

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 19 No. 38

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Celebrating NNW early • Bruins chalk a win • A local leader for Reconciliation



SATURDAY IN THE PARK WITH MUSIC - Abbey Chevretils, left, and Michela Kennedy entertained Elgin Park visitors on Saturday afternoon as part of 'Trail Mix - an Arts Experience on the Trails of Elgin Park.' Trail Mix, which featured many music students from Uxbridge Secondary School, was part of the ongoing annual Celebration of the Arts.
Photo by John Covers

Skateboarder suffers serious injuries

Roger Varley

A teenage girl was transported to a Toronto hospital on Friday after suffering serious injuries at the Uxbridge skate park.

Durham Regional Police say witnesses told them the 16-year-old was riding a skateboard on the skate park parking lot, located on Main Street North, while holding on to the side of a silver pickup truck near the rear wheel. Police said the girl lost her balance, fell, and was run over by the truck.

She was taken to a local hospital in critical condition and later transferred to Toronto, where she was said to be in "life-threatening condition."

No further information was available at press time.

Police ask anyone with information on the incident to call D/Cst. Dalgetty at 905-579-1520 ext. 5217.

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Zephyr development could drain hamlet

Roger Varley

About 30 Zephyr residents crowded into Uxbridge council chambers Monday night to voice their opposition to a proposed development in the hamlet.

At a public planning hearing into the application by China Canada Jing Bei Xin Min International Co. Ltd., several residents addressed council with a litany of complaints, but the overriding concern appeared to be their water supply.

The developer wants to build a subdivision on 100 acres on the former Hidden Ridge golf course, just a stone's throw from the hamlet's main intersection. Monday's meeting was about the development's Phase Two, which would see 17 homes added to the seven homes proposed in Phase One. The company is seeking to change the zoning from "Recreational Open Space Exception No. 3 (OS-3)" to

"Hamlet Residential Exception No. 53 (HR-53)." Mayor Dave Barton pointed out the smallest lot in the development would be three-quarter of an acre in size.

Given the topography of the area, several residents whose properties are adjacent to the proposed development expressed concern about drainage from the site. Beverly Saunders of Ecovue Consulting Services, the developer's planning consultant, showed a slide which indicated all runoff would move away from neighbouring homes, but the residents were skeptical. One resident said she already has water pooling on her property and wanted pre- and post-construction examinations to make sure her property is not adversely affected by the development.

More residents said they were worried about what would happen to their wells. All the homes in the proposed subdivision would obtain water from wells, and residents said that

could seriously affect the water table and their own water supply. Addressing the consultant's claim that well monitoring has been done, resident Colleen McBroom said results could vary depending on when the monitoring was done. Monitoring in the Spring could show vastly different results than tests done in the Fall, she said.

Resident Josee MacPherson said the development could have "catastrophic consequences" on the water supply. MacPherson asked why it would be up to the residents to prove the development was the cause if their wells run dry.

"This hamlet has a finite amount of water and there is no way of knowing what that level is," she said. "Given the increasingly dry weather and the growing demand for water, this means the (water) table could be drying up faster than anticipated. My question to council is when,

...continued on page 3

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for September, 2023

Thursday, September 28, 7:00 p.m.
 BIA BOARD MEETING

Meeting Schedule for October, 2023

Monday, October 2
 CANCELLED – GENERAL PURPOSE
 AND ADMINISTRATION MEETING

Tuesday, October 3, 9:30 a.m.
 SPECIAL CLOSED COUNCIL
 MEETING

Friday, October 6, 8:30 a.m.
 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
 MEETING

Proclamations for the Month

- September - National Hunger Action Month
- September - Big Brothers Big Sisters Month
- September - Local Food Month
- September 10 - Firefighters' National Memorial Day
- September 17-23 - National Legion Week
 - September 18 - Big Brothers Big Sisters Day
- September 18-24 - Rail Safety Week
- September 21 - International Day of Peace
 - September 25 - Franco Ontarian Day
 - September 28 - Test Your Smoke Alarm Day
- September 28 - British Home Child Day
- September 30 - National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)

Fridays at the Foster Concert Series

9449 Conc. 7 (Durham 1)

www.thomasfostermemorial.com

Every Friday night from 7:30 - 8:30pm,
 May to September.

Admission is by donation at the door.

September 29

FINALE with Mike Burns, Entertainer

For information call 905-640-3966 or email

beverlynortheast@gmail.com

FROM THE TAX OFFICE

Property Tax due date is September 27, 2023

Tax Payments Options:

- In person at Town Hall during regular business hours of Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Accepted payment methods are cash, cheque, or Interac debit.
- In an after-hours Drop Box located in the Municipal Office front parking lot. DO NOT DEPOSIT CASH. Post-dated cheques are acceptable.
- By Mail - Payments must reach the Municipal Office by the due date.
- Through Internet or Telephone Banking
- At most Financial Institutions.
- Credit cards and e-transfers are not accepted for property tax payments.

Penalty/Interest Charges:

For non-payment of a tax levy on or before the respective due dates of each installment, a penalty of 1.25% shall be imposed on the first day of each calendar month and thereafter in which the default continues. Failure to receive a Tax Bill does not excuse the taxpayer from responsibility for payment of taxes nor liability of any penalty or interest due to late payments.

The penalty interest charges cannot be waived or reduced by the Tax Department or Council for any reason.

PLEASE RETAIN YOUR 2023 FINAL TAX BILL FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES. If a reprinted tax bill, receipt or Statement of Account is required for any year's taxes, a fee of \$15.00 will apply.

If you did not receive your 2023 Final Tax Bill, please contact the Tax Department at 905-852-9181 or tax@uxbridge.ca

Road and Sidewalk Closures

- Bascom Street from Mill to Poplar Streets, road and sidewalk closures from 7 am to 7 pm to Friday, September 22.
- Planks Lane, between Marietta St and Main St S., to end of September - road and sidewalk closure
- Victoria St. between Brock St. W and King St. W., Sundays, May 7 - October 29, 7am to 3pm - Victoria St is pedestrian-only during Farmers' Market hours
- 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
- Main Street N. immediately north of Maple Brook Dr. – sidewalk temporarily closed



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

No one hurt in explosion, fire

Roger Varley

Uxbridge firefighters responded to an explosion and fire on Planks Lane on Friday night.

Fire chief Mike MacDonald said it isn't clear if the explosion caused the fire or whether a component of an electric car exploded. He said firefighters arrived to find an attached garage in flames but were

able to prevent the fire from spreading to nearby buildings.

MacDonald said no one in the house, including two cats, was injured in the incident and the house itself suffered only minimal damage as a result of firefighters cutting into drywall to make sure there was no fire in the walls.

The chief said a sizable crowd had gathered at the site to watch.

Following the bouncing by-law ball

Roger Varley

One could, perhaps, excuse members of council if they occasionally become confused, given the labyrinthine complexities of some by-laws.

On Monday, which proved a quieter than normal day at council, councillors were asked to approve the following by-law: "Being a by-law to repeal By-law 2023-101, being a by-law to amend By-law 2002-217, being a by-law to adopt a policy with respect to the Delegation of Powers

and Duties with Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge (this by-law is being repealed to correct an administrative error.)

Zephyr not happy, from page 1

not if, the water runs dry, what then?"

Councillor Gord Shreeve also wanted to know what the applicant would do to compensate residents if their wells dry up. However, there were few other questions from members of council.

But residents were not so reticent. Marlene Riddle, claiming that the township did not give the public enough advance notice of the meeting and that the public notice signs in the area were incorrectly situated, asked if that was enough

to end the meeting. The answer was no.

However, a variety of other concerns were brought up: Residents noted that Zephyr has only one store, few services and only two public amenities: the library and the community hall/park. It was noted that the subdivision would have only one point of access/egress and that would be directly across the road from the entrance to the Zephyr park. Others pointed to the hamlet's lack of sidewalks, poor road conditions and heavy traffic, as well as the need to protect provincially significant wetlands that border the

property as well as local threatened or endangered wildlife.

"How will this development benefit Zephyr?" one resident asked.

Several said the development should be offering "affordable" homes.

"Why isn't council going for houses our children can afford," asked McBroom.

In reply to a question, township planning consultant Elizabeth Howson said that if council rejects the development proposal, the applicant can appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal. If council approves the plan, residents would have to appeal to the OLT.



Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust

www.uxbridgemusicscholarshiptrust.com

The Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust was founded in 1998 and continued vibrantly for 25 years.

The founders, Anthony Holt and Lesley Joosten, had a vision to bring excellent music to Uxbridge and to support the music students that had a passion to make music their life-long career. They succeeded.

Please visit our website to see the many students that have benefited from the Trust and have studied at prestigious colleges and universities and are now professional musicians.

Over the years, the UMST has awarded over \$95,000.00 to 66 deserving students.

The music scene has changed over the decades and it is with heavy hearts that the current committee members made a decision with care, concern and considerable discussion at our board meeting June 4, 2023 to discontinue and dissolve the Trust.

We thank the Uxbridge Community, St. Andrew's Chalmers Presbyterian Church, and our various Service Clubs for their support over the many years.

Our remaining funds will be dispersed according to our Trust documents and will be awarded to the Uxbridge Secondary School Music Department for distribution as required bringing our investment in youth musicians to over \$100,000.00

It has taken many volunteers over the years to arrange concerts, adjudications and provide musical support. Each and every one is appreciated

Paul Kett was our first chairman and we thank Tom Rance for many years in this position. Carolyn Hicken took over and wore all the executive hats at one point. We owe her much. As current Chair of the UMST, I thank with all my heart, Cynthia Nidd, Cyndie Jacobs, Chris Saunders, Wayne Louie, Brian Wride, Ted Barris and Conrad Boyce for working tenaciously at keeping this valuable entity going as long as possible.

If anyone would like a souvenir, there are still 20th anniversary CD's showcasing our talented winners and the skills of Brett Simmonds as producer available for purchase to bolster the coffers one last time for the Uxbridge Secondary School Music Department. Please reach out by email to: uxbridgemusicscholarship@gmail.com

Yours in Music,
Kathy Normandeau



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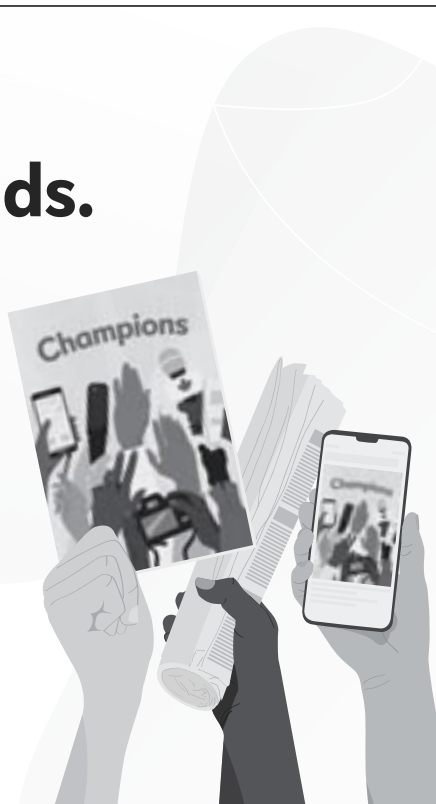
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Our two cents

For the want of a journalist...

This guest column was written for publication during National Newspaper Week, a chance to reflect on the essential service newspapers provide with diverse, local, original content that cannot be found anywhere else. National Newspaper Week is actually next week, Oct. 1 - Oct. 7, but we thought we'd get a head start on it. Gordon Cameron is president and interim executive director of the Ontario Community Newspapers Association.

I was recently chatting with a former journalistic colleague when she brought up a conversation she overheard during a fall fair. Someone who identified herself as being a friend of a local councillor was saying that the council was going to raise property taxes by 14 percent and that she had been told by the councillor that it was a completely done deal.

It was a pretty strange claim to make, considering the council had only started its budget deliberations and has a long history of beginning with a high estimated tax increase only to finish with one that comes in at the low single digits.

My colleague knew it was bunk because she knew the history. She understood that, in spite of this person's claim to having the inside scoop, she clearly didn't. However, as my friend was busy with other things, she was unable to correct the misinformation that was being passed around in the moment. All she could do was hope that the rumour didn't spread and to be prepared to fight a rearguard action to correct it if it did.

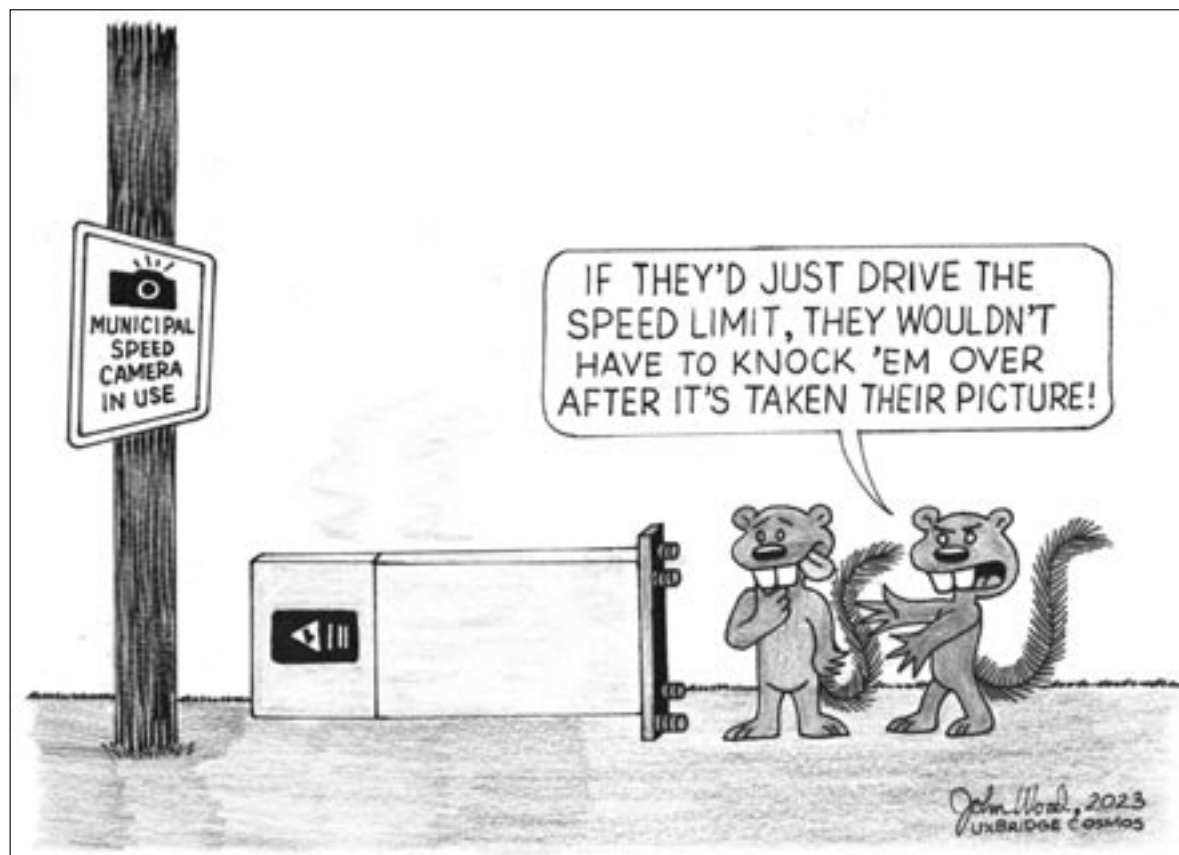
Welcome to journalism in 2023.

Not so long ago, newspaper staffs were large enough to cover their communities like a blanket. If it happened, we wrote about it. If people were talking about it, we joined the fray. We offered plaudits to the best of us and exposed the misdeeds of the worst of us. We left no stone unturned. Then, things changed.

Newsrooms started getting smaller. At first, the changes were hardly noticeable. An event missed here, a brief instead of an article there. Soon, newsrooms were having to make difficult decisions about how to use their shrinking resources. Many journalists tried to compensate by putting in longer hours and working seven days a week for months on end. However, no matter how committed a journalist is to his or her community, that can only last for so long.

As the number of journalists goes down, it gets harder for those who remain to write all the stories that need to be written. Fewer stories mean more news items that go unexplained. It means fewer misunderstandings get corrected. It means that those who wish to spin a situation to their own ends will go unchallenged. A lack of journalists and journalism can do irreparable harm to both society at large and to the places we call home.

All for the want of a journalist ...



Letters to the Editor

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for our firefighters and the rapid and effective response to a garage fire that was adjacent to my property.

Their courageous efforts, unwavering dedication to their job and their expert skill saved not only my house and my neighbours' houses but our homes.

The explosion and subsequent fire was distressing for myself and my neighbours. However, the speed and efficiency with which the Uxbridge fire department contained the fire was remarkable. Their swift actions and their bravery in the face of danger undoubtedly prevented further damage. The firefighters were skilled and well-trained, and they ensured the fire was extinguished, which really put myself and my neighbours at ease.

I would also like to commend and thank my brave and selfless neighbours. One came rushing to my door when he thought my house was also on fire to ensure my daughter and I got out of the house safely. Other neighbours brought us warm clothes when we really needed them.

We are lucky to live in a community of such supportive people. It is truly an honour to live in this town.

Kathleen Carroll
Uxbridge

The Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary has been working hard to raise funds for our new hospital. Anna Sibbing of Uxbridge donated a beautiful quilt she made, which we raffled off and, thanks to many volunteers and the community, we

raised \$4,000 for the hospital. Thank you, Anna, and congratulations to Paul Steckham of Uxbridge for winning the quilt.

I would also like to thank Zehrs for donating pies, which were sold at the Fall Fair and brought in additional funds.

The Auxiliary has many volunteers who work so hard to raise funds for our hospital. Thank you to all of you.

If anyone in the community has time to spare, we would love to have you join us. There is always something interesting to do.

Christiana Carter
Secretary
Uxbridge Hospital Auxiliary

Re: a 93-year-long marriage

Here is some history of the late Uxbridge Times-Journal newspaper.

In 1869, James B. Graham and James Lund started a Liberal paper they called the Uxbridge Journal.

The next year, Francis Keller replaced Mr. Lund.

In 1889, the Uxbridge Printing & Publishing Company, with John A. McGillivray as president, started the North Ontario Times, which was a Conservative paper. (McGillivray was not a known relative to this writer.)

In 1890, Samuel C. Smith, who owned another local paper called the Guardian, bought the North Ontario Times. A fellow called Samuel S. Sharpe became part owner of the Times.

After 41 years of being in opposition to each other, the Times and the Journal set aside their differ-

ences, and got married on March 20, 1930, to form the Uxbridge Times-Journal. Harold Cave was in charge of this new paper.

The marriage of the Times and the Journal lasted for 93 years.

Allan McGillivray
Zephyr

It is that time of year again when the Salvation Army Kettle will be at Zehrs and the LCBO to raise funds to assist the less fortunate residents all year in our community.

We assist with clothing, food, financial assistance, furniture, and Christmas hampers to create magic on Christmas morning.

Salvation Army Uxbridge is run by volunteers, the Kettle is the only fundraiser we do we would appreciate hearing from anyone who would like to assist with our fundraiser. Please call 905-640-3966 or 905-852-0090, or email beverlynorth-east@gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you.

Bev Northeast
Chair of Salvation Army
Uxbridge Unit

When I moved here more than 30 years ago, there were two local papers. I read each one diligently. Then the two papers became one. The Cosmos was born a little later with the objective of being super-local. It worked! Your competitor's business plan was to deliver ads under the guise of news, but when the local news coverage became more sparse, its true nature became

...continued on page 7



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Am I wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Someone's not hearing the message

A great deal has been said in recent months, by politicians at all levels of government, and by the public at large, about the need for "affordable" housing. That nobody has yet come up with an explanation or definition of just what "affordable" means is beside the point. The fact is, large segments of Canadian society find homeownership unthinkable these days, given the price of real estate.

So why on Earth would a developer come along with a plan to build a subdivision featuring estate homes on lots at least three-quarters of an acre in size? Did someone not receive the memo?

Bad enough that developers continue to build mansion-size homes that few can afford, but to plunk such a development into the heart of a tiny hamlet like Zephyr defies comprehension. One can probably understand that people would like to buy a home with a front yard and a back garden, but three-quarters of an acre?

A number of Zephyr residents descended on the township hall Monday to voice their opposition to a proposal by China Canada Jing Bein Xin Min International Co. Ltd. to build such a subdivision, and their voices were informed and eloquent. But, while the residents all travelled down to Uxbridge from Zephyr, no one from the company attended the meeting and the company's planning consultant decided to make her pitch by way of a video link. I realize that we live in a technological world, but both the company and the consultant must have known residents would be on hand for the meeting, and yet they could not be bothered to show up in person. I don't know about the residents, but I found that insulting.

And while I applaud members of council for understanding the residents needed to have their say, I was somewhat concerned that, to all intents and purposes, councillors had no questions to ask and nothing to say about the proposed development.

Probably just as well, though, because the residents had lots to say; they appeared to be well informed and they were passionate. And they were concerned. They were concerned

about a number of things, but the most immediate concern was about their drinking water. All draw their water from wells, just as the owners of the new estate homes will when (if) the development goes ahead. They fear their wells may dry up and that fear might be well founded. If, as I expect, these estate homes are purchased by people who want "a country life," it's more than likely they will know little or nothing about water tables, aquifers and the like. And with three-quarters of an acre, what's the betting that most of those lots will be given over to lawns, which will require watering?

If you hadn't noticed, the world is going through a drinking water crisis. Large areas of the American southwest have been going through a prolonged drought and some communities in Texas are faced with the prospect of running out of water. The southern part of Louisiana is facing a problem as the lower Mississippi is seeing sea water edge further upstream, cutting into their drinking water access. Serious flooding has occurred in many parts of North America this year and that can contaminate drinking water supplies. Many First Nations communities have been under "boil water" orders for years, and we all remember what happened in Walkerton. And yet, companies like Nestles are allowed to draw millions and millions of litres of water from our aquifers for a pittance and then sell it back to the public in plastic bottles for a good profit.

It seems to me that the threat to the Zephyr water supply should be the residents' main focus. Telling the planner that you're going to lose the view you've had for 20 years isn't going to cut it. I doubt there's a home in Uxbridge that hasn't had its view changed sometime over the years. No view can be guaranteed forever. And while you might be distraught over the loss of wildlife such as salamanders and bobolinks, that won't mean a thing to the bean counters. But the potential loss of life-giving water is another matter and something our politicians need to take seriously.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Enough with broken promises

In 1964, I remember U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) uttering these words: "We're not about to send American boys ... 10,000 miles away from home ... to war." Johnson was promising to keep U.S. troops out of the war in Vietnam. In fact, his administration and the one following it sent more than 3 million American soldiers into an unwinnable war. Nearly 60,000 of those young men died. They died of a broken promise.

After his acquittal, in 1995, O.J. Simpson claimed he'd "catch the real killers" of his wife Nicole. Never happened. In 1926, Babe Ruth promised to hit a home run for an ailing boy in New Jersey named Johnny Sylvester. He did. And retreating from Japanese armies in the Philippines in 1942, Gen. Douglas MacArthur said, "I shall return." He did in March 1945. And, like LBJ, politicians make promises all the time.

Last Thursday, in a sudden U-turn in the Greenbelt scandal – following Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk's damning report of Conservative government favouritism to developers and the resignation of political adviser Ryan Amato; next, Integrity Commissioner David Wake's accusation that the minister of housing Steve Clark had his "head in the sand" and Clark's Labour Day resignation; next, the resignation of Kaleed Rasheed, minister of public and business service delivery, for being cozy with developers in Las Vegas – Premier Ford said he was sorry and made a new promise:

"It was a mistake to open the Greenbelt," he said. "As a first step to earn back your trust, I'll be reversing the changes we made."

So, we got a public admission of a broken promise from the Ford government (indeed, his entire caucus was summoned to Niagara Falls for the photo op of his *mea culpa*). And then we got the promise of a new promise. I know. I know. The world is full of political promises never delivered. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson won re-election with the slogan "He kept us out of war," only to enter the First World War a year later. George H.W. Bush famously promised in 1988, "Read my lips. No new taxes," then signed a bill raising taxes during his first and only term.

On the other hand, some promises that politicians make – when realized – have had constructive impact. In 1970, as tensions rose over the terrorist FLQ kidnappings in Quebec, CBC reporter Tim Ralfe pressed then prime minister Pierre Trudeau about his decision to call out the military.

"How far would you go? Ralfe asked

Trudeau on the steps of Parliament.

"Just watch me," Trudeau responded. Three days later he invoked the War Measures Act, which led to police actions against Quebec dissidents, and the capture, trial and conviction of those responsible for the murder of Quebec deputy premier Pierre Laporte.

In October 1985, then prime minister Brian Mulroney spoke to the U.N. General Assembly, condemning South Africa's racist apartheid regime. He said that Canada was "prepared to invoke total sanctions against that country and its repressive regime." The next year, Canada banned imports from South Africa – everything from wine to hi-tech products. Mulroney's initiative helped end apartheid in that country and secure the release Nelson Mandela from 27 years of imprisonment on Robben Island.

So, what are we to make of Premier Ford's promises?

First, his track record is not stellar. And not just on the Greenbelt scandal. In the spring of 2020, just as the World Health Organization told global leaders that COVID-19 was a pandemic, Ford said his government would build "an iron ring around long-term care homes." Members of the province's Science Table, Ontario's own COVID-19 advisory group, reported (as of 2021) that 3,211 residents of LTC homes had died of the disease, 60 per cent of all 5,289 COVID deaths in the province.

In his re-election campaign, he promised to cut hospital wait times, maintain rent control and build new support for mental health, addictions and housing. OK, I recognize policy planks tend to promise the stars, and settle for the moon. But then, in 2018, after he was caught on video telling developer friends he'd open protected Greenbelt lands to construction, he made this promise:

"The people have spoken," he said in May 2018. "They don't want me to touch the Greenbelt. We won't touch the Greenbelt." Finally, after delivering on his secret promise to developers, freeing up 7,400 acres of Greenbelt to a potential \$8.3 billion windfall for them, last Thursday, he called it "a mistake," and promised, "We won't make any changes to the Greenbelt in the future." Perhaps it's time for an RCMP investigation or, as some opposition MPPs have demanded, a public inquiry to call this premier and his "promises" to account.

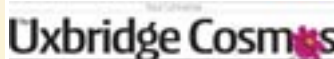
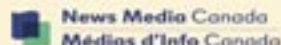
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Reconciliation in Uxbridge

Nikita Mohile

Uxbridge resident Nikita Mohile (a Port Perry High School student) has prepared a series of articles that look specifically at Uxbridge's Indigenous history, and how the township is faring in the quest for Truth and Reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous people. This is the first article in that series.

Becoming one of Uxbridge's most influential Indigenous leaders after a childhood in a Mennonite home is an unpredictable path, but it is the life story of Mim Harder.

"I was in my 20s, I was living in Kansas and most people there are Mexican American. People would always ask me, "Where are you from in Mexico?" Back then, I didn't know my background, so I started looking into it and asking questions," she says.

After moving to Uxbridge with her children, Harder says she was determined to discern more about her Indigenous background. The Richmond Hill Library was a source of immense information for Harder, especially books by Aboriginal author Arthur Solomon.

"When I read that, it really hit home because it

was a lot of what I felt and it just changed my path. I felt like it was part of who I am and I really needed to find out more about it," says Harder.

After a few years, she started to receive invitations to lead engagement sessions and speak at meetings. Along with collaborating with the Township of Uxbridge, Harder has also worked with many churches in southern Ontario, the York Catholic School Board, and multiple Indigenous communities.

One exercise that she frequently leads is called a blanket exercise. Blanket exercises are interactive for participants to understand the comprehensive history of Indigenous peoples in Canada and how today's communities were formed. Each person stands on a piece of fabric, representing their land, and gets to experience getting their land taken away and shifting. At the end of the session, many participants may have "died," and the floor looks vastly different from when the session started.

"We cover basically 500 years of history in less than an hour," explains Harder. "I've done it for governments, the attorney general's office in

...continued on next page



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Mim Harder, from previous page

Toronto, churches, businesses, banks, and universities."

Additionally, Harder has been involved with the local Maamawai Collective, which is a group of self-defined "settler volunteers" dedicated to Truth and Reconciliation. After attending a KAIROS Blanket Exercise (KAIROS is a movement that promotes social justice, peace and environmental

justice for high school youth), then Collective coordinator Barbara Blower felt deeply inspired to take action on the cultural gap between settler and Indigenous communities in Uxbridge. The birth of the Maamawi Collective led to various events, like Orange Shirt Day marches and Red Dress walks for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls movement.

Harder's extensive work in the reconciliation of communities, education of Indigenous history and residential schools, and support of Indigenous culture earned her the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers in 2019.

"You don't know what you don't know," she says, "but when you know, it's your responsibility to do something with it."

Despite the community's strides toward reconciliation

Letters, from page 4

evident. Local information and news are relevant.

Congratulations to Conrad for starting the *Cosmos*, and to Lisha Van Nieuwenhove for continuing to publish. And to Roger, Ted and the other regulars, your efforts have not gone unnoticed. You beat the goliath.

*Grant Baines
Uxbridge*

in recent years, Harder believes Canadians, and Uxbridgians, can still go further. She mentions that a vital aspect is incorporating Indigenous perspectives in education. Understanding the complete history of Indigenous peoples makes it possible to move forward together. Already, the DDSB has implemented a new mandatory course, Contemporary Aboriginal Voices, for grade 11 students. Harder says it's to "get those conversations going. Once you get them going, often they'll continue and people will want to learn more."

Beyond awareness and education, there is still a significant cultural gap that must be bridged. Through events like art shows, book nights, and other functions to promote Indigenous culture, Harder says we can all help to advance reconciliation.

"You can do things online, at events, even do a land acknowledgment. Just create a space for Indigenous people to come in and share."



MISHKOOZIIDAA - Mim Harder, right, lays a wreath adorned with the Ojibway word for 'To stand with strength' in honour of Indigenous Veterans Day in November, 2022. Accompanying her are Dianne Brown-Green and James Green. Harder has been an influential Indigenous leader throughout the township.

Cosmos file photo

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TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION IN ACTION

WHAT Is Reconciliation?

Reconciliation is an ongoing process to heal the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

WHAT Happened to Indigenous Peoples?

When European settlers first came to Canada, they saw a land full of opportunities and resources, and had Indigenous peoples in their blindspot. When the time came to deal with the Indigenous peoples, the government orchestrated a cultural genocide to "kill the Indian". Indigenous peoples of Canada survived this trauma, and now need a chance to share their stories so our country can move forward as a whole.



WHEN Did Reconciliation Start?

- 1998-Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Report acknowledges intentions of assimilation
- 2008-Prime Minister Stephen Harper's official apology for residential schools
- 2008-Truth and Reconciliation Commission is formed



Truth and Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

WHAT Does the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Do?

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission gives people who were impacted by the Indian Residential Schools system a chance to share their stories. The commission also created 94 Calls to Action for the government to follow in pursuit of reconciliation.

HOW Can We Help?

- Learn Indigenous history
- Read the 94 Calls to Action
- Participate in events to honour Indigenous peoples (Orange Shirt Day, Red Dress Day)
- Bring awareness to Canada's troubled past
- Support Indigenous communities by listening and learning



Infographic created by Nikita Mohile

Pregnancy support centre hopes community 'walks alongside' this weekend

Submitted by Amy Gohlich

Sunrise Pregnancy and Family Support Services (Sunrise, for short) is a grassroots charity that has walked alongside pregnant women and families in need of support in Uxbridge and surrounding areas for over 30 years. Over this time, their mandate has expanded from offering preg-

nancy support to young parents to include support for families at any point in their parenting journey.

Sunrise's annual "Walk With Us" fundraiser this weekend offers a chance to literally walk alongside and help raise funds for much-needed support for families in our community.

If you've never heard of Sunrise be-

fore, that's likely because they spend most of their time actively serving the community, and less time tooting their own horn.

Esther Veens, program coordinator, has been working with Sunrise for 11 years, after initially becoming involved volunteering for the agency in her youth. Today, her role involves a lot of the front line work, outreach support, connecting with families, and, to a lesser degree, administration and overseeing fundraising. Veens and her team offer a compassionate, non-judgmental, practical level of support, and their dedication is a big part of why Sunrise can continue to operate even on a shoestring budget. Sunrise depends on local donations and fundraising efforts, which have been made more difficult in recent years. However, since they

operate with no office and very minimal overhead, the funding that is received can be poured directly into programming and the practical needs of attending families, who are feeling the ever-increasing budget strain on necessities like food and diapers.

One of the most common misconceptions about Sunrise is that it solely serves pregnant women, but that's not the case.

"We're inclusive to anyone," says Veens.

"There are no restrictions by age or gender, or length of time being involved. You don't have to be a new or young parent even – your kids can be grown! We do tend to support those who are most vulnerable – dealing with challenges to mental health, addiction, postpartum struggles, volatile relationships, housing. We're not just for moms and babies. We work with a lot of families that are struggling in different ways and looking for peer and professional support. They might not feel as comfortable in other community groups and have found that they feel more at home, safe or under-

stood in our group. We're about creating relationships with the families we work with. It's not just dropping in to get food vouchers and leaving; we work on building a holistic community with relational support and trust so families know they are not alone, and we're here to walk alongside you wherever you're at."

Sunrise offers support in a number of practical ways. Some of their services include the weekly Parenting Support Program, home or community visits, transportation and accompaniment to appointments and meetings for support and advocacy, as well as access to a donations closet.

They work closely with the local foodbank and other social service agencies in the community. Like many non-profit organizations, Sunrise was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The weekly in-person parenting support group, which had been thriving and offering a lifeline of support to families, had to be put on hold. "[The weekly support group] offers a chance for parents to make meals together, see guest speakers, get a little bit of parental connection time with free childcare and finish high school credit...it was a real focus of our program and was really thriving; we're still building back to that," explains Veens. "Because so many families were in crisis during this time, some with little to no family or friend support networks, we expanded our outreach services to continue to meet the needs. We are still supporting the

...continued on page 11

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Newcomer leads Bruins to win

Roger Varley

Newly arrived Tanner Ryan, recently acquired from the London Nationals, led the Uxbridge Bruins to a 6-3 win over the Georgina Ice on Friday.

In a game marked by a couple of dust-ups and more than a few slashing and inciting penalties, Ryan, a Stouffville native, scored one goal and assisted on two others in his first appearance with the Bruins. Defenceman Jake Rigillo matched Ryan's point total with three assists.

Playing at the Ice Palace in Keswick instead of their usual Friday night

home game, the Bruins opened the scoring late in the first period on a powerplay, with Alex Hyde finding the net, assisted by Anthony Lamanna and Ryan. Georgina responded 20 seconds later, but Lucas Marshall quickly restored the one-goal lead, assisted by Luke El-Ayari.

Mark Sifri pulled the Bruins even farther ahead early in the second, assisted by Noah Button and Travis Winder, but the Ice came back with two quick goals to tie the score. However, Quinn Meek, assisted by Rigillo and Ryan, notched what proved to be the winning goal on a

power play with less than a minute remaining in the period.

Ryan scored the insurance goal late in the third, assisted by Meek and Rigillo, and Josh Czaliy put the game out of reach with the Bruins' third power-play goal of the game, with assists going to Rigillo and Trent Underwood.

The win gave the Bruins a 1-1-0 record as they headed for a Tuesday night meeting in Lakefield against the Chiefs. They return to the arena tomorrow (Friday) night to face their arch rivals, the Port Perry Lumberjacks, at 7:45 p.m.

North Durham transitional housing chooses service operator

A "transitional supportive housing" initiative that will support north Durham residents is one step closer to becoming a reality.

The Regional Municipality of Durham announced Monday that it has selected Blue Door as the service operator for the Beaverton Transitional Supportive Housing residence. Through what the region called a "comprehensive Expression of Interest process," Blue Door was chosen because of its 41 years of experience with having launched, operated, and scaled four transitional supportive housing programs. Blue Door is a registered charity that, according to the region, offers "more than 10 innovative and collaborative housing, employment and health programs aimed at addressing the root causes of homelessness."

Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, the commissioner of social services for the region, says "Now that Blue Door has been selected as the service provider, we are one step closer to move-in at the Beaverton Transitional Supportive Housing residence and helping people to get back on their feet. This project provides an opportunity to improve the life circumstances of a marginalized population in a healthy environment, and I look forward to the success stories that will come from it."

The plan is for the Beaverton Transitional Supportive Housing to be a 47-unit modular housing development that will provide accommodation and access to wraparound services. Transitional supportive housing helps residents physically and mentally, providing the life

skills necessary to successfully transition into permanent housing. Move in is expected to begin later this year, with residents being phased in gradually over time. Priority access will be given to unsheltered residents and those at risk of homelessness in north Durham who require this level of support.

Additional information regarding Beaverton Transitional Supportive Housing is available at durham.ca/SupportiveHousing

What happens when you don't advertise?

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Across

- Rule out
- Robinson or Jones?
- Plus
- Treat shabbily
- Girls Nite ____
- Cave sound
- Jar part
- Unique
- Shrill cry
- Wears well
- Hill dweller
- Phone greeting
- Propel a boat
- Depend on
- Mattress type
- Wonderment
- Neighbour of Washington, for short
- Kicks
- Got mellow
- Capture
- Feeling of seeing red
- Bend
- Crows' homes
- Cygnets
- Urgent
- Pedicurist's concern
- Bridge seat
- Lobe or ring?
- Lodging
- Inquires
- Ironic
- Colour of diamonds

Down

- Robert DeNiro's "Raging ____"
- Land with 60% of the earth's population
- Roulette bets
- Fraternal fellow
- Bleed
- Thievery
- Broke down
- Cooler
- Most common in English
- Travel
- Biblically yours
- Neither rain ____
- Sent off a spacecraft
- Car cleaner
- Be in hock
- Like many couples
- Hold up
- Baseball stat.
- Trouser part
- A long way
- Live and breathe
- Access
- Black or red insects
- Whisk
- Strengthen, with "up"
- E-mail, e.g.
- Green colour
- Lived
- "Shoot!"
- Propel, in a way

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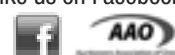
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EVENTS

SOUP LUNCHEONS at Goodwood United Church. Last Thursday of the month, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 30), \$8.

UXBRIDGE MINDFULNESS / INSIGHT MEDITATION is holding in-person meetings at 10 a.m. every other Sunday. Whether experienced or new to meditation, all are welcome. Location is: 2 Campbell Dr., Ste. 201. Email Gail: ghorner550@gmail.com 10/19

YARD SALES

MASSIVE Barn Sale! 589 Old Stouffville Road, Uxbridge. Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Huge variety of items, don't miss it! 9/28

COMING EVENTS

FUNDRAISER FOR UDORA UNITED CHURCH. Sat., Sept. 30, 8 a.m. - noon. Rain or shine. Bake sale, yard sale, tools, vendors, raffle draw and more! 9/28

Sunrise walk needs you, from page 8

same families, but many aren't in a place to get out to the group anymore. We're hoping to build the hub back up again."

Fortunately, the Health Department recently resumed offering support to Sunrise following COVID, with a public health nurse available to do prenatal discussions with mothers, and the Family Community Action Program will have a team member on site at the weekly program twice monthly.

Government services are not able to meet the demand, either for funding or policy reasons, and Sunrise is trying to stand in the gaps for the families that are impacted.

"Services are doing the best they can," says Veens. "There are a lot of places trying to help but it's funding and policies, so workers' hands are tied. But we see agencies trying their best."

This experience appears to be all too common: Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO) reports that the majority of parents and caregivers surveyed (71 per cent) report a lack of availability of programs and services to meet their needs. The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) notes that while mental illness accounts for roughly 10 per cent of the burden of disease in Ontario, it receives just 7 per cent of healthcare dollars. The gap works out to about \$1.5 billion, which makes timely, appropriate assistance nearly impossible. Small, local groups with minimal overhead, like Sunrise, become all the more important because they are hyperlocal, faster to respond, and more easily able to adjust to families' rapidly changing needs.

There are currently about 15-20 families using Sunrise's services, but Veens says she feels as though the need in the community surpasses their current volume. The biggest hurdles are making sure that the families in need know Sunrise is available, and that Sunrise has the resources to continue to meet demand. While the assistance of volunteers with driving, childcare, and various other needs of the clients is significant and appreciated, Sunrise is continuously trying to do more with less to fill in the gaps in Ontario's strained and struggling healthcare, mental health, and family services systems.

Their fundraiser on Saturday this week (Sept. 30) is their biggest annual fundraiser and will take place at the Herrema Fields soccer shelter at 9:30 a.m. There will be a complimentary lunch, a raffle draw, and a bake sale.

For those interested, it is possible to complete the walk in your own neighbourhood. For more information about the walk, or to grab your own pledge forms, check out their website: sunriseuxbridge.com



In Memoriam
Heather Giles-White
September 26, 2001
Lovingly remembered and missed by her Mom, sister, family and friends

Kathleen "Kay" Jean Hill




Passed peacefully, with her family by her side, Sunday September 17, 2023 at the age of 84. Predeceased by her beloved husband, Ross. Loving mother of Scott. She will be missed by all her extended family, including Elsie Giles, and many friends.

Visitation is Friday, September 29, 2023, from 4 - 6 p.m. at McDougall & Brown Funeral Home, Scarborough.
Funeral Service at 6 p.m.
Livestream: <https://funeraweb.tv/diffusions/79660>

Burial at Foster Memorial, Uxbridge, Saturday September 30, 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers a donation to a charity of your choice would be appreciated.

In Loving Memory of Pauline Elizabeth McGowan



October 8, 1942 - September 21, 2022


Passed away peacefully after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's at Hillside Estates on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at the age of 80 years. Beloved wife of 49 years of the late Robert McGowan. Loving father of Scott (Theresa), Kimberley and Shona. Proud grandma to Kyle and Zackary.

Pauline will be fondly remembered by her extended family and friends.

Special thanks to the doctors, nurses and care staff at Hillside Estates in Oshawa.

A Celebration of Pauline's Life will be held at the Low & Low Funeral Home (23 Main Street South, Uxbridge) on Sunday, October 1, 2023, from 2 - 4 p.m.

As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Parkinson's Society. Friends may send condolences or make donations by visiting www.lowandlow.ca




William (Bill) Howard 1932 - 2023
After living an awesome 91 year, rich, full life, Bill peacefully passed July 1, 2023 at Simcoe Hospice. Originally from Georgina, Bill & Betty raised their family in Uxbridge, moved to Kawartha Lakes region, and in 2019 Bill relocated to Sandy Cove, Innisfil. The family welcomes you to join them in celebrating Bill's life **October 21, 2023, 1pm, Leaskdale Historic Church, 11850 Durham Road 1, Leaskdale, LOC 1C0.**

In Loving Memory of Heather Orr



July 8, 1954 - September 7, 2023

After a fierce and heroic third battle with cancer, we said good bye to "our" Heather, the morning of September 7, 2023. This time the cancer had her surrounded, and without a single complaint in what turned out to be a brief battle that started in mid-July, she fought like a superhero until the end. Every step of the way, she was cared for with unrelenting compassion and caring at Stronach Regional Cancer Centre, Uxbridge Hospital, and finally at Oak Ridges Hospice. We will all remember the SMILE, compassion and love she brought to every relationship she had. We're sure she has already booked a tee time where the fairways are wide, and the greens run true. We love you and miss you already. XOXO

We invite you to join Heather's family - her husband Neil, daughter Alex (Tim), her grandsons Jonathan and Jaxon, her daughter Hilary and grandson Knox, as well as her brother Bryan (Susan) and brother Ron (Jill) - to a visitation on Saturday, September 30, 2023, at Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Uxbridge, from 1 - 4 p.m., and 7 - 9 p.m. There will be a Celebration of Life on Sunday, October 1, 2023, at Wooden Sticks Golf Club, 40 Elgin Park Drive, Uxbridge, from 1 - 4 p.m. Please note the "Dress of the Day" will be ****GOLF ATTIRE**** for both events.



In Heather's memory, donations may be made to Oak Ridges Hospice or Uxbridge Hospital Foundation. For online condolences, please visit lowandlow.ca

To place a death or in memoriam notice

Visit: thecosmos.ca
Call 905-852-1900
Email: lvann@thecosmos.ca



Waste Management Facilities closed in observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation **Saturday, September 30**

- Oshawa Waste Management Facility, 1640 Ritson Road North, Oshawa
- Scugog Waste Management Facility, 1623 Reach Street, Port Perry
- Brock Waste Management Facility, C22480 Brock Sideroad 17, Cannington
- Clarington Household Special Waste Depot, 1998 Bowmanville Avenue, Bowmanville

For more information, please visit durham.ca/wmf.



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



We've gone paperless

To get your waste collection schedule:

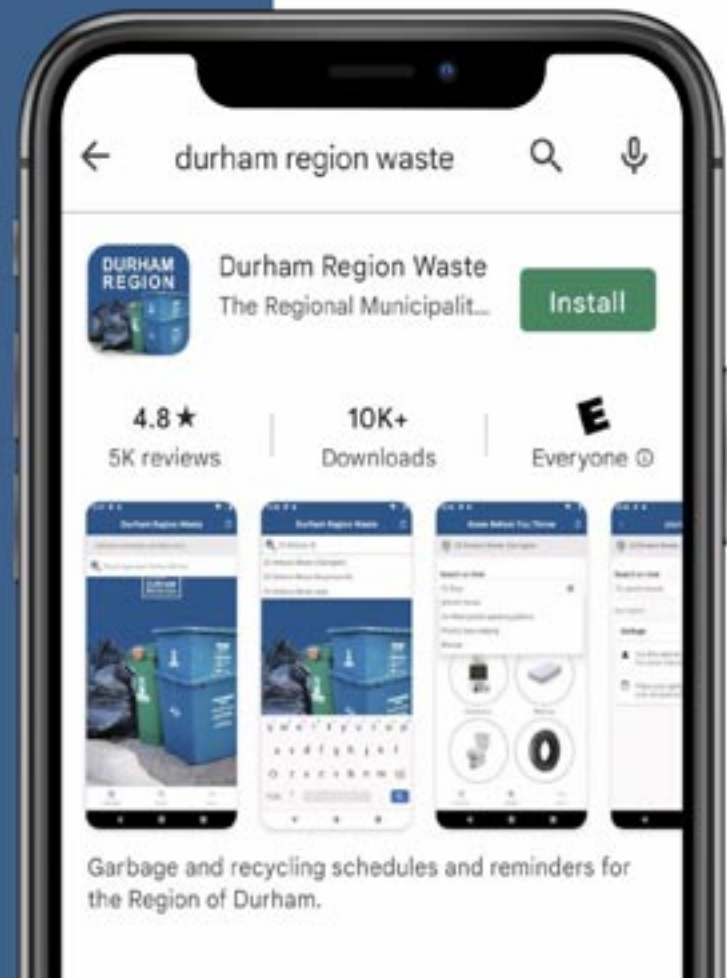
- Download the free Durham Region Waste App.



- Get your customized waste collection schedule or, sync with your iCal, Google or Outlook calendar at durham.ca/waste.
- Ask your Google Home or Amazon Alexa for myDurham 311 Smart Home Device Service and ask about your waste collection schedule.



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



Garbage and recycling schedules and reminders for the Region of Durham.