

# The Uxbridge COSMOS

Volume 15 No. 22

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, June 6, 2019



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**GOING HEAD OVER HEELS TO CONQUER CANCER** - Uxbridge Secondary School students perform some impressive *Mission Impossible*-type moves while playing games during the school's eighth annual Relay For Life, which was held last Friday afternoon and evening. For more on how the school did raising money to help fund cancer research, see Roger Varley's story on page 3.

Photo by John Covers

**Inside this week's Cosmos**  
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## Township's top official retiring this summer

By Roger Varley

Chief Administrative Officer Ingrid Svelnis will take early retirement and leave her position as Uxbridge's top non-elected official on Aug. 9.

Svelnis' decision to leave was made public at Monday morning's council session with the reading of her report on finding her replacement. The report said a committee has already been formed to search for a replacement.

"This is a tough one to accept," Mayor Dave Barton said. "It's a huge loss. She's done a fantastic job."

Svelnis, 58, has been CAO since taking over from Alex Grant in 2008. She started her time with the township as the manager of Uxpool in 1985. In 1999, she was promoted to director of parks and recreation, a position she retained until 2017, even after becoming CAO. In 2017, Amanda Ferraro was named director of parks and recreation.

The search for Svelnis' replacement begins on Monday under the direction of Kartik Kumar of Legacy Partners Executive Search. The report said Kumar is highly recommended by both Pickering and Whitby. Also involved in the process will be Matthew Gaskell, CAO of Whitby. Applications for the position will be received until the middle of July, at which time Kumar, Barton, Councillor Bruce Garrod and Gaskell will sift through the applications and narrow them down to a short list. Interviews will be held in the last two weeks of July, with the entire council deciding on the successful applicant, who will start in the CAO's position early in August. Svelnis said she will not be part of the process.

Svelnis is the third management-level staffer to leave this year. Chief Bylaw Officer Andre Gratton left for Whitby earlier and deputy clerk Catalina Blumenberg started a new job in Picton last week.

In other council news, Gerry Oldham appeared before council to once again make a case for saving the King Street parkette.

"I've been fighting the same fight for almost 40 years," she said. "I'm taking a stand for something I believe in."

Her deputation was sparked by a recent report by facilities manager Bob Ferguson, which asked council to give direction on what to do with the tiny park. It sits on a regular-size building lot and features only an old swing set and a sand box. Ferguson's report said the park is under-used and requires some tree thinning and fence repairs if it is to be kept as a park.

Oldham said small parks fill a need the same as larger destination parks like Elgin Park.

"You wanted direction, I'm giving you mine," she said.

Ward 5 Councillor Todd Snooks said he understood Oldham's concerns but said there are

...continued on page 3

**Catch the Ace**  
PROGRESSIVE WEEKLY LOTTERY

**THIS WEEK'S WINNER**  
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# Uxbridge at a Glance

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

## Council & Committee Meetings

### Schedule for the Month of June, 2019

Monday, June 10, 10:00 a.m.  
COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, June 17, 10:00 a.m.  
COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 19, 7:00 p.m.  
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT  
MEETING

Monday, June 24, 7:00 p.m.  
COUNCIL MEETING

### Proclamations for the Month of June

National Indigenous Peoples Day  
June 21, 2019

## Street Sweeping

Street sweeping is ongoing - weather permitting. Please try not to park on the streets during this time. Any areas that are missed due to parked cars will be redone after all sweeping is complete. This schedule rotates yearly.

### Schedule for sweeping:

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

For complete details, visit  
[uxbridge.ca/news\\_Spring\\_Street\\_Sweeping\\_Schedule\\_Quadrant\\_3\\_Complete](http://uxbridge.ca/news_Spring_Street_Sweeping_Schedule_Quadrant_3_Complete)



## Bids & Tenders

### TENDER U19-17: The Great Trail-Ewen-Brookdale Trail Re-build

Sealed Tenders will be received until 2:00 p.m. local time Friday, June 28, 2019.

This Bid Document is posted at  
[uxbridge.ca/bids\\_and\\_tenders](http://uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders)

## Notice of Passing of Development Charges By-Law

DEVELOPMENT CHARGES ACT, 1997, S.O. 1997, c.27

**TAKE NOTICE** that on Monday, May 13th, 2019, the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge passed By-law No. 2019-076 under Section 2 of the Development Charges Act, 1997, which imposes Township-wide development charge rates.

**AND TAKE NOTICE** that any person or organization may appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal in respect to the by-law by filing with the Clerk of The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge, not later than Monday, June 24th, 2019, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection.

The charges in the aforementioned by-law will apply to all new residential and non-residential development, subject to certain terms, conditions and limited exemptions as identified therein.

Development charges are levied against new development to pay for the increased capital costs related to the provision of such Township services as General Government, Library Services, Fire and Rescue, Animal Control, Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Township Engineering. The development charges imposed by the by-law are as follows:

Rate Phase-in Schedule	Residential Development Charge (Per Dwelling Unit)				Non-Residential Charge Per Square Metre of GFA
	Singles & Semis	Rows & Other Multiples	Apartments	Special Care/Special Needs	
Discounted Services	\$7,458	\$5,710	\$3,728	\$2,564	\$0.08
Non-Discounted Services	\$7,784	\$5,959	\$3,892	\$2,675	\$53.74
Total	\$15,242	\$11,669	\$7,620	\$5,239	\$53.82

Both the residential and non-residential development charge rates are in effect as of May 13th, 2019. Copies of the by-law can be viewed and downloaded at the Township of Uxbridge website at [www.uxbridge.ca](http://www.uxbridge.ca). The complete development charges by-law can also be examined at the Township Clerk's Office from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday at the address shown below.

A key map has not been included in this notice as the Township-wide development charges applies to all lands located within the boundaries of the Township of Uxbridge.

For further information, please contact the Clerk's Office at 905-852-9181.

**DATED** at The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge this 24th day of May, 2019.

Debbie Leroux, Township Clerk  
The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge  
51 Toronto St. S  
Uxbridge, ON L9P 1H1

## From The Tax Office: 2019 Final Tax Bill

2019 Final Property Tax bills for Residential, Managed Forest and Farmland properties were mailed on May 29, 2019.

**FIRST Tax Installment is due on June 26, 2019.**  
**SECOND Tax Installment is due on September 26, 2019.**

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.**

Tax payments can be made: in person by Interac, cheque or cash; by mail (post-dated cheques accepted); telephone & Internet banking; drop box at Town Hall (no cash please); or at most financial institutions. **Credit Cards and E-Transfers are NOT accepted for tax payments.**

**PLEASE RETAIN YOUR 2019 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 \$12 will apply.

If you did not receive your 2019 Final Tax Bill, please call the Tax Department at 905-852-9181, ext. 211.

FOLLOW US   

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

## Employment Opportunities

### Spare Crossing Guards

The Township of Uxbridge is currently seeking Spare Crossing Guards to cover various locations in the Town of Uxbridge.

Contact Jo Ann Merrick at 905-852-9181, ext. 202 or email: [jmerrick@uxbridge.ca](mailto:jmerrick@uxbridge.ca)

### Summer Student: Assistant Tourism Development Coordinator

To assist the Tourism Development Coordinator with marketing and communications initiatives, create new tourism product offerings, implement the tourism strategic plan and working at local tourism-related events.

Please submit a resumé and cover letter by June 14, 2019, for consideration to Lisa John-Mackenzie at [Tourism@Uxbridge.ca](mailto:Tourism@Uxbridge.ca) or mail to Uxpool, One Parkside Dr., Uxbridge, ON, L9P 1K7.

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

Complete details of these positions are available at [uxbridge.ca/employment\\_opportunities](http://uxbridge.ca/employment_opportunities)

## Splash Pad to Open in June

The Splash Pad will open the 3rd week of June (weather permitting). Hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. 7 days a week. The splash pad is located at 291 Brock Street West (Arena grounds).

For more information, contact our Parks and Arena Manager at 905-852-9181, ext. 500.



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

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

### USS students raise over \$21,000 for cancer society

by Roger Varley

Around 200 Uxbridge Secondary School students raised more than \$21,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society on Friday at the school's eighth annual Relay For Life.

Students formed 26 teams ranging from three people to nine to participate in the 12-hour fundraiser. Beginning at 12 noon, the students walked, ran and ambled around the sports field track and engaged in a number of Survivor-style challenges before moving indoors at the end of the school day "for security reasons" and to avoid weather disruptions. Inside the school, the teams did "laps" of the school's corridors, ending with a spirited finale in the school cafeteria. Students also heard the personal stories of a number of cancer survivors who were invited.

Organized by teacher Lindsey Hewlett and the 29 students in her Leadership class, the Relay For Life has been held at the end of May for the past eight years, with more than \$150,000 being raised in that time.

Each student who registered paid a fee of \$20 but also raised money through pledges. Hewlett said \$21,343 had been counted by the end of the night, but there were still some pledges yet to come in.

Among the students taking part was one student on crutches and Graham Baskin, Uxbridge's Easter Seals ambassador, who completed the day in his wheelchair. At the end of the day, Graham was exhausted, as were a number of the participants, but happy with the results, which included taking home a "most spirited" award and a pizza.

### King St. Park, from page 1

a number of angles to be looked at. Ward 4 Councillor Willie Popp said the issue of the King Street parkette comes up regularly for a reason. Saying the park is either neglected because it is not used or not used because it is neglected, Popp said "we're not doing the community a service if we're not evaluating." Mayor Barton added that "it's about using our resources effectively."

Councillor Gord Hight of Ward 3 wanted to know why nothing is done at the park, to which Ferguson replied that all parks receive the same amount of care.

Council saves money on Goodwood community centre: Opting to use shipping containers for storage instead of building an addition to the Goodwood Community Hall, council saved over \$250,000 on Monday.

Acting on a report from the public works department, council decided to buy two new 8 x 40-foot shipping containers for a total of \$13,800. They will be set on a gravel base costing \$2,000, for a grand total of \$15,800. This compares with the

\$270,000 estimated to build an extension to the centre.

Ward 1 Councillor Pam Beach said she would approach the high school to see if students would be interested in painting murals on the containers and, if so, would ask Lafarge to pay for the paint.





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## MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the May "Trip of the Month" draw.

**First prize of "Cottage Adventure in Wales" trip was won by Derek Heyes. Ticket #336, sold by Doug Wilson.**

**Second prize of \$150 was won by Cathy Christoff, Ticket #139, sold by herself.**

**Third prize of \$100 was won by Larry Albright, Ticket #39, sold by Chuck Taylor.**

Congratulations to our May winners and best of luck to all ticketholders for the June trip - "La Romana Luxury". Includes direct non-stop air to La Romana, Dominican Republic. Seven nights at the 5-star luxury Bahia Buoganville adults only resort, all meals, drinks and snacks, entertainment and daily activities and all airport transfers.




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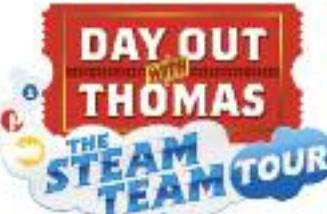
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Apply online now at [ythr.ca/train/thomas-jobs](http://ythr.ca/train/thomas-jobs)  
Please note only on-line applications will be accepted.





## Wedding Belles Bridal Sale

**Fri., June 14, 4pm - 8pm**  
**Sat., June 15, 10am - 4pm**

**Chances Are** **20 Bascom Street  
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**All proceeds to Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Auxiliary.**

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# Our two cents

## Time to contemplate - and celebrate

For not a lot going on, it certainly has been a busy week. The *Cosmos* got a lot of response to the editorial from last week's paper - "The flight path to horrible." Seems we struck quite a chord with a lot of people who clearly see that the creation of a Pickering airport is in direct conflict with what our Earth is telling us needs to happen with regards to keeping her livable. We've only published a couple of the letters we've received this week; there are more that we'll insert next week.

Last week we read an impassioned letter written by Canadian journalist Sean Holman that bemoaned the fact that, back at the beginning of May, major media outlets - print and broadcast - found the birth of Prince Harry's baby boy more important news than the just-released United Nation's report on the mass extinction currently facing humankind. This is pathetic, and horrifying. As much as climate change, and all things affecting it, is in the news now, it needs to be more so. It used be we could say "Why complain about the weather, can't do a thing about it." That isn't the case any more.

\*\*\*\*\*

The date of this newspaper marks the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings and the Battle of Normandy. We're very much looking forward to the parade and ceremony that has been planned for Uxbridge veteran Fred Barnard on Thursday evening. We understand that he is a very modest man, but we do hope he realizes how grateful we are for what he and his fellow men, including his own brother, did for Canada. That's why our cartoon this week is so simple, yet so meaningful. If you can't be at the parade on Thursday evening, or if you missed it, close your eyes for a moment and say thank you to Fred and to those who fell before him.

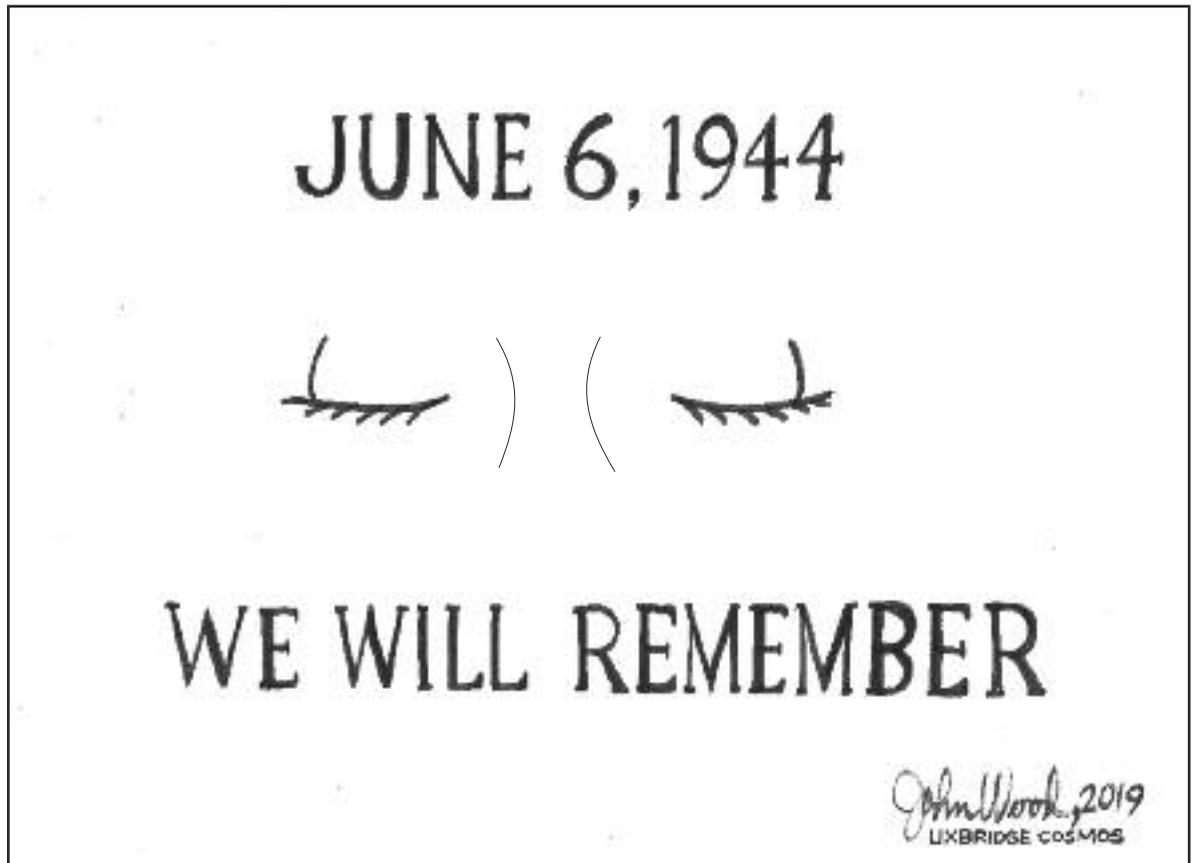
\*\*\*\*\*

We were more than a little shocked to learn that our township chief administrative officer Ingrid Svelnis is switching gears at the end of the summer and opting for an easier life. She's been so integral to all that's happened in the township over the past how many years that it's difficult to imagine what it could possibly be like without her. We're happy for her, though, and hoping that the future will bring her some much-needed relaxation and Ingrid-time. Running a township is no easy task on a good day. It's likely going to take her months to wind down! Or, she may be surprised and it will take no time at all. We're hoping for the latter, for her sake!

\*\*\*\*\*

The *Cosmos* found out just a few hours before press time that it has received a Canadian Community Newspaper Award from News Media Canada (the national association of Canadian newspapers and digital media, of which the *Cosmos* is a member). We earned a second place award for "Outstanding Community Service" and our 2017/2018 series on Doug Griffiths' book "13 Ways to Kill Your Community."

When you're looking at submissions from a possible 800 titles from all across the country, it's pretty amazing and humbling to even have your submission looked at, let alone read and judged, let alone actually win anything. If we were wearing buttons, they'd be popping. And yes, we are tooting our own horn. A national award. Who'd a' think?



## Letters to the Editor

Visiting family in Uxbridge, I had the pleasure of reading the *Cosmos* cover to cover. Not a long read but an informative one. Kudos to your writers for the robust editorial and reporting on village news. Coming from a similar community, I wanted to share two thoughts that we enjoy in community outreach.

First, the village board agreed to issue by email, a regular invitation to read upcoming agendas and past meeting minutes. This is a step beyond the "bird feeder" concept of meeting news being posted on the village website, and hoping individuals might chance to see them if they went looking.

Again, I compliment the *Cosmos* for its coverage, and the obvious concern for residents' awareness of civic news.

**Phil Brown**  
Libertyville, Illinois

After reading Mayor Barton's most recent column in the *Cosmos* I felt it necessary to set the record straight.

Regarding the culvert project, Mayor Barton says "we inherited a complex but crucial project which was stalled as land had not been secured. Our township has now purchased the land at the site of Coffee time/Circle K and we can now move forward in dealing with our flood plain and end of life culvert."

This culvert has been talked about since the 80s as a threat by the conservation authority.

The previous council dealt with this issue up to July 28 /29 of last year, and on July 30 they were a "lame duck" council due to the forthcoming election. This meant no decisions could be made at that time.

As for inheriting this issue, Mayor Barton, Councillor Beach, and then-councillor Gord Hight were on council during these discussions and knew about running out of time before the election.

So they were well aware of every step that was taken to bring the downtown culvert to a final close.

I guess my question is, what part of the largest project this township has ever taken on were they so confused about that they didn't know anything about it, and in that case, they did inherit the problem, or cause it?

**Bev Northeast**  
Goodwood

Thank you to Craig Miller and June Archibald for writing to the paper (May 23 and May 30 editions, respectively). What they did not mention is that the members of the present council who sat on the previous council were part of the decision-making process that approved the culvert project without all the necessary details being in place (i.e. the land acquisition beside Coffee Time). I've heard the present mayor blame the previous council for the situation as if the present council had no part in it.

How did council get the necessary permits? Is the council going to be able to recoup the \$3 million, or is this just another example of council's poor planning and wasting taxpayer's money? There have been examples of this kind of poor performance over the last two or three councils - the fire hall, the fire truck, village hall sales, a gas bar on a flood plane, etc.

**Robbie Robertson**  
Goodwood

The *Cosmos* editorial of May 30, "A Flight Path to Horrible," is a commendable analysis of the clash between traditional business ethics and the sometimes profit-killing solutions demanded by our present, and rapidly worsening, environmental crisis. In contrast to the outdated views of those Uxbridge leaders who, disappointingly, support a Pickering air-

port, the *Cosmos* editorial shows forward thinking awareness of what will be new planetary realities. Development that consumes farmland needs to stop. Lifestyle choices that place convenience and profit over environmental care - single-use plastics and drive-thru food services come to mind as two examples among many - need to stop. In fact, the whole idea of a continued belief in "economic growth" as a positive governmental outcome needs to be reconsidered, with thought given to the revolutionary notions that an economic status quo, or even planned economic regression may actually be the only ways forward.

At present, Uxbridge teeters on the verge of losing its status as an unspoiled, bucolic, small town refuge, largely free of big box mania and graceless housing sprawl. If the town is to continue avoiding the "rise" to mediocrity suffered by nearby municipalities, it must become an urban leader, modelling the kind of growth restraint that nature is clearly telling us will have to become the norm for cities and towns worldwide. But this can occur only if our town government has the wisdom and courage to shun the ubiquitous lures of development and profit. Sadly, recent evidence, particularly the airport support, but also the consideration being given to selling parks, and to the relentless shoehorning of revenue-producing monster homes into any available sliver of land, suggests that present town leaders will be remembered only for being part of the problem, and not for making any contribution to a solution. Let's hope that they wake up and smell the stink of jet exhaust that will replace the good earthiness of productive farms

**John Tomlinson**  
Uxbridge

# The Uxbridge COSMOS

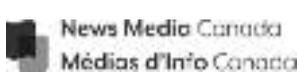
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**Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday to 4 p.m.

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## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### A 'high' end store

Set in one of the numerous retail shopping plazas that line Kingston Road in Ajax is a store that is striking in its outward appearance. All black, with silver trim and windows devoid of any advertising or posters, the only clue to the store's inventory is in the name on the front: Smök.

Entering the front doors, one steps into a small, spartan vestibule that once again gives no clue to the merchandise inside. At one end of the vestibule is a small counter behind which sits a store employee who hits a button that opens an opaque door, allowing patrons to enter the store - if they are old enough.

Once inside the store, one is faced with a spacious salesroom with display cases set out in rows and in the cases are samples of a multitude of different grades and qualities of (wait for it!) cannabis. Marijuana. Pot. Weed, Wacky tabacky. The cases also display all kinds of paraphernalia related to cannabis use, some of which I had no idea existed.

The above description is not based on what I saw in a small news video: it's what I observed when I visited the store just over a week ago to make my first ever legal purchase of pot. I really had no idea what to expect, but was delightfully surprised by the experience.

The inside of the store is just as elegant as the outside, all black and white, but not oppressively so, and there's plenty of room to move around the display cases. The room is needed, because there were a large number of customers inside. And guess what: I didn't see a single stereotypical "stoner" anywhere. No sign of any Reefer Madness lunatics. The customers were mostly in their 30s and 40s, with more than a few older citizens, men and women, all seemingly normal, everyday people

Staff were everywhere: clean-cut, polite, helpful and all of them dressed all in black. And there was no hint of cannabis odour.

Although I have partaken of pot for four decades, now, I had no idea how to go about making a purchase here. Within 30 seconds, I had Jackie, an effervescent young lady with a mini-computer in her hand,

ushering me from case to case, offering me a sniff of the various samples set out and determining what kind of effect I wanted from my purchase. When I finally settled on a product - (a strain called Sunset) - Jackie pumped my order into the product room and two minutes later, I paid for my purchase. It came in a small, square, light blue, plastic box with a child-proof lid, the whole thing set in a small, white paper bag.

It was, at least for me, a surreal experience. After 40 years of illegally buying an illicit product - (and in those 40 years, I was never able to find out why cannabis was illegal) - I had just made a purchase sanctioned by both the federal and provincial governments. It was a little hard to get my head around it.

If I have one cause for concern, it's the little plastic boxes in which the product comes. I have no idea whether they are recyclable or whether they can/should be returned to the store. And given that the box contained only 3.5 grams of product, even though small it was still too large for what it contained. I also have no idea whether these plastic boxes are required by our government overlords. But I will not be happy if these boxes end up in a landfill.

The point of this column, however, is not to induce, urge, recommend or otherwise prod anyone into buying or using cannabis. It is to point out that allowing a retail recreational cannabis store to open in Uxbridge will not mean the community is going to hell in a hand-basket. The Smök store shows that such a retail outlet does not have to be a seedy little shop, tucked into some dark corner of a strip mall, that is run by unkempt, straggly-haired layabouts. It can look, feel and be like any high-end retail or boutique store with a knowledgeable and courteous staff.

Sooner or later, a cannabis store will come to Uxbridge. It seems to me that before receiving that first application to open such an outlet in town, members of council - and perhaps those who oppose pot stores - might do well to visit Smök and see there is nothing to be scared of.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Fred's gift to town and country

I know this sounds like a cliché, but I remember the day as if it were yesterday. It was 16 years ago, in the summer of 2003. I was standing in line at a bank in town waiting to pay my credit card bill. Ahead of me were an older man and, at the head of the line a friend of mine. My friend asked what I was doing these days.

"I'm writing a book about Canadians on D-Day," I said.

"Big anniversary coming up," my friend commented.

"Yes," I said.

Then it was my friend's turn for service at the teller's wicket and he turned to the counter to do his banking. That left only the older man and me in the queue. That's when the older fellow slowly turned to me and spoke.

"I was there," he said quietly.

"A veteran, are you?"

"I was there," he repeated and then continued, "on D-Day."

At first, I couldn't find the right words. Finally, I blurted out, "Could you wait here in the bank until I've finished paying my VISA bill?"

We introduced ourselves to each other, exchanged phone numbers, and Fred Barnard invited me to an interview that changed me, and it changed the book I was writing. Fred Barnard related to me his D-Day experience of coming ashore in Normandy that June day in 1944 - 75 years ago today - with his younger brother Don in the same landing craft at Bernieres-sur-Mer, France. But Fred's younger brother never made it off the beach; a single bullet through the chest felled Don even before he reached dry land. Until that day in 2003, when we met in the bank, Fred Barnard had rarely talked about it. I felt privileged to hear the Barnard brothers' story.

Fred and I have carried on a friendship ever since. Phone calls, periodic visits to the house and the occasional meetings downtown have allowed me to learn more about my coincidental friend. As often as we've chatted, however, Fred remains a quiet and modest man. His Second World War service in France after D-Day proved equally remarkable. His Queen's Own Rifles of Canada unit continued to spearhead the liberation of France; then Fred was wounded by shrapnel in mid-August 1944.

All of that might seem just another veteran's tale from a war so long ago, fading and nearly forgotten. However, several years after our first

encounter, in 2007, I accompanied Fred Barnard to a ceremony at the Moss Park Armoury in Toronto. At that event he received the French Legion of Honour.

"I was no patriot or hero," Fred told me then. "I was just doing my job as a volunteer soldier." For the record, the Legion of Honour was created by French general Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. It was and still is the highest award given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of social status or nationality. It is the French equivalent of the British Victoria Cross and George Cross combined. Critics of Napoleon's award once suggested that such "baubles on men's chests were mere children's toys."

Baubles or not, I for one have the greatest respect for what young volunteers Fred and Donald Barnard accomplished that precarious June morning 75 years ago. In simple terms, were it not for them, I wouldn't have the freedom to write these words today. You wouldn't have the freedom to read them. Nor would any of us have the freedom to talk about it. Without Fred's and Don's sacrifice, today's world would look vastly different.

Fred remains a modest veteran. His daughter Donna allowed that Fred doesn't get out much. The frailties of age and diminished hearing, particularly in larger gatherings, such as he used to attend at the Legion and veterans' events, make meeting people awkward for him. Nevertheless, the victory of successfully landing 15,000 Canadian troops on Juno Beach 75 years ago this day remains very much on his mind and the minds of citizens of this town. In fact, today, people from across the township will arrive at Fred's home with flags, bunting, poppies, music and tributes to a man many feel is a hero. Of course, he would never see his role in liberating France at all that way. Nor can the goodwill expressed to Fred at his home today ever assuage the pain and loss that he and his family endured on D-Day. But unlike the noise, confusion and death Fred Barnard dashed through on Juno Beach in France 75 years ago, today's homage was designed to pay respectful tribute for a veteran's job well done. I contributed a card to this tribute: "I will remember forever that day we met in the bank," I wrote, "and be forever grateful for the sacrifice you made to give the world a second chance."

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



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# COMING UP

## THIS WEEKEND

**Fri., June 7: Blood Donor Clinic.** Uxbridge Seniors' Centre, 1:30 - 7:30

p.m. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Uxbridge.

**Sat., June 8: Community Care Durham 14th CCD Walk for Men-**

It is with great sadness that the family of

*Barbara Ann Rance*

announces her sudden passing in Kingston on May 24, at the age of 84.



Barb was the beloved wife and best friend of Tom for 61 years, cherished mother of Fred (Katrina), Doug, Susie (Chris), Trish (Mike) and Lynda (Don); dear grandmother of Miriam, Dean, Laura and Jeremy; and sister-in-law of Georda (late Bill) and Francine (late Richard). She was predeceased by her sister Judy Ticehurst (George) and parents Doug and Olive Dean.

A woman of quiet grace, humour, strength and unassuming generosity, Barb took pleasure in finding small ways to express love and thoughtfulness to her family, friends and the many communities of which she was a part. In spite of her health challenges in recent years, she never stopped engaging fully in life and touching lives, through singing, gardening, swimming (in all five Great Lakes one summer!), volunteering, feeding others, enjoying nature, modestly sharing her experience, forever learning, and welcoming all she met.

A celebration of Barb's life will be held on Sunday, June 9, in Kingston. A memorial service for her will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, at Trinity United Church in Uxbridge, where Barb and Tom lived for 33 years. If you wish to make a donation in memory of Barb, she would have appreciated support of the Kingston Chapter of Parkinson Canada or the Oak Ridges Trail Association.



**tal Health Awareness.** Port Perry Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. - 12 noon. A 1 km, 2 km or 5 km walk along Port Perry Waterfront Trail. Proceeds support CCD services across Durham Region. For info call 905-430-8014 or visit [www.community-cauredurham.on.ca](http://www.community-cauredurham.on.ca)

**Sat., June 8: North Durham Nature Walk - Uxbridge Countryside Preserve.** 9 a.m. Introduction to Birding. No pets. Preregister at [ndnature7@gmail.com](mailto:ndnature7@gmail.com) or 905-852-5432 (ORTA shared walk)

**Sun., June 9: The Committee of Friends Meeting House & the Friends Burial Ground invite you to attend the Annual Interdenominational Service at the Meeting House.** 6800 Conc. 6, 2:30 p.m. All welcome.

**Sun., June 9: Faustina Chamber Music presents Music From the Baroque Era, Composers from A to Z.** St. Paul's Centre for Spirituality and the Arts, 3 p.m. Donations invited. [www.stpauls-uxbridge.ca](http://www.stpauls-uxbridge.ca)

**Sun., June 9: 144th Siloam United Church Anniversary Service & Decoration Day.** 2:30 p.m. Guest speaker: Rev. Stephen Kern. Music by the Bacon Sisters and Jean Wilson. Refreshments to follow.

**Sun., June 9: North Durham Nature presents Birding Beaver River Wetland. Scugog,** 7 p.m. Car-pool shuttle first Blue Mountain Rd. at Lak-

eridge to Scugog Line 14. Preregister [geoff.carpentier@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.carpentier@gmail.com)

## NEXT WEEK

**Wed., June 12: Uxbridge PROBUS meeting.** Mill Run Golf Course, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Guest speaker Dave Patterson, a Canadian writer on Indigenous Peoples. For more information visit [uxbridgeprobus.com](http://uxbridgeprobus.com)

**Wed., June 12: Uxbridge Horticultural Society June meeting.** Uxbridge Seniors' Centre, 7 p.m. Speaker: Suzanne Catty. Topic: "Growing and Making Potions and Lotions from the Garden." Flower show, refreshments.

**Sat., June 15: Zephyr Community Garage, Bake, Barbeque and Bag of Books for a Buck Sale.** 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm. Set up in town, book sale is at the hall.

**Sat., June 15: Yarn-Painting Workshop.** Uxbridge Historical Centre, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Len de Graf will lead this workshop. No art experience required! Cost: \$85. Registration IS required. Contact [museum@uxbridge.ca](mailto:museum@uxbridge.ca).

**COMING UP** is a free community bulletin board. If you have a community event for a charity or non-profit organization that you'd like us to mention (AS SPACE PERMITS), email [Lvann@thecosmos.ca](mailto:Lvann@thecosmos.ca) or call 905-852-1900. The deadline for our next issue is 12 noon Tuesday.

## UNG bringing businesses together for unique event that focuses on 'local'

Local business owners will have a chance to meet and mingle at the first annual "Connecting Business" event, which happens next Friday, June 14, at Foxbridge Golf Course. The event is being presented by the Uxbridge and Area Networking Group (UNG). The luncheon, which runs from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., will feature a tabletop business showcase, a BBQ lunch, and a panel discussion.

"I wanted to bring all of the businesses into one location to talk about how we can build awareness for our businesses in Uxbridge," says UNG founder Annie Hardock.

Panel discussion participants include: Christina Curry, chair of the Uxbridge Business Improvement Area; Rick Carlstrom representing the Uxbridge Economic Development Advisory Committee; and Hardock; as well as two others. Panel moderator is radio host Taylor Bursey from 105.5 HitsFM.

Tickets, \$33 per person, are available for purchase through the UNG website at [uxbridgenetworking-group.com](http://uxbridgenetworking-group.com) and on the Connecting Business Facebook event page.

Ann and Kevin Mallory are delighted to announce the engagement of their beautiful daughter Mareena, of Uxbridge, to the handsome Scott Wallace, son of proud parents Sheila and Drew Wallace, of Kingston.

Wedding to be held at the beautiful Elora Mill Inn, in the Fall of 2019.

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## CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN

It was a great night at this season's first cruise-in - 86 cars and no rain!

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The Bonner Boys Cruise-in is every Thursday night from 5 p.m. till dusk at Elgin Park.

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**GARAGE/MOVING SALE:** Sat., June 8, 8 a.m. 367 Feasby Rd., Uxbridge. Good horse stuff (Western), household items, furniture. No junk.

**GARAGE SALE:** Sat., June 8, from 8 a.m. to noon at 92 Oakside Drive, Uxbridge. Tools, gardening equipment, some furniture, many other items.

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