we've made in this column before. As indicated in the masthead below, the *Uxbridge Cosmos* does receive funding from the federal government - for the Local Journalism Initiative, and from the Special Measures for Journalism/Canadian Periodical Fund from Canada Heritage. We invite anyone who wishes to see how this money is spent to come and look through our bank records and all the correspondence associated with said funding. And we challenge them to find even one single instance where receiving that funding has led to the *Cosmos* writing either an article or an opinion piece (remember, there's a difference) favouring the government in power. To imply that receiving this funding makes us, a small-town, hyperlocal newspaper, beholden to the powers-that-be in any way is, quite frankly, rather humorous. The number of government ads we publish was also given as evidence of our being in bed with the enemy. That's just downright funny - both the provincial and federal governments are being heavily criticized right now for not spending nearly enough on advertising in traditional media outlets. We are in no way, as one writer implied, "propped up" by any level of government. Trust us, we ain't gettin' rich here.

Finally, to those who said the *Cosmos* only deserves to make one trip - from the mailbox to the recycling, we say thank you. We're glad you're being environmentally conscientious after you "haven't read this rag." If you don't want to receive this newspaper, no skin off our noses. Simply let your postal carrier know that you don't want it placed in your mailbox, and you shall be put upon no more. But if you've read far enough to receive that instruction, we *know* you're gonna miss us.



## Letters to the Editor

### Re: Possible provincial park for Uxbridge, April 27 edition

What a joke, the so called new provincial park for Uxbridge. Mayor Barton is looking forward to a remarkable economical difference for Uxbridge; he absolutely makes us laugh. We had all that already for many years, until this mayor and councillors decided to put a total stop to it. Every day of the week, we had hundreds of hikers and bikers that came from everywhere in the GTA to Uxbridge, the Trail Capital of Canada. After the hikes, these people would come in to town for lunch at restaurants and many did their shopping here.

All that stopped instantly when this mayor and councillors decided to electronically charge parking at the main trail heads. Now, no more hikers or mountain bikers. The parking lots are totally empty every day of the week. No more restaurant visits and shopping by the hundreds of people from out of town every week.

Uxbridge restaurants have lost customers. One would think that after a disastrous decision like that, the mayor and councillors would smarten up and reverse their decision - nope. Instead, we have by-law officers at the parking lots once in a while, waiting to hand out a parking ticket to people who do not live in Uxbridge.

Most of us know that there are building applications for roughly 850 new houses between Conc. 6 and Main St. on our best farmland. As far as we know, two different developers. So far, the people of

Uxbridge are strictly against this building insanity. Could it be that they offer Uxbridge a useless, small provincial park that the government doesn't need anyway, for permission to build all these houses on our best farmland?

Please, people, keep a close watch on our local developments and our politicians. Many of our roads are crumbling away, but a fortune was spend on unneeded repeating traffic signs that do nothing for traffic safety. One simple sign at the entrance of Uxbridge could have done it, saying speed limits in town is 40 km/h. What a waste of taxpayers money.

Louise Mueller  
Uxbridge

### Re: Enbridge distribution pipeline to the hamlet of Sandford

Please do not put any investment dollars into bringing natural gas to new places.

Please do not encourage all these homes to convert from propane to natural gas. I am not and have never been involved in the heat pump industry, but our home in Sandford has always been heated with a heat pump and the new small ones are so much better. We should encourage the homes in Sandford to invest in heat pumps and electric water heaters as they transition away from propane. We would all benefit.

Elizabeth Carswell  
Sandford

### Re: Foster at the Foster concert

Under the very capable direction of

Conrad Boyce, three concerts were held at the Foster Memorial on April 15 and 16. A quartet of singers - Leslie Higgins, Laura Hughson, Julien Kelland, and Renae Wolfesberger - presented the lyrical music of Stephen Foster (1826-1864).

These four young voices absolutely entranced the full-house audiences with their delightful renditions of Foster's music. It simply soared and danced high into the domes of the Foster. Jane Loewen added her skilled and talented piano and guitar accompaniment.

We do want to express our deepest and most sincere thanks to Conrad. His book "Jewel on the Hill" truly captures the essence of this iconic and unique building, and is the only one of its kind about the Foster.

Thank you again, Conrad.

Hilary A. Balmer  
President, Friends of the  
Thomas Foster Memorial

### Re: 'Am I wrong?', April 27 edition

Am I Wrong? The answer to this question with regards to your ridiculous articles is nearly always YES.

The subtitle of your column, "They walk among us," says everything we need to know about you as a person and so-called journalist.

Judging from the media and government attitudes on display these days, not to mention the social contagion it creates, (Roger Varley) seems to personify what it is to be a 'typical' Canadian today:

...continued on page 9

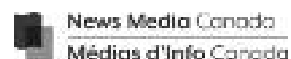
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9,600 copies of the Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge and delivered by Canada Post.



## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Long live the king!

In a couple of days, Charles III will officially be crowned as king. And, yes, that means king of Canada!

Apparently, there are many Canadians who don't like the idea. According to a recent poll, around 60 per cent of Canadians do not want to recognize Charles as their monarch, and another poll suggests only 19 per cent want Canada to remain a constitutional monarchy.

As an immigrant from England, it's no surprise that I welcome Charles' coronation and wish him well. It is my belief he will perform his role admirably, given the example set for him by his mother, Queen Elizabeth II. As I have pointed out before, he is a talented man. He has flown helicopters in the Royal Air Force, commanded ships in the Royal Navy, is the first British monarch to ever receive a university degree, runs his estates in an ecologically sustainable manner, is well versed in architecture and history, was a polo competitor - and plays the cello.

Nevertheless, there are many who would prefer Canada to become a republic, severing all ties with the monarchy. So, in order to fulfill their wishes, this country would have to change its constitution.

Easy, you say? Not quite as simple as you might think. Under the constitution's amending formula, to abolish the monarchy means unanimous approval is required from the Senate, the House of Commons, and the legislatures of at least seven of the provinces, so long as those provinces contain at least 50 per cent of Canada's population. This formula is also required to abolish the Senate or to change the composition of the Supreme Court of Canada.

The key word there is "unanimous" and unanimity is extremely hard to come by. The Meech Lake Accord of the 1970s fell apart when Elijah Harper, a First Nations member of the Manitoba legislature, cast the only "No" vote when that chamber met to ratify the accord. There's a lot more to that story, but basically one man prevented a major change to the constitution.

Given that scenario, it is highly unlikely that a constitutional change to scrap the monarchy will ever pass. But for those who would

like to see such a change, what would they like to see replace the monarchy? A president? If we had a president, what would that role entail? Would it be purely ceremonial, with the president merely signing into law bills that have been passed by Parliament, pretty much what Charles does now by way of the governor-general and the lieutenant-governors? If that is the case, I personally see no reason to change the constitution just to replace one person with another.

Or would a president be a full-blown political position and, if so, how would a president be voted into office? By the party in power, by the general public? At least, with a monarch, we know the royal personage would not be embroiled in political machinations and wouldn't have to face the possibility of replacement every four years. The monarchy offers, if nothing else, a sense of continuity, a sense of tradition.

One might ask those opposed to the institution how their lives will be improved by abolishing it. There would be, of course, the usual huffing and puffing about the money we could save by not supporting the monarchy, but in 2016, the Monarchist League of Canada estimated that it then cost about \$1.53 per person for Canada to remain a constitutional monarchy. To save the cost of a small cup of coffee, would we want to go through the ordeal of what would surely be a constitutional crisis? I don't think so.

If you are against the idea of Canada having a king, fine. Go about life as usual. King Charles III won't be doing anything to raise your taxes, he won't be selling off publicly owned land to private investors, he won't be taking away your guns. He'll just be tradition.

Tradition is part of our life. In Parliament, we have the Black Rod, a tradition that dates back to medieval England. Our judges wear robes, speakers of the legislatures wear robes, the raising and lowering of the national flag at forces bases is accompanied by ceremony. Tradition.

It seems to me that ditching a tradition simply because some people don't like it is a quick way for a nation to lose its soul.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### So what if it's only the first round

For me, last Saturday night was one of those "Where were you?" moments. I'd spent the day travelling to and from Brantford and made it home just in time to plunk myself down in front of the TV for part of game six of the Leafs-Lightning first-round Stanley Cup playoff. I caught the end of regulation time with the score tied 1-1. Finally (because I sometimes watch games on CBC and listen to them on the radio simultaneously), I heard Joe Bowen's call as John Tavares's shot trickled past Tampa netminder Andrei Vasilevskiy at 4:35 of overtime:

"They scored! They scored! Holy Mackinaw, they scored!" he shouted. "The Leafs are going to the second round!"

I know it was only the first round of the playoffs, but forgive me. I haven't taken the liberty (or been given the chance) to crow about the Toronto Maple Leafs on these pages in a long time. I checked my Barris Beat archives; the last time I wrote about the Buds, it was June 1993, the year Gary Bettman became the NHL's first commissioner, and the year the league expanded to 24 teams (including the Tampa Bay Lightning). Also that year, under new general manager Cliff Fletcher, the Leafs had (the season before) acquired Doug Gilmour, then traded away goalie Grant Fuhr for sniper Dave Andreychuk. Then, that spring Toronto defeated St. Louis in the divisional final, but were knocked out of contention by the L.A. Kings, led by recently acquired Wayne Gretzky. (Redemption came for Canadians, when the Montreal Canadiens won their 24th Stanley Cup, the year the Cup celebrated its 100th anniversary.)

So, if you allow a column's worth of indulgence, I'll share a few of my Maple Leafs moments. When I was a kid, my father wrote for the *Toronto Telegram* newspaper, which was owned by the Bassett family, who also owned the Toronto Maple Leafs. For his service as a columnist, covering the TO entertainment scene in the original Barris Beat column, every year Dad was entitled to a pair of tickets to see a Leafs home game at Maple Leaf Gardens. I couldn't wait for that one night each year when Dad and I went to a Leafs game together, even if it was against the Boston Bruins (then the perennial basement dwellers of the six-team NHL). It was heaven, even up there in the Greys!

Once or twice during those halcyon 1960s seasons, because of his connection to the Bassetts, Dad got me into the Leafs dressing room. I should have been impressed when I saw all my heroes – Dave Keon, Tim Horton, Bob Pulford, and Johnny Bower drinking beer or smoking cigarettes – but the Leaf I remember most was George Armstrong. You see, I'd brought along my autograph book and when the then captain of the Leafs signed it, he wrote his nickname "the Chief" and then "Your friend, George Armstrong."

In the spring of 1967, several things were on my radar. First of all, I was preparing for my final year, Grade 13, at Agincourt Collegiate Institute (I hoped) on my way to a career in broadcast journalism. Next, it was Canada's centennial year and the family planned to go to Montreal for Expo '67. I'd heard that the Montreal Canadiens had reserved a spot in the Quebec pavilion at Expo to display what they'd hoped would be their third straight Stanley Cup. The end of that NHL season proved doubly delicious, however, when Leafs coach Punch Imlach turned to his aging veterans and snatched the Cup from the Canadiens in game six of the final.

"Punch had been under a lot of pressure for years to get rid of his old guard," Leafs defenceman Allan Stanley told author D'Arcy Jenish for his book *The Stanley Cup* in 1992. "To prove it, he sent his old guard to take the last, most important face-off of the whole god\*\*\*d season. The one with the Stanley Cup riding on it."

Following the victory, on May 2, 1967, as Imlach posed with his club in the Leafs' dressing room at Maple Leaf Gardens, he commented, "The old-fellows athletic club played pretty well. They're the best bunch of players I've ever had."

Those who joined the victory parade along College Street a few days later, myself included, couldn't have agreed more. We celebrated Toronto's fourth Cup in six years, their 13th in franchise history. Little did I know I'd be witnessing the beginning of Toronto's now 56-year drought without winning a single Stanley Cup. So, as a long-suffering Leafs fan, I savour any victory even if it's just winning the first round.

For more Barris Beat columns, go to [www.tedbarris.com](http://www.tedbarris.com)



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Pre-cast in Uxbridge, from page 1

There are almost two dozen forms of

different sizes inside Pre-Cast's 22,000 square foot plant, and each one can make one tank per day. Over

the winter, that can build up quite an inventory, so the yard on Victoria Street is currently chock full of tanks, stacked on top of each other, waiting to be shipped.

The basic ingredients that go into making concrete are fairly straightforward: cement (cement is not the same as concrete, see sidebar on next page), sand, crushed rock or gravel, and water. But what kind of rock? How much water? What degree of

fine-ness for the sand? That's a secret recipe, closely guarded like that of Coca Cola, or one of Hela Spice's seasoning blends.

The cement comes from Bowmanville, and is stored in two large silos, which can hold 32 tons each. The sand and stone are held in special sheds, and once production starts for the day, a fleet of loaders bustle back and forth, filling the forms, which are outfitted with rebar (cus-

tom-bent in Wilfrid, a suburb of Pefferlaw), and often fibre, to make the concrete even stronger. Just as in baking, a plant-based oil is used to ensure the concrete doesn't adhere to the metal form. Once the cake has set, the sides of the form are lowered, the tank is lifted away, and the form is readied for the next day.

Pre-Cast's 20 employees do make other concrete products: water storage tanks, traffic barriers, and storage sheds that are much sturdier and more durable than wooden or metal ones. But their specialty is septic tanks. Their crews will come and in-



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*Men of Note & Clatchmor* Spring Concerts

Saturday May 13th Port Perry United Church 294 Queen St., Port Perry Show times 3:00 & 7:30

Sunday May 14th St. Paul's Anglican Church 59 Toronto St S., Uxbridge Show time 3:00

Tickets \$25.00 adults \$20.00 seniors & children under 16 available at The Wee Tartan shop 177 Queen St Port Perry Woods Clothing Uxbridge 70 Brock St West Starticketing.com and at the door



Ryan Weddel, the third generation in the family running Newmarket Pre-cast, uses this computer to set the ingredient levels in a given batch of concrete. Different concrete products require different mixtures. Photo by Conrad Boyce

...continued on next page



# Save in May

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Pre-cast, from previous page

stall them, provide all the necessary plumbing to attach building and septic field, and give the customer a detailed tutorial in how to use and care for them. That's pride of craftsmanship.

The Weddells and their staff are also proud Uxbridge residents, and have made every effort over the years to make their operation less intrusive to the neighbourhood.

"We used to have a machine in the silos that kept the cement agitated," explains Brian's son Ryan, the third generation in the business, "but it agitated the neighbours too. So now

we have a system that's much quieter. And this winter we got our first all-electric loader. Compared to the diesel ones, you can hardly hear it coming."

Quiet. Not a word one usually associate with a busy industrial facility. But everyone knows you can't make noise when a cake is baking. It just won't set right.



A 40-ton, 50,000 litre concrete septic tank is lifted away from its form at Newmarket Pre-Cast after setting overnight.

Photo by Conrad Boyce

Concrete and cement: which is which?

Cement and concrete are terms often used interchangeably, but they are actually two different materials.

Cement is a powdery substance usually made from limestone, clay and sand, but can't be used by itself; it acts as a binding agent to make concrete.

Concrete on the other hand, is a mixture of cement, sand, stone and water. The water activates a chemical reaction in the cement to harden and glue the sand and stone together, creating concrete.

# Uxbridge One Year Later How are we doing?

Gather with friends and neighbours as we discuss the May 21, 2022, tornado. How were you affected? Are you still dealing with it? What did you lose? What did Uxbridge gain?

We invite the Township of Uxbridge to join one another, alongside a panel of of guests who had various roles after the tornado went through, and share stories about what happened on May 21, and learn about where we are, one year later.

**Thursday, May 11, 7 p.m.**

Uxbridge Seniors Centre  
75 Marietta Street

For more information  
905-852-1900  
Lvann@thecosmos.ca

Hosted by The Uxbridge Cosmos  
and Ted Barris



## MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the April monthly draw for the 2023 Trip of the Month Club!

The 'Breathtaking Banff' trip was won by Kari Geddes, ticket #319, sold by Lisa Brooks.

2nd place, \$150, won by Susan Catherwood, ticket #009, sold by Arlene Lyon.

3rd place, \$100, won by Hoop Van Veghel, ticket #195, sold by Tracy Mogk.

Congratulations to our April winners, and best of luck for the May 2023 draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge Trip of the Month Club! The 'Spanish Splendour' package includes round trip, direct, non-stop flights from Toronto to Malaga, Spain, 7 nights' stay at Sol Torremolinos Don Marco Hotel in a pool view room, full breakfast daily, a Roman theatre and Alcazaba Castle walking tour, and 2 entrance tickets to Picasso's Birthplace Museum. Also included is a 2-hour guided electric bike tour of Malaga.

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.



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## Spring music continues with *Claidhmor* and chorus

Port Perry and Uxbridge concertgoers are reportedly in for a real treat when the international male chorus, 'Men of Note' and locally renowned Celtic performers *Claidhmor*, present joint concerts on May 13 and 14.

Started by Stouffville residents David Duggan and Douglas Walker in 1999, the 'Men of Note' began as a 17-member chorus that soon grew to over 40 in number. Over the last 23 years, 'Men of Note' has entertained appreciative audiences across Ontario, in the Eastern Canadian provinces, and in a dozen European countries. Highlight concerts include performances in St.

Mark's Basilica, Venice; The Vimy Ridge Memorial in France; St. Giles's Cathedral, Edinburgh; and pairing up with the World Champion Welsh Male Choir, in Wrexham.

Led by Port Perry's Stewart Bennett, *Claidhmor* have been thrilling audiences across Ontario for 30 years with their stirring harmonies and Celtic flair. Whether it's a Tartan Day celebration, a Scottish-Irish Festival, or a Robbie Burns Night celebration, the five singers of *Claidhmor* are the sound to make the occasion special. Highlight performances have included Roy Thompson Hall, the C.N.E. and

the Richmond Hill Performing Arts Centre.

Both groups share the glorious solos of Susan Ryman and have released multiple CDs.

On Saturday, May 13, at 3 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m., both groups will be at Port Perry United Church. On Sunday, May 14, at 3 p.m., they will join forces again at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Uxbridge. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors and under 16's. They are available at The Wee Tartan Shop in Port Perry, Wood's Clothing in Uxbridge, online at starticketing.com, or at the door.

### Letters, from page 4

self centered, self righteous, and extremely rude (Canadian 'niceness' has become a myth/folklore – as acceptance, kindness and compassion seem to be lacking). And you are given a platform to run Americans down, engage in "othering" and denigrate your fellow citizens and neighbours who may have a perspective or view different than yours, to the point of being nearly libelous at times, and doing nothing more than perpetuating discrimination and prejudice. Do you enjoy creating hostility between people?

While it has always been clear that you are truly xenophobic when it comes to Americans, as illustrated by your incessant anti-American rhetoric, you have always been a shill for the progressive movement in Canada (too ignorant to know that tyranny arises from democracy and socialism is the phase between capitalism and communism). What I did not realize is that you are also

a misogynist. This was clear by your choice of words! The words you used to mention or describe Tish Conlin: "...a woman named.... who claims to be..." makes your attitude towards women clear.

I don't know Tish Conlin, I've never met her. However, a little research will show she is who she claimed to be in your article, and she is appears also to be a very successful business woman/entrepreneur. For someone who has obviously lived off the government teat in one form or another for most of their life, it's understandable for you to be jealous or threatened in some way. What is even

more sickening or insulting is, you advise others to do research when you don't. You have a professional obligation to do research prior to publishing any article.

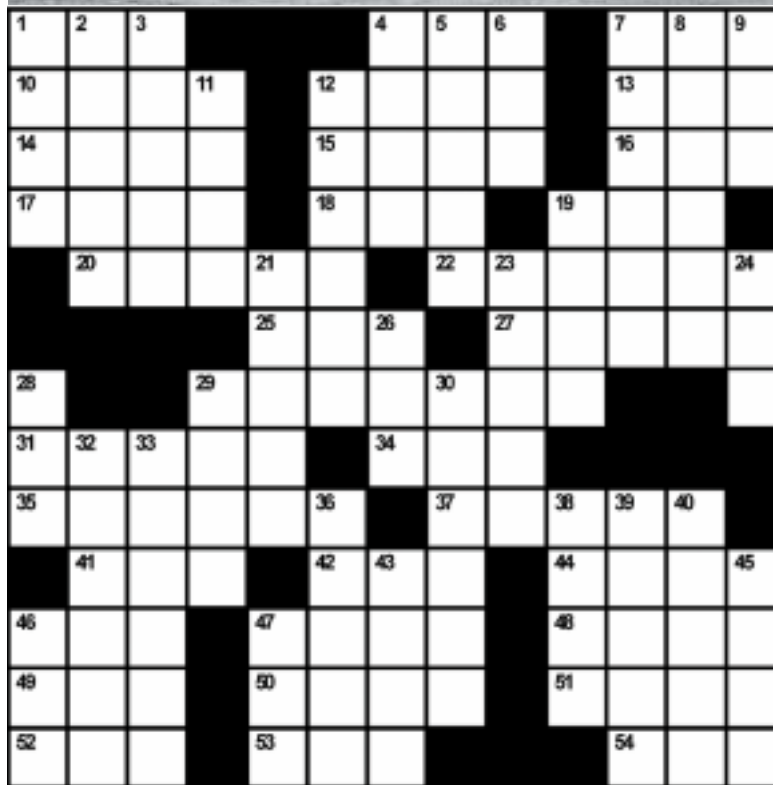
I think you may be the wacky banshee (not "those people" as you implied). Learn to respect your fellow Uxbridgians, Canadians and neighbours to the south! It may not be too late to become a better person.

**K. Hope Gobel**  
Uxbridge

Yes, you're wrong, this time, Roger. Just wait and see.

**Marta Gill**  
Uxbridge

# COSMOS CROSSWORD



### Across

1. Kind of chair
4. Cigar leftover
7. "Tea for \_\_\_"
10. Fiddler's place
12. Elder or alder
13. Unhappy
14. Shake
15. Listen
16. Holed up
17. Recipe direction
18. Squeal (on)
19. Grab a stool
20. Perspicacity
22. Put away
25. Journey part
27. Way in
29. Wins over
31. Played on stage
34. Soda drink
35. Alerted
37. Lawn game
41. Summer month
42. Actor Lowe
44. \_\_\_ in on
46. Welded the baton
47. Not prerecorded
48. President's office
49. Exist
50. Partner of "done with"
51. Military diner
52. Little League coach, often
53. Jack's inferior
54. Pronoun

### Down

1. Type of dealer
2. Underground network
3. "War of the Worlds" for example
4. Side by side?
5. Reservations
6. Lady's
7. Weekend wear
8. One taking orders
9. Eccentric
11. Bracken
12. Triples
19. Princes, e.g.
21. Playground chute
23. Beat
24. Impart color
26. "The \_\_\_" (teen store)
28. Gossip
29. Just say no
30. Cat burglar
32. Candid \_\_\_
33. Made a baseball card transaction
36. Spin
38. Pronoun in a Hemingway title
39. Feels great affection for
40. Defeat utterly
43. Rachel Ray equipment
45. Further
46. Schoolboy
47. Parking \_\_\_



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### SERVICES

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### EVENTS

**CHANCES ARE** is not accepting donations on Sundays. We want to thank the community for supporting us with your donations to raise money for the Uxbridge Hospital on the other six days of the week.

**I.O.D.E.** Informal planning meeting, Monday, May 8, 12 noon. For more information, call 905-852-6890.

**UXBRIDGE LAWN BOWLING OPEN HOUSE** Sat., May 6, 1 - 3 p.m.; May 8 - 11, 7 p.m. Located behind Arena. Free lessons - try it, it's fun! uxbridge.ulbc@live.ca or call 905-852-5842 for more information.

**100 WOMEN WHO CARE UXBRIDGE** May 11, Uxbridge Legion, 7 p.m. 100womenuxbridge.ca

1	A	2	R	3	M		4	A	5	S	6	H		7	T	8	W	9	O	
10	R	O	O	F			12	T	R	E	E			13	S	A	D			
14	M	O	V	E			15	H	E	A	R			16	H	I	D			
17	S	T	I	R			18	R	A	T				19	S	I	T			
		20	S	E	N		21	S	E			22	S	23	T	O	R	E	24	D
				25	L	E	G					27	E	N	T	R	Y			
28	J			29	D	I	S	A	R	M	S									E
31	A	32	C	33	T	E	D			34	P	O	P							
35	W	A	R	N	E		36	D			37	B	O	38	W	39	L	40	S	
		41	M	A	Y			42	R	43	O	B			44	H	O	M	45	E
46	L	E	D				47	L	I	V	E				48	O	V	A	L	
49	A	R	E				50	O	V	E	R				51	M	E	S	S	
52	D	A	D				53	T	E	N					54	S	H	E		

Light For Your Path

*"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid." Isa 12:2*

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Canadian Bible Society

# Road closures may disrupt residents' travel plans

The Regional Municipality of Durham is advising Uxbridge residents of upcoming lane restrictions on Main Street/Conc. 7, and on Lake Ridge Rd.

First to note: there will be daily lane restrictions on Main St., Conc. 7 (Reg. Rd. 1), from north of Brock St. (Hwy. 47) to south of Davis Drive, beginning May 1, and continuing through to July 28.

Road resurfacing is being done in this location, and the Region says that unfavourable weather conditions may impact the work schedule.

Residents are reminded that on-street parking will be temporarily unavailable during construction.

The second area of construction to note is a portion of Lake Ridge Road.

The Region is rehabilitating Lake Ridge Road (Reg. Rd. 23). As part of the construction, a portion of Lake Ridge Road will be temporarily closed.

Beginning May 1, through to June 4 at approximately 6 a.m., Lake Ridge Rd. from south of Chalk Lake Road to Townline Road in the City of Pickering, Town of Whitby, and townships of Scugog and Uxbridge will be completely closed. Detour



signs have been posted.

Road reconstruction work on Lake Ridge Rd. is expected to continue until September 2023.

In a statement regarding the roadwork, the Region states that it "realizes that the construction work will be disruptive and will make every effort to complete the work as quickly and efficiently as possible. Drivers are asked to exercise caution for the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and work crews. Access to residential driveways will be maintained whenever possible."

For more information about this project, visit [durham.ca/LakeRidgeRoad](http://durham.ca/LakeRidgeRoad).

# USS reunion organizers advise attendees to register soon

Events for the Uxbridge Secondary School 100th Anniversary Reunion, planned for Friday, May 26, to Sunday, May 28, are filling up fast, and organizers are recommending those who want to attend to register soon in order to fully enjoy the whole weekend.

Planned events will take place both at Uxbridge Secondary School and around town. On Friday evening, the school opens and guests can join in one of the school tours or a self-guided scavenger hunt. Visit the Decade rooms and decade meet up areas to visit with old and new friends. All of these activities will also be a part of the Saturday program. Also on Friday evening, there will be an Alumni Rugby match, or stop by the Uxbridge Legion, which is celebrating its 93rd anniversary and is

inviting USS alumni for tours and entertainment.

On Saturday morning, attendees can partake in guided trail walks in town and then head back to the school for a special breakfast created by the culinary arts students. The official anniversary ceremonies will be in the gym following the breakfast. Additional activities on Saturday include a golf tournament, an alumni

volleyball tournament (register early for both tournaments), and a 19+ social at Slabtown Cider.

The reunion will wrap up on Sunday with a non-denominational Christian service at the school.

For details, to register, to volunteer, or to be a part of the legacy by donating to the Legacy Award, visit [uxbridgess.ddsb.ca/en/our-school/100th-anniversary.aspx](http://uxbridgess.ddsb.ca/en/our-school/100th-anniversary.aspx)

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### Woolhead, Alma Evelyn

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our Mom, Alma, on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, peacefully at home at the age of 93.

Alma, beloved wife to George for 58 years. Loving mother to Lee, Steve, Terry and Ray. Grandmother to Lindsay, Lori, Lacie, Lisa, Blake, Ashley, Krista, Jessica and Ryan. Great-grandmother to Jackson, Taylor,

Raylan, Christian, Quinton, Lincoln, Chloe, Octavia and Elijah. Predeceased by sisters Marjorie, Margaret and Betty.

A service to celebrate Alma's life will be held at the Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Uxbridge, L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073), on Saturday, May 13, 2023, in the chapel at 12:00 p.m., with visitation one hour prior. Reception to follow. Online condolences can be made at [www.lowandlow.ca](http://www.lowandlow.ca)



## To place a death or in memoriam notice

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