

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 45

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, November 16, 2023

A gift of Sam Sharpe • Musician plays SIX in the 'Six! • The secret on the Seventh



LEST WE FORGET - Bill Richardson from the Uxbridge Legion Pipes and Drums lays a wreath at the Uxbridge cenotaph during the Remembrance Day ceremony on Saturday morning. Hundreds of people joined veterans, firefighters, police, Scouts, Cadets, local dignitaries, clergy and others at the main intersection of the town to pay their respects. *Photo by John Cavers*

Zephyr residents discuss library relocation

Roger Varley

About 30 people braved winter's first freezing rainfall last Wednesday night to attend a meeting to discuss the proposed relocation of Zephyr library.

The proposal calls for closing the current location and re-establishing the library in the Zephyr community centre. Attendees at the meeting, held in that same centre, saw plans indicating where the library would be located inside the building. The plan calls for two unattached, separate library rooms: one for adults and one for children. Part of the main hall was taped off to indicate how much of the main hall's floor space would be lost if the library goes ahead.

Wednesday's meeting occurred the night after Amanda Ferraro, director of community services, Uxbridge library board chair Dave Phillips

...continued on page 12

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Chamber choir closes score after 42 years

Wynn Walters

The Uxbridge Chamber Choir will be taking its final bow in April next year, after 42 years of bringing music to Uxbridge.

The choir announced this week that it is closing down "with a triumphal final concert," as choir founder and director Thomas Baker put it. The "Grand Finale" concert will be on April 7, 2024, and all former choir members are being invited to return and take part.

"Our first concert was in January 1982," explains Baker. "Since then, we've brought the world's greatest choral works to the Uxbridge area - providing opportunities for both singers and audiences that can normally only be found in large cities."

The choir was founded in 1982 by Tom Baker and his wife, Anne Mizen, and has performed two or three concerts every year since then, except for the COVID years. "In that time, we've

given around 100 concerts, and some 300 singers have been in the choir over the years," says Baker. "We're hoping that many will come back for the final concert, which will feature a number of the great works they've sung before."

"The focus of the Chamber Choir has always been on the great masterworks of the classical choral repertoire," says Marg Cunningham, one of the co-presidents of the choir. "And it's remarkable how many of these great works - by Bach, Mozart, Rachmaninoff - we've performed, but always balanced with more contemporary works."

"This really was Tom's choir," says Ian Hilton, co-president, "and after 42 years and 100-plus concerts, it's time to close the score. Besides, there are now other choirs giving opportunities to singers, unlike 42 years ago, when we were the only choir in town."

"The gift of music that Tom and the Chamber Choir have given to Uxbridge over four decades

is huge, and we all owe him and the choir a great debt of gratitude," said Stu Beaudoin, a former member of the choir, and a composer and musician who now directs his own choir.

Tom Baker said next year's final concert will be a "greatest hits" concert, featuring excerpts from some of the masterworks performed in the past.

"Many former choir members will know these pieces, so we're looking forward to seeing them back in the choir one last time."

Former choir members are asked to contact Marg Cunningham (maggie.c44@me.com) by December 17 if they would like to join the choir for the final concert.

Adds Baker: "The very last piece we'll sing in the Grand Finale concert will be the very first piece we sang, 42 years ago. To find out what it is - you'll have to come to the concert."

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for November, 2023

Monday, November 20, 10:00 a.m.
 COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, November 23, 7:00 p.m.
 BIA BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 27, 10:00 a.m.
 COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 27, 3:00 p.m.
 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

Proclamations for November

Nov. 6-10: Battery Collection in weekly waste pickup

Nov. 8: Indigenous Remembrance Day

Nov. 11: Remembrance Day/Veteran's Day

Nov. 13: World Kindness Day

Nov. 15: National Entrepreneurs Day

Nov. 15-21: Anti-bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

Nov. 19: Women's Entrepreneurship Day

Nov. 19: International Men's Day

Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance

Nov. 25: White Ribbon Campaign to end violence against women

Thomas Foster Memorial and the Ladies of the Foster present



A Reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

Sunday, November 19, 2023 - 2:00 pm
 9499 Durham Regional Rd 1, Uxbridge

After a long hiatus, the ladies are back and are gathering once again to read this iconic Christmas masterpiece. Join us as we bring Scrooge and the wonderful characters of this timeless story to life.

To start the Holidays in a good old-fashioned way, a Christmas carol sing-along will follow the reading! Admission is by donation.

Employment Opportunities

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

Uxpool - Lifeguards / Instructors, Winter Session
 Closing date: Friday, December 1, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Uxpool - Aquatic Program Supervisor
 Closing date: Monday, December 11, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Road Closures

- Uxbridge-East Gwillimbury Townline from north of Durham Reg. Rd. 39/Queensville Sideroad to south of Holborn Road, East Gwillimbury - closed for bridge repairs to 2024
- Uxbridge East Gwillimbury Townline from York St. 500m south of Ravenshoe Road to Zephyr Road - closed for bridge repairs to January 2024



Snap a selfie with Santa and Mrs. Claus after the Uxbridge Santa Claus Parade

Saturday, Nov. 18th
 12:00-2:30p.m.

At the BIA Santa Hut located in the Circle K parking lot



Visit with Santa!

NEW!
 From 7-7:30pm bring your well-behaved pet for a photo with Santa!

Goodwood Community Centre Nov. 30 4:30-7pm By Donation
 For more info call 697-467-3105 Donations support the work of the Goodwood Hall Board

Off-Leash Dogs Not Permitted on Baseball Diamonds

Off-leash dogs are not permitted on baseball diamonds as it causes health and safety hazards.

Please use the Off-Leash Dog Park.




Santa Claus Parade

Road Closures in Effect Nov 18th 10am-1pm

- Brock St. closed between Quaker Village Dr. and Nelkydd Lane
- Reach St. Closed between Franklin St. and Main St.
- Main St. Closed between Reach St. and Brock St.,
- Toronto St. Closed between Mill St. and Brock 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

email: accessibility@uxbridge.ca
 phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209

Memorial statue receives help from feds

Plans to install a Firefighter Memorial Statue and Garden at the Uxbridge Fire Hall are closer to reality, thanks to a \$213,530 federal grant.

The Uxbridge Firefighters Association (UFA) announced on Monday that it has received the grant from the Building Communities through the Arts and Heritage Program, which is overseen by the Department of Canadian Heritage. The memorial statue and garden will be installed to honour those who have died in the line of duty or while actively serving and will provide a place for reflecting and a connection to the community. It will also honour the service of the over 550 members who have served since a fire service was first installed in the town. Next year marks the 150th anniversary of the fire service, which began as the Uxbridge Fire Brigade, and was later renamed the Uxbridge Fire Department.

The project has also received \$210,000 in additional funding and in-kind support, all of which has been raised by members of the UFA through donations, car washes and a charity raffle. The fundraising efforts are being supported by the Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society and the Rotary Club of Uxbridge.

The project is within \$25,000 of its fundraising goal, and the fire department is confident it can reach this amount. Anyone wishing to be a partner donor will be recognized on the donor plaque.

Port Perry artist Tyler Briley and landscape designer Adam Hoover are working with the UFA, planning a park-like garden setting with a life-size bronze statue, which will be unveiled on Oct. 5, 2024, to celebrate the 150th anniversary.

Contributions can be made by visiting www.ushs.ca/Firefighter



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Our two cents

Not the year to break the bank

Santa Claus arrives in Uxbridge this weekend (11 a.m., downtown Brock Street, bring your donations for the firefighters and their food bank boots!), officially kicking off the holiday season. This year, however, we think things are going to look - or at least be - a little different.

The rising cost of everything under the sun is going to put a huge strain on many a-wallet this season, and folks who are used to giving generously to family and friends may have to tighten their belts a little. This could end up leaving gift-givers feel like they've somehow let their recipients down, which, of course, is absolutely *not* the reason for giving or receiving gifts, but is a reality nonetheless.

We're thinking that this year might be the year to start some new traditions in your household. Like maybe plan one event that the entire family can participate in and contribute to financially. Ever done an escape room? There're several around that are fairly decently priced, and it's something that certainly involves everyone.

Your family could draw names for gift giving, which would limit a person's spend to one gift, rather than one-for-everyone. Or really cut down on the wrapping paper, forego gifts entirely and choose a worthwhile cause that everyone contributes a little money to. In the same vein, make your worthwhile cause a family gift (maybe a PlayStation, or a big television) that might get used all year long, rather than little presents that add up in cost and often get forgotten once the holidays are over.

Our point is, 2023 is the year to get creative. Budgets are tight, supply is even tighter, and really - do we need all the "stuff"? The planet is crying from the production of an overabundance of "stuff," and we'd be doing both it and ourselves some good by dialling back on the "stuff" exchange.

Wars, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, etc. - the list of bad news goes on, and we could certainly use this time of year to remember all the good in our lives. As the Grinch (well, Dr. Seuss) put it, " 'Maybe Christmas,' he thought, 'doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!' "



Letters to the Editor

Re: *Uxbridge firefighter memorial*

I think it is a great idea that we are having a memorial for the Uxbridge firefighters, but I feel like it would serve more of a purpose to have the monies raised (nearly \$500,000) to go towards naming a portion of the new hospital after the firefighters, along with the donation. How great would it be for the hospital to have a wing named in memorial of the Uxbridge firefighters?

It may be too late to look at a restructuring, but I think there should be a way to use this money to a great cause while still honoring those we have lost.

Food for thought.

*James Thomas
Uxbridge*

It was a pleasure to read "Time to take on the world" in your most recent "A Blonde Moment" column (Oct. 26 edition).

Jack Delemarre is absolutely correct - climate change IS a dire situation! Everyone should consider how to reduce their carbon footprint. Perhaps Jack would consider writing more environmentally friendly suggestions in future articles. For example, reduce the use

and purchase of plastic items, including the plastic bags shoppers use for produce. Shop with reusable cotton bags instead, or no bags at all. Produce needs to be washed before use anyway.

With regards to emissions - do not let your engine idle while waiting for a passenger or popping into a store.

A "How we can reduce, reuse & recycle" column would be most welcome.

While I have you, I would also like to tell Roger Varley - yes, you are RIGHT! R

Referring to your Nov. 9, column (Me thinks he doth protest too much"), why don't developers build smaller houses similar to those built post-war? We need affordable homes. Plus, having a small lawn is beneficial to our health. Green space is necessary for our planet.

Considering the increase in the Uxbridge population, has anyone approached the school board about building a new elementary school? It took 12 years of serious campaigning before Quaker Village Public School was built.

*Barbara Purdy
Uxbridge*

What a big and delightful surprise eight ladies received at the Col. McGrady's Pub on Remembrance Day evening.

Upon leaving the restaurant, a gentleman came to the table and requested "that we all have a good evening and that our meals were taken care of." Unfortunately, we did not take him seriously.

After asking the waiter for our bills, he declared that the gentleman *had* paid them all, including a tip.

We all feel badly that we didn't express our gratitude to you more fully in person. We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks for the generosity paid by "J.P." You made eight shocked women very appreciative. We will always remember that Remembrance Day and this event.

It is so nice to see in action and hear stories about people who care and go beyond in the small town of Uxbridge.

"J.P.," thank you so much!
*Charlena Davis and friends
Rena, Donna, Jean, Sue, Sandra,
Norma & Vicky
Uxbridge*

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



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The Uxbridge Cosmos

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Am I wrong?

column by Roger Varley

We remember well

As Regional Councillor Bruce Garrod said to me a few days ago, it isn't a competition, but it's hard to think of a community of Uxbridge's size that marks Remembrance Day the way this community does.

An exceptionally large crowd - some said it was likely upwards of a thousand people - gathered at the cenotaph for the annual official Remembrance Day ceremonies on Saturday. All around the main intersection of Brock and Toronto Streets, crocheted poppies bedecked fences, trees and benches while veterans banners hung from lampposts throughout the town and in the hamlets. After the ceremonies, many in the crowd made their way to the cenotaph and placed their poppies on the green carpet around the wreaths. I'm not sure why we do this - (I have been told the poppies are not recycled) - but it does give us a feeling of being involved, even if just for a fleeting moment.

On Friday, Uxbridge Secondary School once again staged a memorable assembly. Indeed, the USS version of Remembrance Day ceremonies has become an integral part of the township's homage to our veterans, so much so that MP Jennifer O'Connell and MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy never miss it, and all members of Uxbridge council attend.

This year's event at USS was the last one to be overseen by Tish MacDonald, a former teacher at the school who was instrumental in bringing the Honour Our Veterans banner program to town and encouraging her students to bond with our veterans and learn their stories. Tish hinted to me that she might not be quite finished with her Remembrance Day involvement, but offered no clues as to what that might entail.

Her role leading the USS celebrations will be taken over by teacher Craig Marlatt, who also is commissioner of the 1st Uxbridge Scouts. A few nights before the Remembrance Day ceremonies, the Scout troop was visited by several veterans, who talked with the youth about their experiences. Earlier in the week, the Cubs had a scavenger hunt involving the veterans banners in the downtown core and the Beavers engaged in

Remembrance Day crafts.

All the stores in the downtown area dressed their windows with Remembrance Day displays, often featuring photos of family who served in the armed forces.

In addition to all that, as reported elsewhere in this edition, former MP Erin O'Toole presented a new portrait of Lt.-Col. Sam Sharpe to the Uxbridge Public Library on Wednesday.

We remember well.

However, I wouldn't be me if I didn't point out something that rankles me, and that's Indigenous Veterans Day. The ceremony honouring Indigenous veterans was held on Wednesday, at the same cenotaph that was the centre of attention on Saturday, but with just a small group of people on hand. As was the case last year, traffic rumbled on through the intersection. Although Gloria Eng was there to represent the Uxbridge Legion, there was no piper, no colour party. Fifteen minutes and it was over.

I felt honoured when I was asked to place some sacred tobacco on the two wreaths that were laid. As I did, I thought about my Uncle Fred, who was killed at Ypres when my father was only five years old. I thought about my Uncle Wal, who served in the Middle East and Far East during the Second World War, and of my father, who served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) in the Second World War but, luckily, was never shipped overseas.

People don't know it, but those men are among the ones we commemorate on Remembrance Day. But who gives a thought about the Indigenous vets? If we are going to have an Indigenous Veterans Day, let's do it right. Let's have a little of the pomp and ceremony. I'd settle for some Indigenous drumming in place of the pipes. But, for Pete's sake, let's show them that they and their contributions deserve the same respect we show to all the other veterans.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Planning to keep my boots on

I remember the day I learned what I would do the rest of my life. I received a message from a historical society in the U.S. It described an overseas tour planned for that fall of 2017. Participants would fly to Europe and retrace the wartime steps of Gen. George Patton's 94th Infantry Division - to halt the Nazi breakout toward Antwerp - a.k.a. the Battle of the Bulge. That's where my father served as a medic in the U.S. Army. I needed to experience that tour. But that meant I'd have to quit my position as a journalism professor at Centennial College in Toronto.

"You'll have to speak to our retirement specialist," the dean of Centennial's communication school told me.

I met the specialist in his office a few days later.

"So..." he enthused, "are you ready for retirement?"

"You don't know anything about me," I said. "I'm not retiring. I'm just going back to where I came from."

For the 30-plus years before I was invited to teach at Centennial in 1999, I had worked as a freelance writer and broadcaster all over Canada. Today they call it the "gig economy," or the segment of the service economy based on flexible, temporary or freelance jobs. Observers of the gig economy make it seem as if they invented it during the pandemic, when in fact writers and broadcasters, such as my father, have practised it for decades. My point is that when I gave up my short tenure teaching at the college, I realized I could return to a life of writing and broadcasting what I wished when I wished. It was my form of semi-retirement.

I've been reading a feature story written by Cathrin Bradbury in *Walrus* magazine, called "The End of Retirement." She retired from the CBC about a year ago, but had worked over the previous 40 years as a journalist at *Macleans* and the *Toronto Star*, etc. She wrote that she wasn't sad to leave the grind of daily deadlines and punishing news cycles of mayhem, death and destruction. But with 12 months away from work, she had two words of advice for friends considering the same path: "Don't retire." In her research, Bradbury learned that about a thousand people are retiring in Canada every day; in other words, about one million Canadians are currently

living in retirement. When she looked at her own situation contributing to company and government pension plans, however, she reached a startling conclusion.

"There's not enough gold in my golden years," she told her financial adviser. "You're not alone," he told her, and then explained that thanks to inflating rents, rising-interest mortgages and growing grocery and fuel costs, Canadians are suffering. Bradbury quoted a BMO study released earlier this year. It summarized that Canadians today think they need \$1.7 million to retire, a figure that's risen 20 per cent since the pandemic (from \$1.4 million). Her story grew even darker when she recounted watching a Japanese movie, *Plan 75*, which paints a bleak future in which \$1,000 is offered to the elderly to terminate their own lives, thus taking the burden off society having to support them - a modern day sci-fi edition of the Kamikaze philosophy.

I suspect there are more of you (reading my *Barris Beat* column) who are retired or semi-retired than those working full-time, flat out and fighting to keep the wolf from the door. However, if I could, I'd wish all those younger readers to accept my unprofessional advice. Don't retire! Instead, plan to work in a field that is regular, but with flexible hours. Find something with little or no stressful responsibility. Most important, make sure it's something you enjoy but that also challenges you mentally and physically. Too many of my friends couldn't wait to retire. And when they did, they found themselves short of sufficient discretionary cash, bored, or worse, they fell ill in their idleness and died prematurely.

By the way, that trip to retrace my father's steps in the Battle of the Bulge? By coincidence, I actually found the place in Germany where Sergeant Alex Barris set up a first-aid post, saved dozens of lives that winter of 1945, and was awarded a medal of valour. For me, a lifelong writer, getting the story is a perfect semi-retirement job. That's what my father did. Back in 2003, Alex was 81 and writing a manuscript for his 11th book when he suffered a stroke. It led to his death, but as they say, "He died with his boots on."

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



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Thank You

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge would like to express our sincere thanks to those who contributed to the success of our 2023 Uxbridge Rotary Christmas Home Tour!

First, thank you to our gracious homeowners for opening their lovely homes in support of this event.

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To the staff at Canadian Tire Uxbridge, Blue Heron Books and Woods Clothing for your help in selling our home tour tickets, and to the Foxbridge Golf & Country Club for providing the space to distribute tickets on Tour Day.

To all our talented musicians and volunteers - your willingness to give your time is greatly appreciated.

Lastly, thank you to our home tour guests for their continued support.

We truly hope you enjoyed our 2023 tour, which featured eight incredible Uxbridge homes, including the Thomas Foster Memorial. We look forward to seeing you next year at our 2024 Uxbridge Rotary Christmas Home Tour.

Happy Holidays!

Note: If you're interested in more information on how your home can be on one of our upcoming tours please contact us through uxbridgerotary.com

Sam Sharpe portrait gifted to Uxbridge

Roger Varley

A sizable crowd gathered in the Uxbridge Library community room last Wednesday as former MP Erin O'Toole presented a portrait of Lt.-Col. Sam Sharpe to the township.

The painting shows Sharpe under a glooming sky and against a dark, forbidding background, with a ghostly Vimy Memorial in the distance. The presentation of the portrait was actually a re-gifting. The portrait, by Port Perry artist Tyler Briley, was originally painted for O'Toole by Briley in honour of his efforts to gain official recognition for Sharpe, who was all but forgotten by both the government and the military because he died by suicide in

Montreal after his 116th Battalion (Ontario County) suffered devastating losses in the First World War. As a result of O'Toole's efforts, a *bas relief* of Sharpe, also created by Briley, was installed in the Parliament buildings in 2016.

O'Toole, who represented Uxbridge when the community was part of the federal Durham riding and was minister of veterans affairs, referred to Sharpe's "invisible wound" and noted that it had taken Parliament 100 years to honour him.

"Sam, for me, was like part of the family," he said.

Tish MacDonald, who was responsible for creating the Honour Our Veterans banner

program in Uxbridge and turning the Uxbridge Secondary School's annual observance into an integral part of the community's Remembrance Day activities, echoed O'Toole's sentiment.

"Many feel a deep connection to the story of Sam Sharpe," she said.

MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy, whose mother passed away the previous weekend, noted that she had lived in freedom because of the sacrifices of men like Sharpe.

O'Toole also had another gift to give. Matthew Barrett, a Queen's University student who created a graphic story about Sharpe, had given O'Toole a framed page from the book, showing Sharpe's funeral in Uxbridge and the unveiling of the *bas relief* in Parliament. O'Toole gave that to Uxbridge Secondary School.



Port Perry artist Tyler Briley, right, discusses his painting of Lt.-Col. Sam Sharpe, which was gifted to Uxbridge by former MP Erin O'Toole, left. The photo will hang in the Uxbridge Library.

Photo by John Covers

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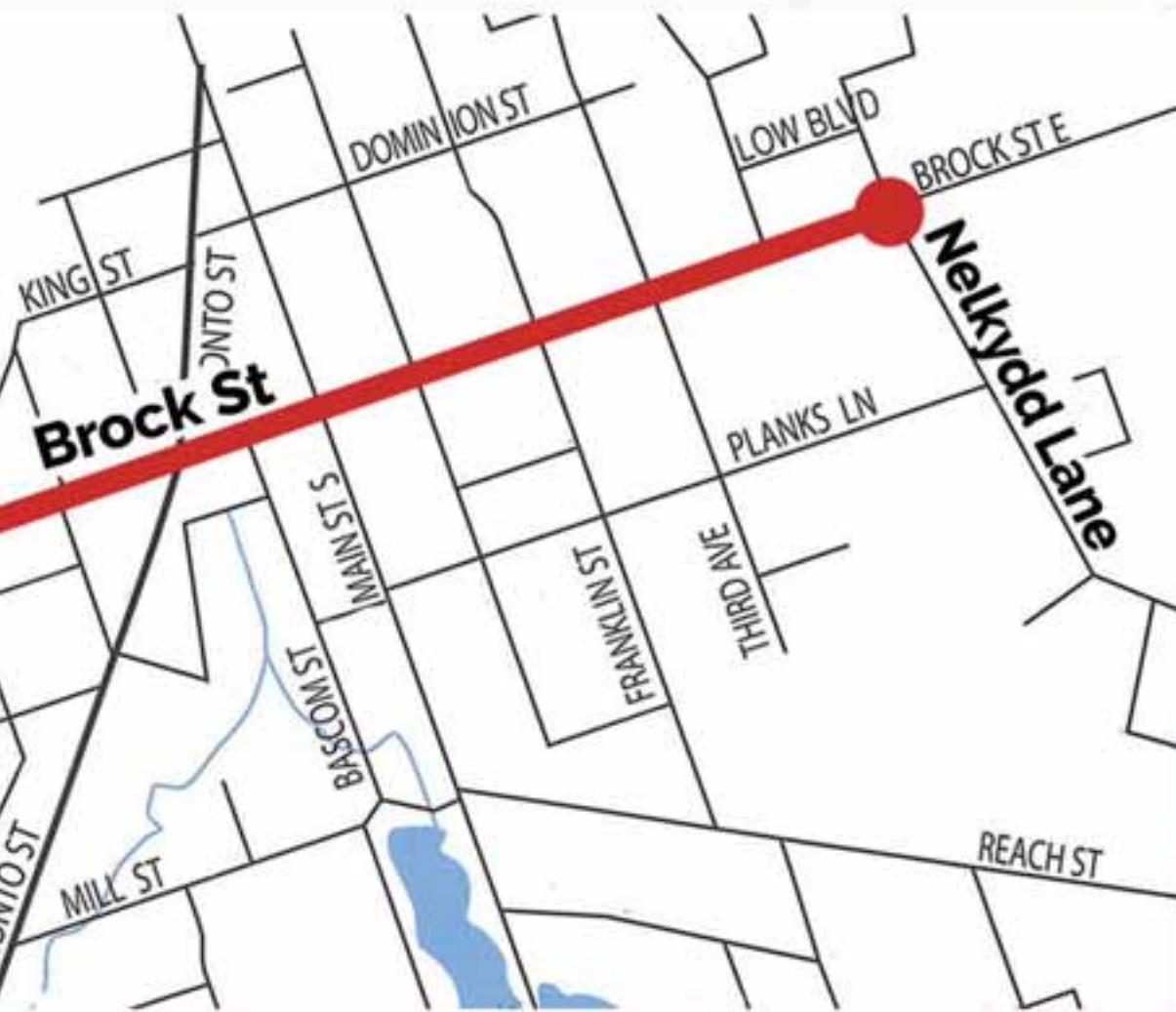


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SIX - the magic number for local musician, teacher

Conrad Boyce
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

When Lisa Lauriault first walked out on the stage of Toronto's Royal Alexandra Theatre in September, she gazed up to the top balcony

and had a little cry.

"Since I was a little girl, my mom would take me to shows and that's where we'd sit," she says. "We shared so many musicals together. And this weekend, when I make my big debut, she'll be watching me from there."

Lauriault, who has played in the pit (the area in a theater in which musicians perform) for a number of Uxbridge musicals, most recently *RENT* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, is making her professional debut Nov. 18, as the associate conductor for the Mirvish production of *SIX*, a pop-rock re-imagining of the history of the six wives of Henry VIII. And she'll be dedicating that first performance to her mother.

Lauriault's mother, a retired nurse, is definitely a music lover, knowing a few songs on the piano.

She recognized that her child shared that love from a young age.

"I was five when she sent me to Yamaha Music School in Scarborough for group piano lessons," says Lauriault. "We learned everything: ensemble playing, theory, improvising, singing, and we even took turns playing our own compositions. It was total immersion."

She made rapid progress in piano at the elementary school, she didn't just play in concerts, she accompanied the choirs. It was there, at the age of 16, she played in her first musical, the sole musician for a junior version of *Little Shop of Horrors*. And it was in Toronto that mother and daughter began the tradition of going to professional

musicals.

"My favourite is *Miss Saigon*. When we went, I remember seeing, up there on the stage, in the lead role, this beautiful, powerful Filipino Canadian woman. Wow. It was me. I knew then I could be a part of something like that."



Lisa Lauriault at the beginning of her musical journey, age seven. Submitted photo

But not as an actor or singer. When it came time to choose a musical career, Lisa decided on music therapy. She took her undergrad degree and internship in Windsor, and a gain

found herself accompanying singers and instrumentalists from the university's music school, and was also a featured soloist with an orchestra.

Shortly after moving back to

...continued on next page

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The magic of SIX, from previous page

Toronto with her husband and daughter, she worked as a music therapist and also began teaching at Yamaha Music School, where her music journey had begun in her early years. She taught group and private piano classes, and gradually, a shift in her career thinking began. "I found I loved teaching, particularly the younger children. So I went back to school, this time to York, for my education degree."

Lauriault is now a music teacher for about 500 students from Grades K-6 in Stouffville. She moved to Uxbridge with her husband and children in 2015, and it didn't take long for the Uxbridge arts community, and veteran musical theatre conductor Cyndie Jacobs in particular, to learn how strong an accompanist she was, and how solid as the backbone of a theatre pit.

"Oklahoma was my first show with Cyndie, and although our run got paused by the pandemic, we've now done five together. So *SIX* is number six, and although Cyndie's not a part of it, she played a big role in making it happen for me."

It was 2018. Lauriault and her daughter went to see a hit new show, *Dear Evan Hansen*, at a special performance where audience members were invited to mingle afterward with members of the cast, crew - and band.

"We'd chat briefly with an actor, and then I'd ask where the musical director was. Eventually I got to meet her, Elizabeth Baird, and I'm sure she wondered if I'd ever run out of questions."

By now, Lauriault had been in a couple of what she considered very strong amateur pits, so her questions came from an educated place. Baird became a mentor in a virtual correspondence over the next several years. Lauriault invited her to performances in Uxbridge. Then came the night, late in January of this year, when her big break arrived.

"We were a few shows into the run of *RENT*. The first act had a few musical challenges, a dropped verse or line here and there. At intermission, I went up to the balcony, where my family was sitting. I looked over and there was Liz Baird; I had no idea she was at the show. I was a bit apologetic about the mistakes, but she didn't care about those, they're going to happen in live theatre. She was impressed by my playing, with the band, and how we handled it."

A couple of months later, Baird

offered Lauriault the opportunity to be her understudy - the assistant conductor and onstage pianist - for a new show, created in Britain before the pandemic, and finally coming to Canada this fall.

"It was breathtaking," says Lauriault. "Everything I'd learned over the years, from those first lessons in Scarborough to the rehearsals in Goodwood for *RENT*, led up to this. When I was in Grade 10, I quit lessons for a while because my teacher made me play everything to the metronome. I didn't understand its benefits but in retrospect, I am grateful she was so strict. I've had incredible teachers over the years, who challenged me in different ways. And now, in this show, our tempos have to be very exact. Everything's come full circle."

As the understudy, or sub, Lauriault has yet to make it onstage for *SIX*. But she's made regular trips to the Royal Alexandra Theatre - and band.



Lauriault in the pit for *RENT*, Uxbridge Music Hall, January 2023.

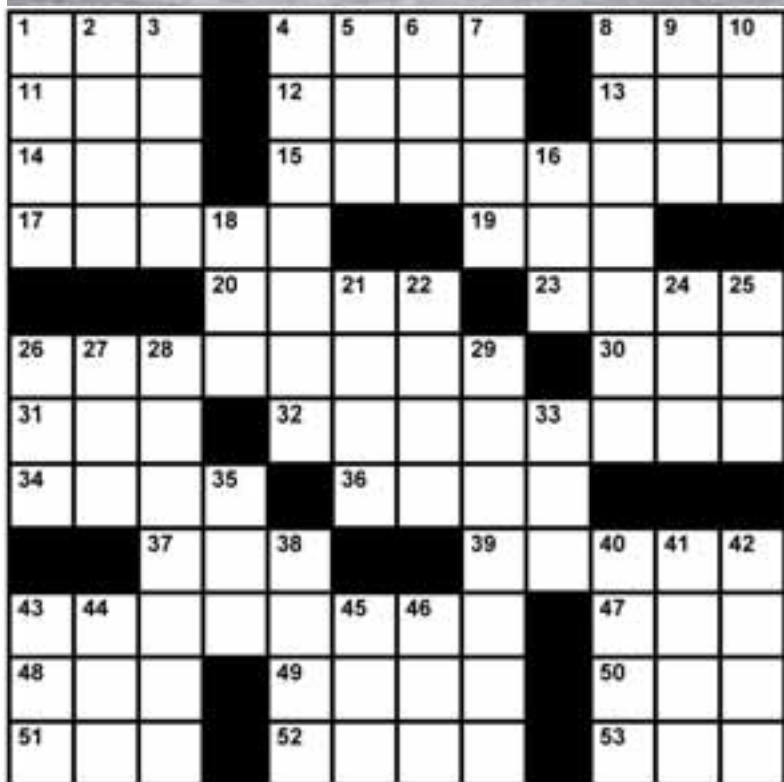
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atre, sitting in the rehearsal hall (what she calls the 'flight simulator'), playing along during the show, going through every motion. And this Saturday afternoon, she finally takes to the stage in a snazzy black costume, leading the "Ladies in Waiting," as the five-piece band is known, essentially controlling the flow of the show - even playing a few lighting cues right there on her keyboard.

"I'm nervous, of course, but mostly because my family and so many friends are going to be out there. But I know the show, I'm totally ready. I'm so grateful to everyone who helped me grow into this. It's going to be a blast!"

SIX The Musical is playing at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto until Feb. 11, 2024. For tickets, visit mirvish.com

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- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. Scrape | 1. Gallivant around |
| 4. Autos | 2. Not fooled by |
| 8. Cow or sow | 3. Garden invader |
| 11. Long-distance number starter | 4. Brings in |
| 12. One kind of exam | 5. Common verb |
| 13. Hand over cash for | 6. Broadside |
| 14. Absorbed, as a cost | 7. Turtle like |
| 15. Summer quencher | 8. Dali's tongue |
| 17. Example | 9. Taken in |
| 19. Snatched | 10. Hurricane's center |
| 20. Bug blaster | 16. Hide-hair link |
| 23. Barbecue entree | 18. Time segment |
| 26. Compensated | 21. Intention |
| 30. Vacation locale, with "the" | 22. Beatles "___ Prudence" |
| 31. Crew member | 24. Spelling test |
| 32. Looked high and low | 25. Unhappy |
| 34. Faucet annoyance | 26. Fishing pole |
| 36. Dominion | 27. Corn piece |
| 37. Jerk | 28. Dropped a line |
| 39. Grocery | 29. Embellishes |
| 43. Quaint houses | 33. Jaguar, e.g. |
| 47. Word repeated before "in" and "out" | 35. Cause to go (through) |
| 48. Floor | 38. Ticket info |
| 49. Whistle it! | 40. Olfactory's business |
| 50. What a miner mines | 41. Hard to find |
| 51. Signature piece? | 42. Got a good look at |
| 52. Outcomes | 43. Betting limit |
| 53. Topmost band in a rainbow | 44. Use a credit line |
| | 45. ___the engine |
| | 46. It may be bitter or loose |

Love our library, from page 1

and councillor Gord Shier met with Zephyr Community Association chair Shawn Schever to talk about the proposal. The Wednesday meeting was told that council members had been invited to attend, but none showed up.

Janet Betts, a member of the Zephyr library board, the community hall board and the main presenter at Wednesday's meeting, said she did not like the plan.

"We like our library," she said. "We're happy with our library. It's a place where Zephyr residents like to meet."

She noted that the current library building was built on land donated

by the Pickering family, and that the library was a Centennial project, completed in 1972.

Betts said the square footage of the proposed new library would be less than at the current location. She also said the reduced floor space in the community hall would make it more difficult to rent out the hall and would negatively impact such well-attended events as the annual Breakfast with Santa. She noted that the Zephyr library is open only 13 hours a week, including Saturday hours, and suggested some of those Saturday hours could be lost if the hall is rented out.

"We need to think about what's wanted and needed in our community," she said.

In a report to council on Oct. 19,

Ferraro said the main hall at the community centre has an area of 2,927 square feet, which would be reduced to 2,540 square feet if the proposal is approved. Capacity of the hall would be reduced to 132 persons from 149. Her report suggested the move would see savings of \$25,000 a year in operational costs, and the cost of relocating the library would be around \$260,000. She also opined that the existing library building could be sold to cover some of the costs.

Betts suggested that, if the library is to be relocated, an addition to the community centre would make more sense.

A public meeting on the proposal, called by the township, is to be held some time in January.



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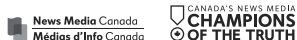
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Bruins' fans worried as slump continues

Roger Varley

Uxbridge Bruins fans are becoming a little antsy following their team's fourth loss in a row. The last time the Bruins lost four consecutive games was at the start of the 2022-23 season.

After losing to both the Georgina Ice and Little Britain Merchants at the beginning of November, the Bruins had hoped to redeem themselves when they faced the Lakefield Chiefs on Nov. 7. But the Chiefs scuttled those hopes with a 4-1 victory.

Lakefield scored their first goal a mere 14 seconds into the game. The Bruins responded a few minutes later, thanks to two call-up players: Josh Hall was credited with the goal

while assists went to Travis Winder and Trent Nobes, another call-up. That was it until the third period, when Lakefield scored three unanswered goals, including a short-handed marker and a power-play goal.

Returning to home ice last Friday to face the cellar-dwelling North Kawartha Knights, it was a near case of *déjà vu*. The Knights scored less than a minute into the game while the Bruins never once threatened their opponent's net during the whole first period.

Ty Roberts gave the Bruins some hope, and the lead, with two goals midway through the second, including a power-play goal. Anthony Lamanna and Quinn Meek assisted

on the first and Lamanna and newcomer Jaxon Koehler assisted on the second. However, once again, the Bruins' third-period woes continued as the Knights, who were four men short on the bench, came back with three unanswered goals for the win.

The *Cosmos* named Roberts as the Bruins player of the game and gave the nod to Matthew Hinan of the Knights,

Clarington leads the seven-team Orr Division with 28 points, Georgina is in second place with 22 and the Bruins have 19. However, Clarington has two games in hand and Georgina has three.

The Bruins face a tough road for the rest of the month. Tomorrow (Friday) night, they host the Eagles at the arena at 7:45 p.m. Then it's a trip to Apsley on Saturday to face the Knights again, followed by another game against Clarington on Thursday. They finish off the month with a home game against Georgina.

Bear pause: Fans had their first look at the Bruins' new almond-coloured special events sweaters on Friday as the team marked Remembrance Day with a brief pre-game ceremony by members of the Uxbridge Legion.

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The secret on the 7th - Glen Major

Conrad Boyce
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It's a surprising discovery. Head south on Main St. S./Conc. 7 from the Music Hall, past Elgin Pond and Elgin Park, all the way to the lights on Goodwood Road. Keep going, past Durham Forest and the LaFarge pit, past the Walker Woods. Eventually, down in the far southeast corner of the township, you'll come to a sharp turn onto Chalk Lake Road. If you take the turn, you come to the Trail Hub (formerly Skyloft Ski Club) and the Lakeridge ski hill. But don't turn. Veer right and keep going. Keep descending.

About another kilometre down Conc. 7, as the road widens, you will find yourself beside a beautiful little white church. It has no lawn, no fence, no path to the front door. It's almost like it's right in the road. Even more surprising, when the church was built 150 years ago, it was on the northern edge of a bustling village of several hundred souls. As you drive further, you will see small evidence of that community. There are buildings nestled in the woods that were once a store, a schoolhouse, a post office. But nothing remains of the sawmills that were the village's genesis, nor of the hotel that was its beating heart.

Another few kilometres south, past the Pickering line, you'll come to the railway, and this was in effect the southern limit of what residents called - and still call - the Glen. For decades, there was a small but busy station here, on the south side of the tracks just east of the road. But you'll find no trace of it now (nor of the little bridge built to take cows over the tracks from one pasture to another). Except for the little church, the village seems just to have melted away, into the hills.

The church is now known as Glen Major United Church, but none of those names applied when it was built in 1873. The sign high above the door identifies it as being of the Wesleyan Methodist denomination (like many other Methodist churches, including the one in Uxbridge, it was folded into the United Church of Canada in 1925). There used to be another church in the community, further south, that was also Methodist, of the Primitive group. It was torn down in 1916 to use in building a barn.

The village also went by a different name in 1873. From the time the Sharrard family built the first sawmill in about 1850, their name was also applied to the community that grew up around it. The first post office,

opened in the 1860s, was called Glen Sharrard. But when Edward Major bought the sawmills in the mid-1870s, he decided to re-name the place for his family - this was no



The Glen Major Angling Club headquarters.
Conrad Boyce

'minor' glen! - and the post office officially took the new name in 1878.

The village's heyday, however was short-lived. The larger sawmills in larger communities, like Uxbridge, gradually took away the business, and when the mills closed before the turn of the last century, employment dried up. The shops were the first to close, the post office ceased operations in 1928, the schoolhouse in the late 1940s, by which time there were only a handful of students.

There is one thriving relic in the Glen from the 19th century. Even in

the village's early days, folk seeking recreation on the area's snowy hills would come north on the train, take a carriage or sleigh from the station to the Royal Hotel in Glen Major, then grab their skis and take to the slopes just a few minutes ride up Conc. 7. After the demise of the sawmills, some of these same people looked at the mill ponds and dreamed of a reason to come back to the Glen in the summer as well. The Glen Major Angling Club was born!

The Club has been in the same headquarters since 1897 (once the village's general store), and has rarely had more than a couple of dozen members, some big city doctors and lawyers, some from the surrounding area. The club now owns 180 acres



The Pickett House, originally a general store in the village. By 1905, when this picture was taken, it was the centre of a beekeeping operation run by the Pickett family.

around the ponds, regularly stocking them with trout and planting pines to restore some stability to the sandy soil around them.

The Wesleyan church, meanwhile, lived on as a gathering place for the local farming community, but it has long been removed from any regular pastoral charge. Local residents devoted to its care hold services every Sunday evening in the summer, featuring gospel music and guest preachers from near and far. On those evenings, it's magical to stand outside on the bridge across East Duffins Creek (which created the glen in the first place), listen to the soothing sounds of the little waterfall, and

hymns on the summer air, and for just a minute let your imagination wander back 15 decades to when a busy community bordered this lovely road. Why not make a resolution to experience it next summer?

The Glen has many fascinating stories. The *Cosmos* will share a few of them in the coming months.



Glen Major Church today.

Conrad Boyce

ARMSTRONG,
Margaret Ruth (née Cawthra)
February 13, 1938 - November 8, 2023

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Margaret Ruth Armstrong (née Cawthra) on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. Margaret passed away peacefully at the age of 85 years, in her sleep, with her daughter by her side. Beloved wife of the late Ed Armstrong. Loving mother to the late Ken. Survived by her son, Kyle (Erin), and



daughter, Vyvan Coxworth (Kevin). A devoted grandmother to Kol, Ryan, Kayla, Emily, Nathan, Kyle, Teigan, Kendall, and Olivia. Great-grandmother to Declan, Annaka, Francis, and Kevin. An aunt to numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family. A cherished friend to many.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Lakeview Manor for their exceptional care and compassion.

Respecting Margaret's wishes, her family invites you to join them on Friday, December 15, 2023, from 5 - 9 p.m., at the Royal Canadian Legion, Br. #170 to commemorate Margaret's life, and to celebrate her and Ed being reunited for their 66th wedding anniversary.

To honor Margaret's love for animals, her family would appreciate donations being made to your local animal shelter. Friends are invited to send condolences or make donations at www.lowandlow.ca.



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CORNELL, Carl Brian

January 26, 1938 - November 9, 2023

Beloved father, husband and friend, Carl passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of November 9, 2023. He was in the home he built in 1966, comforted by many wonderful memories and in the presence of family.

Described by family, colleagues, fire fighters, motorcycle club members and many friends as inventive, pragmatic, respected, hilarious, humble and inspirational, Carl portrayed these qualities his entire life. He was wise and witty until the end, enjoying many visits and chats with family and friends as it became more difficult for Carl to travel far from home.

The family is appreciative of the care provided by Dr. Patricia Wong, and the large team of nurses and PSWs for whom Carl was a stoic and entertaining patient.

He will be forever missed and remembered by his four children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandsons: Chris, Martha and daughter Emily; Michael, Shelley and daughters Ava and Grace; Heather, Leslie and children Jonah, Sophie, and Mia; Lisa and sons Nathan and Cameron. Great-grandsons Eli and Lennon held a special place in their Poppa's heart.

A celebration of Carl's life will take place on January 26, 2024, at the Uxbridge Legion, details to follow. In memory of Carl, please consider a donation to the Uxbridge Fire Fighters Association Memorial Project www.usfs.ca, or The Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) Branch 170 Uxbridge www.uxbridgelegion.ca





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