

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 44

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, November 9, 2023

A top 10 update • Gambling in 2023 • Bruins slip to 3rd place

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HONOURING CHRISTOPHER CHAPMAN - On Saturday, Nov. 4, the parkette on Apple Tree Crescent in Maplebridge was dedicated to the memory of Christopher Chapman, the pioneering film-maker and pillar of the Uxbridge arts community who passed away in 2015. On hand for the ceremony (from left): Council parks chair Zed Pickering, Mayor Dave Barton and Ward 5 councillor Todd Snooks. On the right are members of Chapman's family: son Julian, daughter-in-law Wendy, grandchildren Robert, Amelia and Alastair, and in front, his wife Glen. The QR code below the sign will give the park user more information about Christopher Chapman's life and work.
Photo by Conrad Boyce

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Public Open House!
201 - 164 Cemetery Rd, Uxbridge
Sunday, November 12th
2:00 - 4:00 PM

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Region honoured as 'intelligent' community

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

The Region of Durham Region recently announced that it has been named one of the top "Intelligent Communities" for 2023.

At the end of last month, Durham Region

participated in the Intelligent Community Forum Summit, an annual global summit that, according to the ICF website, "connects hundreds of cities and regions on five continents for collaboration on economic development and for exchange of expertise and information

that drives progress." This year's summit, held in New York City, culminated in recognizing "intelligent communities," and Durham Region was recognized as one of the top seven Intelligent Communities in the world in 2023.

...continued on page 3

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Remembrance Day Ceremony

Legion 

Saturday, Nov. 11, 10:30 a.m.

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Uxbridge Cenotaph

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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The Township of Uxbridge

Trail Capital of Canada



Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for November, 2023

Monday, November 13, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.
HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 15, 7:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING

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

Lest We Forget



Road and Sidewalk Closures

- Temporary road closures for Remembrance Day service, Saturday, November 11, 10:30am - 12:30pm include Toronto St. from Mill St. to Brock St.; Brock St. from Spruce/Church Sts. to Main St.; Main St. from Toronto St. to Planks Lane; Bascom St. between Brock St. and Centennial Dr. Detours will be in effect.
- 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

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.

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.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Nov. 11th 10:30am
Uxbridge Cenotaph
Local road closures in effect

Siloam Park Playground Update

The removal of the playground at Siloam Park is currently underway.

Replacement playground construction expected to last 2-3 weeks.

62nd Annual Santa Claus Parade

Nov. 18th Starts at 11am

Brock St. from Centre Rd., to Neikydd Ln. in Uxbridge

Brought to you by:

Winter Parking Reminder

No overnight parking on Township streets or in Municipal Lots from 2am - 7am

November 1st to April 1st

NEW!

Child Water Play Swim

Wednesdays and Fridays
9:30 to 10:30 am at Uxpool

Cost:
Adults \$6.50
5 and Under \$3.50
6 to 14 \$4.50
Family \$17.00

Mayor Dave's Ten Things, revisited

Conrad Boyce,
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Last fall about this time, shortly after the municipal election, because no one chose to run against him in that election, the *Cosmos* thought we'd give Uxbridge Mayor Dave Barton an opportunity to articulate a vision for the township that the campaign didn't provide. We asked him to talk about "Ten Things I Would Like to See For the Township During This Term." They could be big vision-type things, or just little things, small improvements to buildings or parks or trails. Ten things that, when he looks back in October 2026, he'd be able to say, "I'm happy this happened, because the township is a better place for it."

So here were Mayor Barton's 10 things, in his own words. In bold are his updates, a year onward:

1. I want to see the new council really work together as a team. The new members bring some fresh new perspectives. I hope all of us bring some great new ideas from all those conversations on the doorstep during the campaign.
We are one year in and we are a team. We all have individual voices and we have different view points, but in the end we find consensus, and we all have the same goal of making Uxbridge a better place to live, work and play.
2. The next few things are about projects carried over from the last term. The biggest one is supporting the hospital as they build the new healthcare campus at the Cottage Uxbridge Hospital site, including a new 192 bed long-term care facility.
The building design is in progress and we continue to work to get the shovels in the ground as quickly as possible, with the amazing support from our MPP and the team at Oak Valley Health.
3. Completing the Brock Street cul-

vert project allows us to change our downtown. We are poised to make significant progress on downtown revitalization. It's the key to increasing the availability and affordability of housing, improving tourism opportunities, supporting the local economy and much more.

Our Downtown Revitalization Design is complete. Now we just have to start building one site at a time. The plan for the new Trinity Church site is a major step in the right direction. We need more people living and working in downtown Uxbridge, and this project will house 105 additional families who can walk to our downtown shops more quickly than they can drive.

4. We are positioned to complete major upgrades in our parks, both urban and rural: completing the accessible playground in Elgin Park, making improvements at the Fields of Uxbridge, refurbishing the parks in the hamlets.

The major upgrades to Elgin Park (accessible playground, Path of Inclusion, winterized washrooms and additional improvements to accessibility, lighting and active transportation) are awesome. We have also added irrigation, lighting and fencing to the Fields of Uxbridge. About \$1.5 million of those upgrades came from federal grants, and another \$500,000 from provincial grants.

5. We need to continue to upgrade vital infrastructure in the township. There are bridges and culverts to repair, and another eight kilometres of gravel roads to pave by the end of this term.

We started the eight kilometres of gravel road conversion, repaved roads in Leaskdale, Uxbridge and rural Uxbridge and completed the Planks Lane rebuild.

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Region is 'intelligent,' from page 1

The Region shared the top seven list with cities and communities from Florida, Brazil, Australia, and Ohio. The 2023 Intelligent Community of the Year was Binh Duong, Vietnam. According to a release from the Region, Durham's Intelligent Community profile explains how the region is "strengthening its large and diverse community through improved connectivity, access, education and energy planning that promise to deliver a better future for all."

Regional Chair and CEO John Henry, says that the Region "strives for innovative solutions for big problems across the board. From making Regional services more accessible through smart home devices to responding to climate change with our Durham Greener Homes project, we push boundaries. After being in the Top7 Intelligent Communities for the past two years, we remain committed to growing and improving with a goal of maintaining our position as a leading global innovator."

The release also says that Durham's "innovative network of government

programs, academics, and community partners is creating a culture that encourages and welcomes digital transformation." Through its Intelligent Communities Plan, the Region of Durham has formed initiatives such as the Regional Broadband Project; CityStudio Durham; the Canada Learning Bond outreach project; and the myDurham 311 Smart Home Device Voice Service project. Durham also offers a network of dig-



The Region's presentation at the Intelligent Communities Forum Summit, held in New York City at the end of October.

Photo from durham.ca

ital support for small businesses and entrepreneurs, with collaborative initiatives to connect businesses directly to customers, like the Downtowns of Durham.

To learn more, visit durham.ca/IntelligentCommunities.

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St Paul's Anglican Church Music Program

Remembrance Day Concert

In Remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice

Chamber Strings and Winds from the Orpheus Symphonietta
Director Stuart Beaudoin

Sunday Nov. 12, 4:30pm

Programme

- Bach Dorian Toccata
- Handel Organ Concerto in Bb
- Beaudoin Oratio ad Benedictionem
- Albinoni Concerto for 2 Oboi
- Bach Symphonia BWV 29

Introduction to St Paul's New Phoenix Organ

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St Paul's Anglican Church 59 Toronto St. S. Uxbridge, Ontario

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Our two cents

It's worth remembering

Every year at this time, we take a few minutes out of our day to remember. It is not something we are expected, ordered, or required to do. It is not a duty. It is something most of us do because we want to. For many, it would be almost unthinkable not to take those few quiet moments. It's a moment of reflection and, for many, memories. There are too few times in our lives when we seriously stop what we are doing in order to think about someone else.

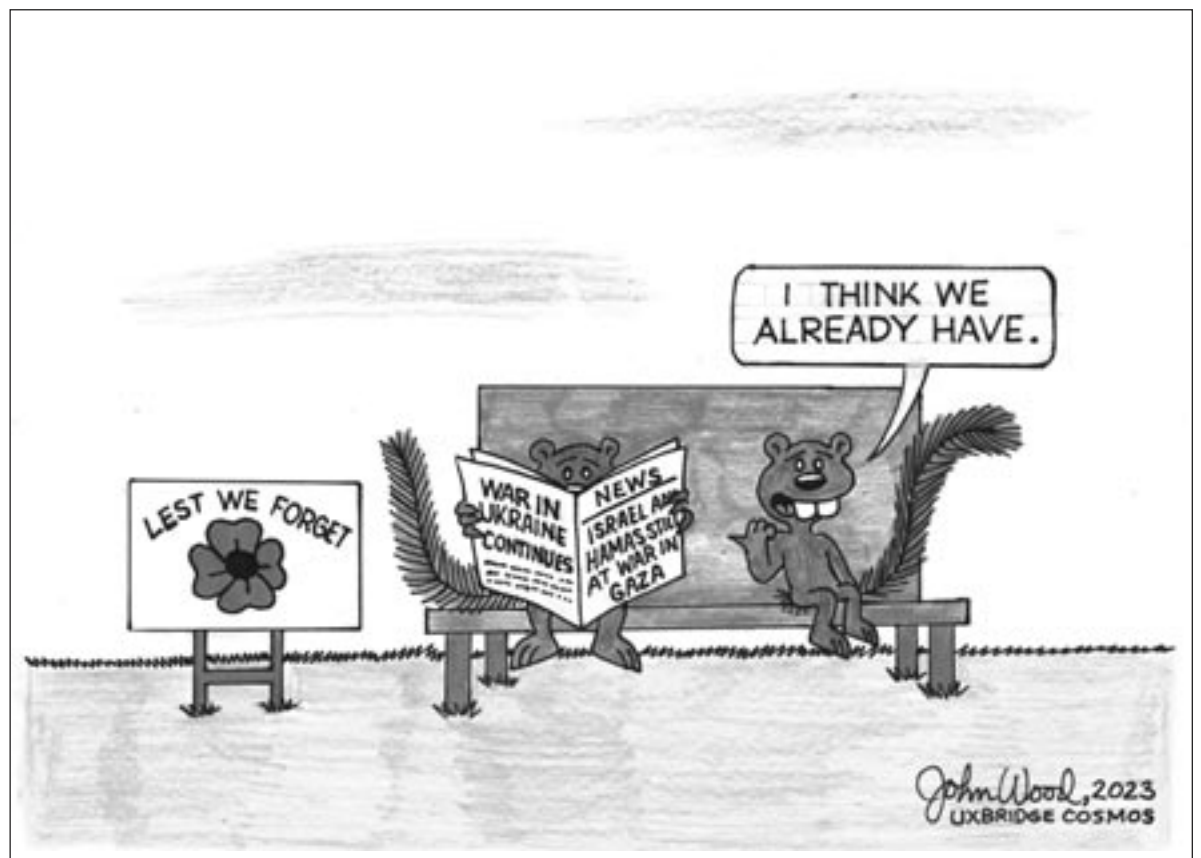
But when we say "Lest We Forget" and "We Remember," are we only to think of those who served in the Armed Forces and those who made the ultimate sacrifice? Obviously, those veterans and the fallen deserve our respect, thanks and admiration, but it's also a time to remember others. The wives, mothers and children of those who were killed on faraway shores; the families who cared for those who came back broken by war; the millions of innocents killed, injured or displaced; the members of the merchant marine who faced the same dangers as the Armed Forces, yet had no means of defending themselves from attack.

Then there is the multitude of women who left their homes to work in the factories and on the farms to replace the men who were overseas fighting. They, too, had to make sacrifices.

It is perhaps also worth remembering that, while we honour those who served in a variety of ways, we must not glorify them, for to do so would be to glorify war. Now, more than ever, we are reminded that war comes at an exceedingly high cost to everyone.

Sadly, war has forever been a part of human existence and wishful thinking will not eradicate it. It has been said that wars are easy to start and difficult to end. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is well into its second year. The Hamas launched an attack on Israel on Oct. 7, and it's anyone's guess how long that war will go on. And those two conflicts are the ones that are top of the news cycle - so many others fly under the radar.

It's worth remembering that, given the state of things, the world could descend into war once more. Let our remembrance be a prayer that it doesn't.



Letters to the Editor

Re: Plans to build a six-storey apartment building on Main Street

Before moving forward with the plans to build a six-storey, 105-unit apartment building on Main St., please take into consideration the traffic flow in and out of the complex. The majority of residential traffic utilizes Main St. and most do not abide by the speed limit. It is a busy road with non-stop traffic. It is very hard to get out of driveways on Main St. in the mornings or evenings. I work 10 minutes from where I live, and was recently cut off by three vehicles before leaving my driveway and almost hit from behind.

To build this apartment building near the four corners of Brock and Main Streets will add to the congestion of Main St. and the downtown area.

It will make it more dangerous for parents with young children who walk about town and take children to school or on outings, and dangerous for other pedestrians.

More research needs to be put into this development before moving forward with it. Clean up the downtown area before starting another project that is going to leave another hole in the ground of Uxbridge for another four or five years. An example of this is the apartment building and the stores that burned down last year, and the hole where Home Hardware stood.

Ward 4 councillor Willie Popp spoke about the wake of destruc-

tion of the tornado that devastated Uxbridge. Was there any thought about the destruction of people's lives who live in the buildings to be torn down on Main St., to accommodate a six-storey complex, which will be facing the backside of the downtown Uxbridge, looking at the burned-out apartment building? These people may be displaced from their homes and jobs they have close by.

There is a housing crisis everywhere and places are hard to find. Is the Trinity United Church going to find these people a place to live if they are unable to find housing?

The construction of houses on Elgin Park Drive, Reach Street and Brock Street East took out the forests where wildlife lived. Now these animals (fox, bears, squirrels, chipmunks, skunks, coyotes, etc.), have to find other places to live. They are coming into the town of Uxbridge now to look for "help" to get by, because their homes have been taken away by the destruction of their homes.

Like the people who are now living in the buildings that are to be torn down to build a six-storey apartment building who are now unsure of their future.

A little history about the buildings being torn down: Jurgen's Deli, back in the early days of Uxbridge, was a creamery where milk was bottled and delivered to the Uxbridge, Epsom and Utica communities. The deli was established two and a half years ago, and it has a consistent flow of clientele.

The building between the deli and the 100-year-old house was a foundry back in the early days of Uxbridge. The house has a beautiful greenspace with plants appearing every spring, planted by the first owner of the house. To remove these buildings will take more of Uxbridge's history away.

K. Nicholson
Uxbridge

The Thomas Foster Memorial would like to thank everyone who came out and supported the concerts at the Memorial this year. It would not have been possible without the wonderfully talented entertainers, as well as the *Cosmos'* support, letting everyone know who is on each "Friday at the Foster."

We still have two programs planned: on Sunday, Nov. 12, the Rotary Christmas Home Tour will be held, and the Foster will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., so come out and have a tour of its beautiful Byzantine architecture.

On Sunday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m., the very talented Ladies of the Foster will perform a reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, with a seasonal sing-along led by Jane Loewen.

Our "Fridays at the Foster" have been an excellent addition to the cultural programs in the Township, and a lifesaver for our fundraising for the beautiful and unique, one-of-a-kind Thomas Foster Memorial.

Beverly Northeast
Secretary/Treasurer

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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The Uxbridge Cosmos

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9,800 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

Methinks he doth protest too much

Premier Doug Ford is unhappy with the federal government and, of course, that's no surprise to anyone. But his latest reason for discontent is, to say the least, laughable.

Ford is complaining that the federal government is stepping on Ontario's jurisdictional toes by providing funding directly to municipalities in the province to build homes. He called the federal program "jurisdictional creep." This coming from a man who has made "jurisdictional creep" almost an art form since coming to power.

It was Ford who slashed the size of Toronto city council right in the middle of a municipal election! It was Ford who decided to award "strong mayor" status to a significant number of Ontario mayors, giving them extraordinary powers as long as they went along with his agenda! It was Ford who decided he was going to appoint facilitators to a number of the province's regional governments to make sure they were working to his liking! It was Ford who drastically cut municipalities' development charges and reduced the role of conservation authorities when it comes to approving development proposals! And it was Ford who told Toronto voters in the last municipal election who they should elect as their mayor. Talk about jurisdictional creep!

Ford and other premiers have been calling on the federal government for some time to do more to help ease the housing crisis that exists right across this nation. So the feds came up with something called the Housing Accelerator Fund, launched in March of this year, providing \$4 billion to encourage municipalities to update their zoning and permit systems to enable faster housing construction. In Ontario, London received \$74 million and Vaughan was given \$59 million. Mississauga was in line for \$120 million in funding, but after Mississauga city council voted to prevent fourplexes from being built within city limits, that amount was revoked. However, Mayor Bonnie Crombie, one of those with "strong mayor" powers, reversed council's decision in hopes of getting the federal government to reconsider the funding. Probably not how Ford wanted those strong mayor powers used.

However, Ford doesn't like this arrangement. He wants the federal government to work with his government, probably by giving the money to the province and allowing Ford and his Conservatives to decide who gets what. Given his government's handling of the Greenbelt scandal and the subsequent enrichment of a number of developer friends, as well as an RCMP investigation into the affair, it's understandable that the feds would say: "Um, we don't think so."

Of course, Ontario has its own housing fund. The Ontario government set up a \$1.2 billion fund to provide municipalities with up to \$400 million per year if they meet certain housing targets over the next three years. Municipalities would be assigned annual housing targets and funding would be provided to those who reach 80 per cent of their target within the year. However, municipalities that do not achieve the target - or close to it - will get nothing. Even worse, those who build more than their assigned target will receive bonuses. If that's not a call to deliver rampant urban and suburban sprawl, I don't know what is.

Yet, whenever the politicians talk about housing and the need to build more, faster, we never hear any of them call for small houses, similar to those post-war homes that were built in the 1950s. And developers are not likely to go that route because there's less profit to be made with a small home than with a mega-mansion. New homes being built right here in Uxbridge have starting prices of \$1 million, and heaven knows what will be the asking price for homes on lots three-quarters of an acre in size as proposed for the hamlet of Zephyr.

It seems to me that it's long past time for the federal government to convene a royal commission to look into the housing crisis and its causes and to offer workable solutions so that no one has to live in a tent or their vehicle. And while they're at it, find out what is driving rental accommodation out of the range of many people.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Canada's veterans would not be amused

Grace MacPherson had all the credentials she needed to become an ambulance driver in the Great War. The first woman in Vancouver to earn a driver's licence. The first woman to purchase a car in that city. When war broke out in 1914, she even paid her own way to Britain, offering her skills as a driver to the Red Cross ambulance corps. When she gained an audience with Sam Hughes, Canada's minister of militia and war in 1917, to plead her case, however, he turned her down.

"I'll stop any woman from going to France," Hughes blustered.

"With your help, or without it," Miss MacPherson said, "I will serve."

Then, when Hughes was suddenly demoted from his position later that year, Grace got her wish. And remarkably, she said her proudest moment was not defying Hughes. "I was proudest when I wore that 'Canada' patch on the shoulder on my uniform," she wrote.

Just about every veteran I have ever interviewed - probably 6,000 of them in my 50 years as a journalist, broadcaster and author - has told me that nothing meant more to them than the privilege of being Canadian. Nothing. The past few months I've thought a lot about Grace MacPherson's determination and pride at being Canadian; particularly, I think, in the wake of several misguided pronouncements made by some of this country's provincial premiers - Smith of Alberta, Moe of Saskatchewan, and Ford of Ontario.

Almost a year ago, the Alberta government of Danielle Smith used its majority (27 to seven) to pass the Alberta Sovereignty Act, which in simple terms gives the province the right not to abide by any federal legislation it doesn't like regarding such things as energy development, health care or pension benefits. The dean of the University of Calgary's law school, Ian Halloway, told CBC, "The premier is engaging in a game of political chicken." And in recent weeks, Smith has made the first move in that game of chicken - campaigning to pull Alberta out of the Canada Pension Plan. She claims Albertans pay disproportionately more than their share into the plan, and that they're owed 53 per cent of its assets (or \$334 billion).

Now, I lived in Alberta for a decade when times both boomed and went bust. And during those economic downturns, nobody in B.C., Ontario or Newfoundland demanded repayment of their contributions to unemployment insurance, health care or equalization to western provinces when their citizens were have-nots. Smith has also forgotten

about the negative rants made by one of her Conservative predecessors, Ralph Klein; at the height of the National Energy Program dispute, as mayor of Calgary, Klein said, "Let those eastern bastards freeze in the dark."

Grace MacPherson would not be amused by either Klein's or Smith's anti-Canadian remarks.

As well, just last month, the Saskatchewan Party used its majority at the Legislature in Regina to pass Bill 137, which will prevent children under 16 from changing their names or pronouns at school without receiving parental consent. Whether parents needed such protection or not is clearly debatable, but Premier Scott Moe didn't just use his majority in the Legislature to pass the law. No, his distaste for Ottawa precipitated his use of the Notwithstanding Clause of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to ram it through. To stop already vulnerable young people from choosing their identity, really? Do you know how many letters of concern over this issue the government of Saskatchewan received? Exactly 18! One NDP opposition politician called Bill 137 Premier Moe's "show trial" against Ottawa.

Once again, I'm inclined to think veteran MacPherson and her comrades would consider Premier Moe's use of back-against-the-wall legislation abusive, if not un-Canadian.

Then, amid his self-inflicted Greenbelt fiasco, Premier Doug Ford is blaming his troubles getting infrastructure and housing built on the federal government. Despite the auditor general's report about placing developers' interests over the public interest and the integrity commissioner's condemnation of Conservative political hacks determining policy, Ford says his pet projects - Ontario Place and Hwy. 413 - are being stalled by Ottawa's environmental legislation. He wants the federal Impact Assessment Act reviewed, claiming development is being "held up because of confusion caused by the federal government."

If Grace MacPherson were still around and aware of Premier Ford's track record on development, Premier Smith's "Tell the Feds" attack ads or Premier Moe's partisan use of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, I think she'd wonder whose interests they are serving - their own or Canada's?

And with Remembrance Day upon us, she might remind them how much Canadian blood was spilled gaining those rights and freedoms.

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

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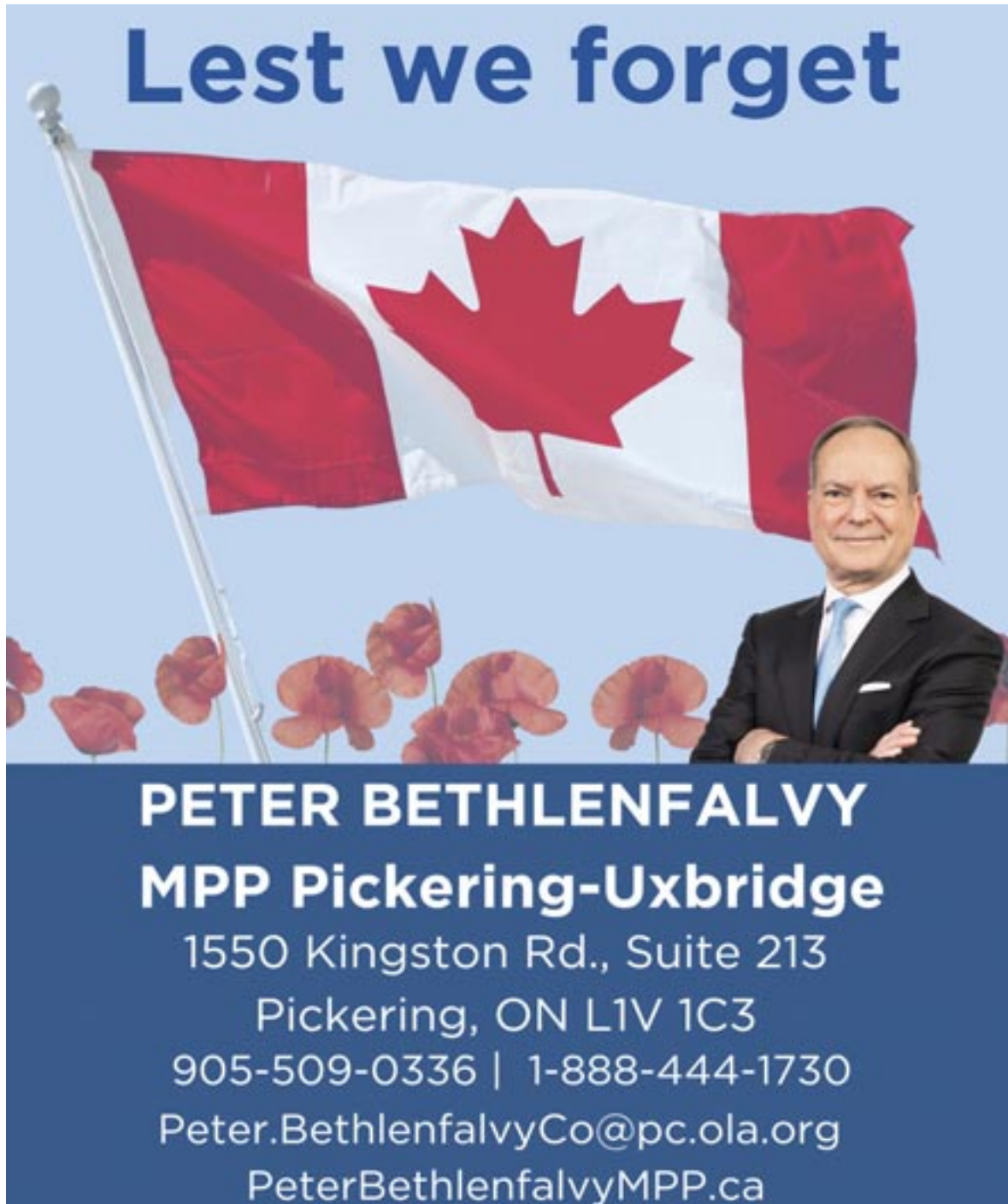
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Bruins stumble continues

Roger Varley

It was likely a weekend the Uxbridge Bruins would like to forget as they were hammered 7-2 on Friday night by the Georgina Ice, and 5-1 on Sunday by the lowly Little Britain Merchants.

At the arena on Friday, the game was technically over by the middle of the first period. The Ice scored three goals in the first 10 minutes, one of them a power-play goal, and added a fourth before Quinn Meek, assisted by newcomer Jaxon Koehler and Anthony Lamanna, found the net with 19 seconds left in the period. Georgina's fourth goal saw starting netminder Andrew Claughton replaced by Matthew Czali.

The Ice, cheered on by a boisterous contingent of Georgina fans, scored two more in the first half of the second, including a penalty shot, before Ty Roberts notched the Bruins' second goal, assisted by Koehler.

A short-handed goal late in the third period sealed the game for the Ice.

In Little Britain on Sunday afternoon, the Merchants, who had only one win going into the game, completely dominated the Bruins, scoring three unanswered goals in the first period and two more in the third before Uxbridge's Josh Czali found the net on a power play with less than a minute left in the game.

The two losses resulted in the Bruins slipping into third place in the seven-team league, behind the Clarington Eagles and the Ice. Both those teams

have two games in hand on the Bruins.

The Bruins had an opportunity to redeem themselves when they visited Lakefield on Tuesday night to face the Chiefs. Tomorrow (Friday), the team will be back on home ice at 7:45 p.m., to take on the North Kawartha Knights and then have a week to rest up and prepare to meet the Eagles on Nov. 17. Prior to tomorrow night's game, there will be a brief Remembrance Day ceremony with members of the Uxbridge Legion.

Bear pause: In the PJHL's Prospects games at the arena on Saturday, the East defeated the South handily, scoring six goals before the South found the net in the third period for a final score 8-3.

The game featured 16- and 17-year old players and was attended by scouts searching for prospects for the OHL and OJHL. Neither the Clarington Eagles nor the Port Perry Lumberjacks were represented as they had no eligible players. The Bruins players selected were Luke El-Ayari and Nolan Winter, both of whom scored a goal for the East.

Chris Clarke, a PJHL official attending the game, acknowledged the game could be something of a grind for some of the players. He noted, for example, that East players from the Amherstview Jets had a two-and-a-half hour drive both ways from the Kingston area and when they returned home had a regular season

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Shobrook Gardens
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Saluting our Veterans



The Uxbridge Cosmos

*Lest We Forget
 Remembrance Day 2023*

Mayor Dave's top 10, updated, from page 3

6. Internet service needs to continue to improve, and we will continue to advocate for this. Our efforts so far mean that we should have high-speed to the rest of rural Uxbridge in the very near future.

Fibre continues to be installed all over the township. Some is part of the Durham One Net Project, and other areas are being built out by private internet companies.

7. The modernization digitization of service delivery at town hall has made good progress, but we need to complete that work, to ensure that our services are efficient and totally accessible, 24/7.

These processes continue and are being driven by our high tech genius, CAO Kristi Honey.

8. I'm a heavy user of our great trails, so my last three items are really from a wish list I've put together as I use them through the seasons. The first is that I'd love to see a portion of one of our wilderness trails as an off-leash dog-walking site. The park up at the museum is great, but you can't really give your dog a proper walk there. I know some of our residents let their dogs off leash on our trails now; they need a trail where they can legally do that.

The Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park is a huge win for Uxbridge, and I expect we will see an off leash area as part of that provincial park.

9. I'd like to see improvements in infrastructure on most of our wilderness trails, things like benches and par-

ticularly washrooms.

We now have porta-potties in multiple areas, and we hope to get something permanent built with the parking revenue in the next year. This will also happen as part of the provincial park.

10. Last is a winter wish: a few groomed cross-country ski trails, so more of our residents can use them year-round.

We had cross-country ski trails both at Trail Hub and Wooden Sticks this past winter. I hope to see these continue, as well as an expansion in the provincial park.

Gambling in Ontario: Your expanding options

Conrad Boyce
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In the first article of this four-part series, the *Cosmos* gave you an idea of

what gambling is, and how long it's been a part of human society. This week, we examine the huge range of options Ontario gamblers now have before them, and how those activities are licensed and regulated.

Only 50 years ago, legal gambling in this province consisted of two things: very small pots at local Legion bingos or church raffles; or placing a few bucks on a race at Woodbine. No big lotteries, no instant scratchers. There was only one legal casino in all of Canada, a Gold Rush artifact up in Dawson City, Yukon. "Online" didn't exist. Five decades later, the gambling universe has exploded.

Gambling in Canada is allowed under the Criminal Code, which specifies exactly what types of activities can occur. The federal government then delegates the operation,

licensing and regulation of gambling, or 'gaming' to the provinces and territories.

In Ontario, the principal regulating body is the Alcohol and Gaming Commission (AGC), which, in addition to booze and gambling, also has responsibility for the cannabis industry. The AGC only directly oversees one aspect of gambling - horse racing - while delegating the rest of the industry to two subsidiaries: the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) and iGaming Ontario (iGO).

Gambling options in the province can be loosely divided into three groups: those you can experience in a social context, those you can enjoy in private (without a 'device'), and those available virtually.

Gambling in a crowd

Horse Racing This is still very popular in Ontario, although it's seasonal. The province has 15 race tracks where bets can be placed, 12 featuring standardbred or harness racing, two starring thoroughbreds (Woodbine and Fort Erie), and one with quarter horses. The last one, Ajax Downs (formerly Picov Downs), is the closest to Uxbridge. All of these race tracks also now include slot machines (regulated by OLG), which brings us to...

Casinos The first casino in Ontario opened in 1994 in Windsor; we now have 30 of them. Until a few years ago, they were directly run by OLG, but are now licensed to private operators. Great Blue Heron, the closest to us on Scugog Island, was one of Ontario's earliest casinos, opening in 2000.

Charitable Gaming These are the big bingo halls operated by OLG, but mostly staffed by volunteers on behalf of various charities. There are 37 of them across the province, the closest to us being in Newmarket or Pickering.

Solo Attractions

Lotteries The modern expansion of gambling in the province began in

...continued on page 11


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A Catch-up Conversation with Howie Herrema

Conrad Boyce
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Howie, I think when the municipal election of 2010 was on the horizon, the people of Uxbridge expected that you would either succeed Gerri-Lynn O'Connor and Bob Shepherd as the mayor, or follow in your father's footsteps as the chair of Durham Region. Instead, you retired from politics altogether. What happened?

The dairy farm happened. Municipal politics is supposed to be a part-time job, but anyone who's done it will tell you that it's your other job that gets shoved aside. It was bad enough when I was a ward councillor, but when I got the regional position, my share of duties at the farm got really neglected. Finally, my older brother sat me down and said he wanted to move on from farming. My wife Lizzie and I had to decide if we would sell the milking operation and just keep cropping. But we both love the cows. What was most important to me and my family? As soon as Gerri-Lynn told me she was prepared to run again, I knew I was coming back to the dairy farm.

You've been on this farm your whole life, right? You were born here?

Well, not exactly. I was born at the Cottage Hospital in 1961. My son

Gerrit was one of the last born there, 30 years later. But yes, this farm is the only home I've ever known. My dad came to Canada with my grandparents after the war, he was only nine then. My grandfather was Wyben, my grandmother Ymjke, but I guess your average Canadian couldn't handle pronunciation of Dutch names back then, so they became Wilbur and Yvonne. My dad was Gerrit, so he became Gary. Granddad had a lot of dairy experience back in Holland, so there was plenty of opportunity for him here in Ontario. They actually got their first work on Don St. John's farm just east of Uxbridge, then they leased a farm in King Township for a few years. This place came up for sale in 1960, and they'd saved up enough by then, and they really liked this community. So they bought it.

Your father Gary was a legendary politician in this area, he was chair of Durham Region for 14 years. How did that career come about?

Well, around the kitchen table in our house, the conversation pretty much only focussed on two things: farming and politics. Dad could get pretty fired up about that stuff. I think it was the way garbage disposal was being handled one time that pushed

him over the edge. He served one term in Uxbridge as regional councillor, another as mayor. By then, Durham Region had been around for only a few years, and he enjoyed being a big part of how it became what it is now.

Then he died of cancer when he was still very young, only 57.

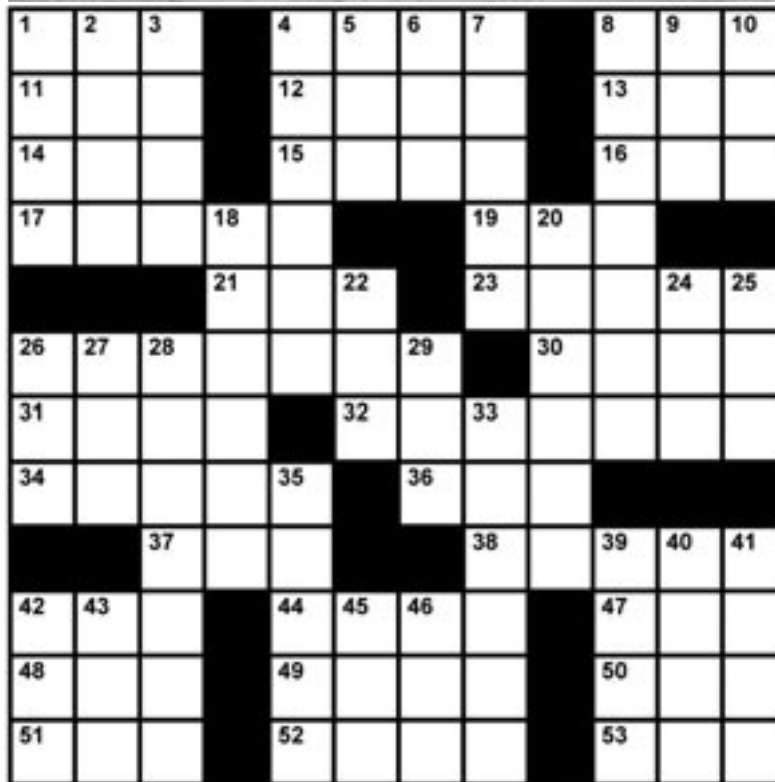
Ironically, we think it started when he got kicked by a cow. He was so busy, he neglected the injury. My mom, Helen, took over things, and my brother and I were at an age when we could be more of a help. Mom's really been a rock, she's why the farm is still here. I went to Ridgetown College near Guelph to learn everything I could about the business; the technology of it was really beginning to change about then. Ridgetown is where I met my wife, Lizzie.

So Herralea has really changed in the decades you've lived here? What still fascinates you about dairy farming?

The farm has slowly grown over the years. We now have 575 acres spread between Concessions 6 and 7. In addition to more than 200 Holsteins, we have a lot of acreage dedicated to crops both for the cows and the cash

...continued on page 11

COSMOS CROSSWORD



Across

- 1. Walk softly
- 4. Headline
- 8. Have a tab
- 11. Notable time
- 12. Fishing need
- 13. Bit of sunshine
- 14. Make a scene?
- 15. Puncture
- 16. Food additive
- 17. Portion
- 19. Owing
- 21. One ___ bandit
- 23. Sprinkle on
- 26. As a substitute
- 30. "___ #1!"
- 31. Circus sight
- 32. Century sections
- 34. Play for time
- 36. Conjunction
- 37. Canadian province, for short
- 38. Show flexibility
- 42. Begin to use
- 44. Use a spoon
- 47. Beach water
- 48. Cause of wrinkles
- 49. Certain column
- 50. Motel relative
- 51. Doze (off)
- 52. Cause
- 53. Put it to

Down

- 1. They can be sweet
- 2. Eyebrow shape
- 3. What to make decisions on
- 4. Precinct
- 5. When repeated, excessively affected
- 6. ___ in a day's work
- 7. Swamp plants
- 8. Purchased from a catalog
- 9. Modus operandi
- 10. Goggle
- 18. Bad sound in the engine
- 20. Toward the sky
- 22. Bonkers
- 24. "The best things in life ___ free"
- 25. I'm in!
- 26. "___ De-Lovely"
- 27. Bottom line, often
- 28. Lost it
- 29. TV room
- 33. Sandpaper type
- 35. Mentions one-by-one
- 39. Marco Polo crossed it
- 40. Writes
- 41. Fail completely
- 42. Suede shade
- 43. Past word
- 45. Afternoon drink, for some
- 46. Red or India

Bruins now in third, from page 6

game to play. Players on the South team came from as far away as Port Dover and Grimsby and Clarke said they all had to make their own way to the arena.

Clarke said the scouts were looking for players who showed an above-average skill level. Shining for the East team was Wyatt Gregory of the Amherstview Jets, who scored two goals, was a threat every time he was on the ice and was named the East's player of the game.



For complete season and player information go to
uxbridgebruins.pjhl.on.hockeytech.com

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Gambling Part 2, from page 8

1974 with the introduction of WIN-tario. Lotto 6/49, the first national lottery, followed a few years later. OLG currently offers 14 different lotteries at your favourite retailer. The township of Uxbridge has 20 different sites where you can get your ticket. There are more than 13,000 retailers across Ontario. In addition to the lotteries offered by OLG, there are a multitude of charity lotteries big and small.

Instant Tickets Also available at your OLG retailer, these include 'break-open' tickets which can reveal cash winnings, bingo numbers, or playing cards, or the 'scratcher' equivalent. Each player has his or her preference, whether to reveal their prize right in the store or wait till they get home.

Virtual Gaming

Online lotteries, slots or table games These days, of course, you don't have to go to a race track, casino or OLG outlet to gamble. Almost any way you can spend your money there is now also available on your favourite device. You can pick your LottoMax numbers, play blackjack or poker, pull a virtual handle on a slot machine, or play versions of TV game shows like *Wheel of Fortune* or *The Price is Right*. All these options are

available on the OLG website, but in the last couple of years, private operators, based in Canada or around the world, have entered the market as well. iGO was created to regulate them, but as of now, iGO registration is not compulsory. If you're wagering substantial amounts, your money is safer, better protected, through iGO. Go to the agency's website for more details.

Sports betting Now, however, you can legally wager on just about every kind of sport imaginable, and not just on the final score, but on particular facets of the particular event. For the next Jays-Orioles game, for example, you can place a bet on how many runs will be scored in the fourth inning, or how many errors the Orioles defence will make. OLG has run its PROLINE game for decades, with tickets available at retailers, but that's a primitive form of sports betting. The options online are endless (though again, consult the iGO on how best to protect your wager). The bookies who used to figure out the odds on the ponies must be very jealous.

This article was edited for length. To read "Gambling in Ontario: Your expanding options," visit thecosmos.ca

Generations of farmer politicians, from page 9

market: corn, soybeans, different grains. And that makes for a great variety in the challenges here. There's no routine. Some days you're a mechanic, some days you're a vet. And of course you're running a complicated business, with employees and government regulations everywhere you turn. Never boring, that's for sure.

Are you and Lizzie ever tempted to retire to a little house on a lake somewhere?

Are you kidding? We have four houses to maintain here, why would we add another one? And the farm still needs us. Our son, Gerrit, is really strong on the IT side of the business - computers are part of everything here, even when we're out in the fields - and he and his wife, Sarah, just brought the fifth generation onto the farm, little Wyatt. So he's got a lot on his plate. And although our daughter, Brigitte, is involved in agriculture, she's not part of the day-to-day operation of Herralea.

How about a return to politics someday?

I think I'm about 90 per cent sure that won't happen. But I did enjoy my time on council, especially all the people you meet, and every now and again I'll drive by a park or a building



FOUR GENERATIONS OF HERREMAS: From left: daughter Brigitte, wife Lizzie, mother Helen, son Gerrit, daughter-in-law Sarah with grandson Wyatt, and Howie, with pups Hans and Levi, and a few cows!
Photo by Conrad Boyce

and think, "I'm proud of that, we did a good job there." And you never know, I might get mad like my dad did... if Mayor Dave doesn't fix my road...

So you're saying there's a chance. For now, what gets Howie Herrema up in the morning?

Debt! And the cows. They're always up before me.

KEY, Carol

April 28, 1944 - October 25, 2023



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Carol Key (Weston). She passed peacefully with family by her side, on October 25, 2023. Born April 28, 1944 Carol was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend.

She was predeceased by her parents Harold and Jean Weston and her husband of 58 years Gerry Key

She leaves behind her children Jeff (Olga) Key and Lisa (Rick) Tessier, and her grandchildren Alexandria, Samantha, and Jarrot. She also leaves behind her sister and best friend Jeannette (Jim) Smith, her brother-in-laws David Key, Doug (Gail) Key, and Robert Key, along with many nieces and nephews.

Carol lit up the room with her smile, her laugh and her sense of humor. She will always be our sunshine.

A Celebration of life will be held at Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street, South, Uxbridge on Friday November 10, 2023, from 1pm to 4pm.

The family would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to the Teck Pioneer Residence for the wonderful care they provided in the final months of Carol's journey.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Teck Pioneer Residents in Kirkland Lake, Canadian Kidney Society, or your local Animal Shelter.

Friends are invited to share memories and condolences at www.lowandlow.ca.

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