

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 20 No. 13

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, April 4, 2024

Music to the festival's ears • Fundraising for hospital kicks off • New courts for Fields of Uxbridge



A PROTEST PARADE - Taking part in a nation-wide protest against the federal carbon tax, a few local (and some non-local) farmers road their tractors and other farm vehicles through downtown Uxbridge on Monday afternoon. The group staged a small rally at the arena afterward. For more, see story below.

Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Sticky weekend in store for Sunderland

Justyne Edgell

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

This weekend is going to be sweet! It's time for the 2024 Sunderland Maple Syrup Festival! Now in its 27th year, the popular festival showcases the town of Sunderland, while celebrating the time-honoured Canadian tradition of making maple syrup.

The festival will take place this Saturday and Sunday, April 6 and 7, across Sunderland with events and activities on River St. and Albert St., at Sunderland Public School and the Sunderland Arena, as well as some off-site activities accessible by bus.

Along with maple syrup tasting and candy making, the festival will feature performances by several local musicians, the Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue, a petting zoo, a tractor pull, bathtub races, a book sale and much more.

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Uxbridge tax protest one of several across Canada

Roger Varley

A relatively small group of people turned out Monday for an anti-carbon tax protest in Uxbridge. The protest was one of several staged across Canada, most sponsored by an organization called the Nationwide Protest Against the Carbon Tax.

The Uxbridge protest began around noon, with a convoy of vehicles slowly moving west along Highway 47 from Lake Ridge Road, through the downtown area, south on Toronto Street and then up Conc. 6, towards the arena. The convoy inched along, causing a long back-up of traffic.

At the arena, fewer than 40 vehicles pulled in for the rally, and only 11 of those could be classified as farm vehicles. One of the vehicles was a semi-trailer carrying a small "Axe the Tax" sign.

After having some initial problems with the sound system, a few people addressed the gath-

ering, complaining about the economic hardships that farmers face because of the carbon tax. The federal tax increased by 23 per cent on Monday.

Local farmer Ted Eng said he made no money last year and is likely going to have to lay off some of his farm workers.

After telling the crowd "we live in the best country in the world," rally attendee Brad Bradshaw noted that Canada sends millions of dollars to help people around the world.

"Why can't they help us?" he asked.

Local resident Ron Bouwmeister claimed the carbon tax "is going to destroy Canada."

A farmer named Bruce McKeown said the point of the protest was "to make consumers aware." He claimed that the federal government's carbon tax rebates do not cover the cost of the tax. He added that farmers who dry their grain are facing increased costs for the fuel needed in the drying process.

In September 2022, a private member's bill

that would create specific carve-outs for farmers in Canada's carbon pricing scheme passed in the House of Commons with all party support. The bill would exempt farmers from paying for emissions from the natural gas and propane they use for certain activities performed on their farms, such as drying grain, preparing feed, irrigating and heating barns. The federal carbon price already features an exemption for gasoline and light fuel oil costs used in tractors and trailers. (ctvnews.ca/politics/house-passes-bill-creating-carve-outs-for-farmers-in-canada-s-carbon-pricing-scheme-1.6336352)

Angel Godsoe of Victoria County told the crowd that there are other anti-tax actions in the works. When asked what those actions would entail, Godsoe said: "We want to shut down Bay Street. We're here to support local farmers."

Godsoe also claimed municipal governments "don't work for the people," a sentiment that

...continued on page 3

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE Trail Capital of Canada



Council & Committees

Meeting Schedule for April, 2024

- Friday, April 5**
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE @ 8:30 a.m.
- Monday, April 8**
COUNCIL @ 10:00 A.M.
MUSEUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE @ 6:30 p.m.
HERITAGE COMMITTEE @ 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 11**
TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE @ 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, April 15**
GENERAL PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE @ 10:00 a.m.
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMM. @ 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 17**
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT @ 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, April 18**
LIBRARY BOARD @ 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, April 22**
COUNCIL @ 10:00 a.m.
- Thursday, April 25**
BIA BOARD @ 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, April 29**
DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION @ 3:00 p.m.

Proclamations for April

- April 6 National Tartan Day
- April 10 International Day of Pink
- April 14-20 International Volunteer Week

Employment Opportunities

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

- Uxbridge Historical Centre - Museum Assistant, contract**
Closes April 5, 2024
- Uxbridge Historical Centre - Collections Assistant, contract**
Closes April 5, 2024
- Uxbridge Public Library – Summer Program Coordinator, summer student**
Closes April 12, 2024
- Community Services - Assistant Tourism Development Coordinator, contract**
Closes April 19, 2024
- Uxbridge Historical Centre - Museum Educators, contract**
Closes April 19, 2024
- Uxbridge Historical Centre - Museum Preparator, contract**
Closes April 19, 2024
- Lucy Maud Montgomery Society Of Ontario – Project Assistant, summer student**
Closes April 19, 2024
- Public Works and Operations – Operations and Capital Project Manager**
Closes April 24, 2024

From the Tax Office

Second Property Tax Installment is due April 26, 2024.

Monthly or Installment Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Deadline to Enroll for the 2024 Final property taxes is April 30th, 2024.

To find out if you are eligible to enroll, visit our website www.uxbridge.ca/en/living-here/property-taxes.aspx or call the tax office at 905-852-9181 for more information.

Change of Address

If you need to change or update your mailing address, please notify our office in writing or by emailing tax@uxbridge.ca

Would you like to receive your tax bills via email? Watch the Town Page for details on enrollment for Electronic Tax billing.

Road Closures

Visit Uxbridge.ca/roads for up-to-date notices.

2024 Pet Tags Now Available
Renew your licences on-line at uxbridge.docupet.com

DocuPet
Official Pet Licensing Partner for Uxbridge

ARENA SPRING PUBLIC SKATING SCHEDULE NOW IN EFFECT

SEE WWW.UXBRIDGE.CA FOR DETAILS

GUIDED TRAIL WALKS
Join the Township's Trails Committee for a series of Guided Trail Walks taking place from April to December!

Each walk in this series is themed and provides educational information based on the topic.

Some topics include:

- Tree Identification
- Flora & Fauna
- Insects & Fungus
- and more!

For information about the walks and how to register, scan here

SCAN ME

Uxpool Closed for Swim Meet April 13 & 14
All programs are cancelled for both of these days

SORRY WE ARE CLOSED!

Time to Renew Your Burn Permit!

www.uxbridge.ca/fire

Zephyr Library & Community Hall Open House
In-person meeting
Saturday, April 20th
10:00am-12:00pm

Zephyr Community Hall (310 Zephyr Rd.)
Share your ideas on a proposed shared space between the Zephyr Public Library and Zephyr Community Hall.

Volunteers Wanted! Earth Day Clean-Up
Countryside Preserve & O'Neil Trail
Saturday, April 20th, 9am-11am

Free garbage bags available at Town Hall between April 15-19th, 8:30am-4:00pm



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

More amenities coming to Fields of Uxbridge

Uxbridge council has approved the installation of four pickleball and four tennis courts at the Fields of Uxbridge.

According to a news release from the Township of Uxbridge, these new courts are being installed in response to public feedback requesting the implementation of new permanent courts.

“The Township received positive feedback and participation from the

temporary indoor pickleball courts established in the arena last summer, and the Township anticipates significant utilization of the new outdoor courts,” says the release.

The release noted that this project is still in the planning stages and the Township continues to work on the development and timelines of the plan. Construction is expected to be completed mid-2025.



A diagram of the Fields of Uxbridge showing where new pickleball and tennis courts will be located. *Photo from uxbridge.ca*

Axe the tax rally, from page 1

was shared on one of the vehicles in the protest convoy, which carried a message calling for the arrest of corrupt politicians.

Much larger protest gatherings were held in Alberta and Saskatchewan, Ottawa, New Brunswick, B.C. and other localities, all supposedly sponsored by the Nationwide organization. However, a search of the internet failed to reveal who is behind the group or who its officers are.

During the Uxbridge event at the arena, a knot of people surrounded a reporter for the *Uxbridge Cosmos*, accusing the newspaper of being beholden to the Liberal government and of telling lies. At one point, one protester, driving a tractor, asked the crowd if he should run the reporter over.

Sticky sweet goodness, from page 1

Visitors will also have the opportunity to hop on a bus for a trip over to the Harlaine Farms Sugar Bush, for an interactive tour, as well as a viewing of their native and pioneer syrup making displays.

On both festival days, River and Church Streets, the Town Hall, Arena and the Sunderland Public School will be packed with vendors selling everything from syrup to toys, hand-crafted items, clothing and other great finds.

The Sunderland Maple Syrup festival runs Saturday, April 6, and Sunday, April 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entrance to the festival is free and perfect for the entire family, even the dog!

For more information, find the festival on Facebook or visit maplesyrupfestival.ca

Eight from Uxbridge make provincial Sunshine List

Roger Varley

Eight employees of the township of Uxbridge are listed on the 2024 Sunshine List, a compilation of all Ontario public sector employees who earned more than \$100,000. Last week, in a story about town council remuneration, the *Cosmos* quoted some 2022 Sunshine List numbers - the numbers cited here are from the list that was released last Friday, and are more accurate.

Leading the way in Uxbridge is

Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey with a listed salary in 2023 of \$180,885.

Four employees received identical salaries of \$145,236: clerk Debbie Leroux, public works director Ben Kester, development services director Kyle Rainbow and Culture and recreation director Amanda Ferraro.

Treasurer Tobi Lee was reported to have received \$144,500. Bill Rynard, also in public works, received \$105,400.

Fire chief Mike MacDonald

rounded out the Uxbridge list with a salary of \$144,201.

None of the salaries quoted here include benefits.



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COMMUNITY NOTICE

ANNUAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Each year, CN is required to manage vegetation on its right-of-way. Managing this vegetation contributes to mitigating fire risks and enhances the efficiency of inspection of track infrastructure. The spray program is not being done for aesthetic reasons.

To ensure safe railway operations, CN will conduct its annual spray program on its rail lines in the province of Ontario. A certified professional (Davey Tree Expert Company Ltd, 1-800-465-6367) will apply herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 24-foot graveled area/ballast). Product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be met.

CN may use the following herbicides and active ingredients: Credit Xtreme (Nufarm), Esplanade (Bayer), Detail (BASF), Arsenal Powerline (BASF), Navius Flex (Bayer), Gateway (Corteva), Hasten NT (Norac), Round Up Weather Pro (Bayer), Torpedo (Valent), Telar (Envv/Bayer), Clearview (Corteva),

Aspect (Corteva), Garlon XRT (Corteva), Milestone NXT (Corteva), Glyphosate (540 g/L), Indaziflarm (200 g/L), Saflufenacil (29.74%), Imazapyr (26.7%), Metsulfuron-methyl (12.6%), Aminocyclopyrachlor (39.5%), Paraffinic Oil (586 g/L), Alkoxylated alcohol non-ionic surfactants (242 g/L), Methyl and Ethyl oleate (esterified vegetable oil 75.20%), Flumioxazin (33.5%), Pyroxasulfone (42.5%), Chlorsulfuron (75%), Aminopyralid (52.5%-60%), Metsulfuron-methyl (94.5%), Picloram (97.5 g/L), 2, 4-D (360 g/L), Triclopyr (755 g/L), Florpyrauxifen (4.77%)

CN only uses herbicides that have been approved for use in Canada and in the province within which they are applied.

The program is expected to take place from May to October 2024.

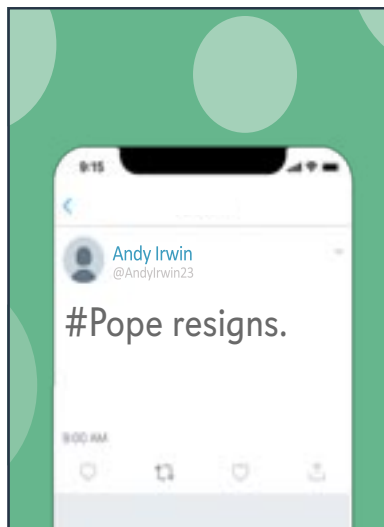
Visit www.cn.ca/vegetation for more information or to make an inquiry, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.

CN.CA

BELIEVE IT or NOT?

Four out of five people in Canada turn to print or digital newspapers as their trusted source for news and information. And research finds they trust the ads too - more than any other medium.

Be where Canadians are looking for credible news, written by humans, for humans.



Our two cents

FIFA fib forces Facebook fallout - that's a fact

Every year since the *Cosmos* first began publishing, we've had an April Fool's Day story run in the edition before or on April 1. We have a heckuva time coming up with the story, shed tears when we're dreaming up our "sources" names because we're laughing so hard, and filled with giddy excitement as we wait for the first "good one, you got me!" reactions to come in once the newspaper hits the streets.

This year was no exception (in case you missed it, or didn't clue in, the FIFA World Cup story in last week's paper was an April Fool's joke). And it came with a bonus feature - it acted as yet another lesson in media literacy!

While watching discussion of our story unfold on Facebook, we were amused by the disgruntled fervour with which some people responded to our prank. They had looked over the story, but they hadn't really *read* it, otherwise they would have picked up on the many clues that were dropped throughout the piece. And they certainly hadn't read all the way to the end, where it quite obviously gave away the joke.

Now, we know what it is to glance over something and not really take it in. And we're just as guilty as the next guy for not always reading to the end of a news article. But our story did prove how easy it is to write just any ol' thing, pop it in the paper, put the important stuff up near the top of the story (everyone knows about the inverted pyramid, right?), and pass it off as real. Not only is it easy to write - it's easy to absorb, pick up and pass along. That's how fake news is spread. Misinformation. Disinformation. (The two are not the same, but we won't get into that here.)

Upon reading our FIFA story, people were apparently calling and writing the township looking to either a) sign up and volunteer for our "event" or, b) complain about all the inconvenience our "event" would cause. They didn't read what was written. They read the idea, and filled in the rest on their own. Journalism doesn't work like that. It presents the ideas and the facts that either support or refute the idea, and sometimes relays calls to action. Journalism doesn't offer a fill-in-the-blanks exercise. It offers information that enables informed decisions, informed being the key word.

Thanks for playing along with us this year. We promise it will be the only time we deliberately tell a FIFA fib. To be sure, always check the end of a story. You never know what lessons you might learn.



Letters to the Editor

Re: *The 'beautiful game', March 28 edition*

I love searching for the April Fool's article. This time you nearly had me, but then I found it on the very back cover. Enbridge Gas says there are benefits of using fossil fuel.

*Elizabeth Carswell
Sandford*

Re: *"Councillor loses vote," March 28 edition*

Thank you, Councillor Pickering, for standing up for the so called "small things" in our community. Increased library funding is absolutely essential. The library staff does an excellent job serving the community, but it is dealing with limited physical, human and financial resources.

Perhaps what the leadership on council lacks is a vision of what a library can mean to a community.

Providing resources and services for Uxbridge citizens is not a "small thing," except perhaps in Mr. Garrod and Mr. Barton's minds.

The Uxbridge council is not governing a nation or a province but a small town of only 25,000 citizens, so it is essential that it deals with the "small things."

I hope council will revisit this issue and other council members will not be swayed by misguided thinking on the part of a few. The council should be encouraged to deal with the "small things" because if the Big Pipe is a model of how it deals with "big things," we are in for more challenging times.

*John McLean
Uxbridge*

Being 92, and living out in the sticks with no computer, I look forward to reading the *Cosmos* every week. I rely on it to keep me in touch with the goings-on around

Uxbridge.

Without the *Cosmos*, I would never have known about some of the new shops around town. Nor would I have known about the issue of garbage being dumped at the second-hand store or the heritage train debacle.

I would also have been left out of touch with more important issues, like the councillors' future in town, and some personal things, like friends of mine who have passed on. There have been multiple times that, without the *Cosmos* obituary section, I would never have been able to pay them their last respects.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that I am forever grateful for old-fashion printed news, like the *Cosmos*, and I will always be looking forward to the next issue.

Thank you for all that you do for our town.

*Ken Fray
Uxbridge*

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



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The Uxbridge Cosmos

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9,800 copies of The Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge and delivered by Canada Post.

A nod to Maud - celebrating 150 years

Uxbridge Township council has declared 2024 the Year of Maud, in recognition of the 150th birthday of one of Canada's most beloved authors, Lucy Maud Montgomery. Maud's home in Leaskdale, where she lived for 15 years, is a National Historic Site.

As space permits, from now until Maud's Nov. 30 birthday, the Cosmos is offering a short excerpt from LMM's own journals, written during her Leaskdale years. The journals, edited by Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston of the University of Guelph, are published by Oxford University Press.

When LMM's journals were pub-

lished in 1987, people in Leaskdale were amazed to discover how she really felt about life in small-town Ontario:

"When we go out to tea I wish people wouldn't ask us to play croquinole, or insist on showing me all the photographs they have! They don't seem to have any other way of entertaining. I loathe croquinole with a deadly hatred. As for the photos, well, if they would just give me the photos and let me look over them in peace, it wouldn't be so bad, because human faces always have a certain interest. But no,

somebody must sit beside you and explain them all. This is my Uncle Richard, that is my grandfather. That is my cousin in Chicago, that is a little hired boy who worked for us, and you feel as if you were called upon to make some comment upon Uncle Richard, and the hired boy and the Chicago cousin, and you wonder miserably what in the world you can say, not knowing or caring anything about them, and rarely finding any inspiration in their common-place situation."



Am I wrong?

opinion column by Roger Varley

Gimme freedom! Gimme a break!

What is it with protests and rallies in Canada of late? It seems that no matter what cause is being espoused, no matter what policy or issue is being protested, the shouts of "Freedom!" can be heard.

It was the same at the Uxbridge arena on Monday, where those attending an "Axe the Tax" protest - ostensibly farmers - were told our rights and freedoms are being taken away. At similar rallies across the country, signs were posted accusing Prime Minister Trudeau of being a dictator, a tyrant and a traitor. And, of course, there were the inevitable but now familiar profane signs that we won't reproduce in this newspaper.

I understand that many of us are feeling the pinch, what with higher prices for everything, including groceries and housing. And it is unfortunate - and bad optics - that federal Parliamentarians received a hefty pay raise on the same day the carbon tax increased by 23 per cent. But that doesn't necessarily mean Trudeau is a dictator, a tyrant or a traitor. People who engage in such puerile rhetoric diminish their chances of being taken seriously.

It was also puerile for protesters at the arena to gather around me and declare that the *Uxbridge Cosmos* is a mouthpiece for the federal Liberals because it receives money from the feds to pay for a Local Journalism Initiative reporter. A wide range of industries across all sectors receive assistance from federal and provincial governments: it doesn't mean they are all "in bed" with the government of the day.

But the protesters were not done there. The small knot of people gathered around me accused me of telling lies in my reporting, and proudly pointed out that their gathering was also being covered by a reporter from Rebel News. If you don't know Rebel News, a visit to their website might enlighten you, especially the Make Canada Great Again T-shirts they hawk...

At one point, I was leaning against my van listening to the speakers addressing the crowd. One protester climbed onto his tractor and drove around the parking lot to enter

the narrow space between my van and the truck they were using for a sound stage. He came up behind me, asked the crowd whether he should run me over and then inched forward until his front wheel brushed against the back of my pants. That was not only stupid, it was dangerous.

As for the speakers, I was not impressed. Local farmer Ted Eng moaned about his inability to make money farming and how expensive it is to run his farm equipment. It made me wonder how many acres of land he could have worked with the fuel he used to drive down to Uxbridge in his tractor.

Another speaker, Brad Bradshaw, told the crowd that farmers need help. He then went on to tell us of his trips to Brazil and Columbia and a recent visit to Australia to look at farming operations. That doesn't sound to me as though he's hurting for cash. Not to mention the carbon emissions he's contributing to while doing all that travelling...

Angel Godsoe of Victoria County (there appeared to be a number of people who were not Uxbridge residents) told her listeners that municipal politicians don't work for the public and don't listen to the public. She was amazed when I informed her that our local council invites the public and the media to ask questions at every council meeting.

And, of course, there were Canadian flags everywhere. Do protesters think that waving a Canadian flag somehow validates their complaints or causes? Do they think that if you have an opposing viewpoint to theirs you are not really a Canadian? What really disturbs me is when they desecrate the flag by attaching the above-mentioned profanity to it or adorning it with a less-than-savoury symbol. I'm not saying that happened in Uxbridge, but just what is the symbolism behind all the flags? The flag should be a source of pride, not a symbol of protest.

It seems to me that if people are going to protest, they should at least be armed with reasonable arguments to back up their case rather than stand around yelling "Freedom."

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

opinion column by Ted Barris

Silence is not an option

Instincts cannot be unlearned. Early last Tuesday morning (March 26), a retired chief of the Baltimore fire department was wakened when he heard rumbling and felt his house shake. He lives a short distance from the Patapsco River. He said the experience "felt like an earthquake."

Interviewed by The Associated Press in the U.S., former firefighter Donald Heinbuch explained that instinct told him to drive to toward the unearthly sound. Then, he described what he saw. "The (container) ship was there, and the bridge was in the water - like it was blown up."

Because video captured it, we know that at about 1:30 a.m., the 300-metre-long vessel, *Dali*, without power and apparently unable to avert a collision, slammed into one of the pillars of Francis Scott Key Bridge. Seconds after that, virtually all spans of the 2.6-kilometre-long structure at the entrance to Baltimore Harbor collapsed. Also visible in the video were flashing lights on the bridge where an overnight construction crew was repairing the bridge deck. The lights and all went down with the bridge. It appears that six of eight men in that crew died in the collapse.

Almost lost in the coverage of the disaster, however, were the 90 seconds that elapsed between a mayday call issued from the powerless ship and the bridge collapse. In that minute and a half, three men - Paul Pastorek, Jeremy Herbert and Garry Kirts - reacted. Trained members of the Maryland Transportation Authority Police (MTAP), the three officers immediately halted traffic from entering either end of the bridge and even tried to reach the doomed construction workers. Last year, 12 million vehicles crossed it. Even in the middle of the night, allowing normal traffic to mount the spans would have increased the death toll by scores, maybe hundreds.

Why don't we give first responders such as these men more praise?

The other night, we watched a PBS rebroadcast of the 2022 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor being awarded to comedian, commentator and activist Jon Stewart. Highlighted among his achievements was his appearance before Congress in 2019 when he opposed the limit in payouts to 9/11 first responders. "They did their jobs," he testified in front of U.S. lawmakers. "Now, you do yours!"

Does anyone remember the name Barbara Winters? In 2014, on her way home from her

government job in Ottawa, she entered the National War Memorial square seconds after Cpl Nathan Cirillo, serving as an honour guard, was shot. With several other Good Samaritans, Winters (a former military medic) rushed to the dying Cirillo. "I told him he was loved and that he was brave and that he was a good man," she told then *As It Happens* host Carol Off. Fortunately, authorities did the right thing. Winters and five others received the St. John Ambulance Service's gold Life Saving Medal, as well as acknowledgment from the Governor General and the Department of National Defence for their bravery.

"I can't describe it in any other way other than to say that in those minutes, there was nothing else in the world ... but to try and save his life," she said.

About 10 years ago, I met and got to know sculptor Tyler Briley in Port Perry. At the time, he and I joined a campaign to have 116th Ontario Battalion commander Samuel Sharpe instated in the Book of Remembrance on Parliament Hill for his service and death in the Great War. Briley had created a bust of Sharpe to inspire Parliamentarians to do the right thing. In the course of our friendship, I learned Briley had served as a GTA firefighter. "I loved every minute of it," he told me, but added that he'd sustained numerous injuries, some not visible. "I've seen things people shouldn't have to see. Looking back, I should have been treated for PTSD."

Fortunately, the Uxbridge Firefighters' Association has led the campaign to fundraise and install a new Tyler Briley sculpture in front of the fire hall. Plans call for the Firefighter Memorial Statue and Garden to be completed and unveiled on Oct. 5 this year.

Last weekend, during the Baltimore Orioles' home opener, Maryland Governor Wes Moore called MTAP bridge officers Pastorek, Herbert and Kirts a "bright light for our nation." Despite the acknowledgment, they downplayed their heroism saying, "no amount of training could have prepared anyone for (those) events ..."

It seems to me if we train men and women to rush to where the rest of us fear to go, we need to educate ourselves how to marvel and allow first responders the space, time and opportunity to be recognized as heroes.

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



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Uxbridge man and woman arrested in fraud investigation

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

The Toronto Police Service (TPS) says it wants to make the public aware of arrests recently made in a

fraud investigation.

In a police report released on March 20, the TPS arrested Benn Taylor Raddysh, 21, and Alexandra

Mekhdi-Gamsari, 19, both of Uxbridge for Fraud over \$5,000.

In the report, the TPS alleges that a man and a woman used Facebook Marketplace to advertise vehicles for sale using fake aliases. The vehicles were falsely advertised as having low kilometres and/or the year of the vehicle was falsely advertised as being newer than they actually were. Some of the vehicles were salvaged.

The report says that unsuspecting

victims met the suspects to test drive the vehicles at different locations throughout the GTA. After the sale was completed, upon registering the vehicles, the report says victims would then learn that the odometers had been tampered with, the ownerships altered, and/or the vehicle required extensive repairs.

Taylor Raddysh and Mekhdi-Gamsari are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice, 10 Ar-

moury Street, in Toronto, on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, in room 203 at 11 a.m.

Police say they believe there may be more victims of this fraud and are asking them to contact investigators.

This type of fraud is known as Curbsiding. Curbsiding occurs when someone misrepresents themselves in the private sale of an automobile and conceals information about a vehicle to a buyer, such as odometer tampering, stolen vehicle status, undisclosed accident history, and mechanical defects.

Police remind residents that, prior to purchasing a vehicle, the seller is legally required to provide a UVIP (used vehicle information package) from the Ministry of Transportation. The package contains a description of the vehicle and its Ontario history. Buyers should also have a licensed mechanic inspect vehicles prior to purchase.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 416-808-1100, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222-TIPS (8477), or at www.222tips.com



Benn Taylor Raddysh and Alexandra Mekhdi-Gamsari, both of Uxbridge, were recently arrested by Toronto Police for fraud related to selling used vehicles.

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Celtic duo kicks off 'quiet phase' of new hospital fundraising

Justyne Edgell
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Canada's reigning celtic music couple, Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy, are bringing their dazzling celtic music to the Uxbridge Music Hall in support of the Uxbridge Hospital redevelopment.

"We're thrilled to have Natalie, Donnell and their family back in Uxbridge," says Uxbridge Hospital Foundation campaign director, Mackenzie Todd.

Tickets for the April 12 show sold out in about a week, and Todd says that must prove the community is equally as excited about the return of the MacMaster/ Leahy family.

When approached with the opportunity for this concert, Leahy says that, as it's close to home and for a good cause, they knew it would be a great show. "We do enough stuff all around and outside of the country, and that's good too, but it's always nice to support close to home and we're glad to be involved," he said.

"It's also important for us to show our children there are different reasons why you do the things you love and one of them is to support friends who are putting in a big effort to make a difference," says Leahy.

This isn't the first time the duo has played the Uxbridge Music Hall. Leahy and MacMaster joined a few fellow touring musicians when they were passing through in Uxbridge several years ago.

"I understand that one of the last times they performed at the Music Hall, it needed to undergo some structural repair afterwards. It must be a fun show!" says Todd.

Natalie MacMaster married Donnell Leahy in 2002. Leahy came to

prominence as the lead fiddle player for The Leahy Family. They joined forces and, after the birth of six children, are now a musical touring family.

Having kept the children off the stage for many years, the family found that it gave practice incentive, and after seeing how much the children enjoyed playing music during soundchecks, they began including the oldest children in their shows.

Leahy says that, because this show

is close to home, they will bring "the troupe" along with them.

Todd says this concert is the first of a series to fundraise for the Uxbridge Hospital redevelopment. "We have additional concerts planned as part of our Music for Ux concert series, including Fred Eaglesmith on September 20 at the Music Hall."

Todd also noted that a celebrity hockey tournament is also on deck.

When asked about the progress of the new hospital fundraising, Todd says they can't share much right now. "We are currently in the quiet phase of the campaign and hope to launch the campaign to the community this year."



Donnell Leahy and Nathalie MacMaster will kick off hospital fundraising by doing a concert at the Uxbridge Music Hall on April 12. Photo courtesy Eric Alper

**Committee of Friends Meeting House and
The Friends Burial Ground**

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 1 p.m.
St. Andrew's Chalmers Presbyterian Church, South Door
40 Toronto Street South

*To amend by-laws as required • To receive annual financial statement and annual report • To elect officers, directors, auditor and lawyer for 2024/2025
To transact such further business as may properly come before the meeting.*

MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the March monthly draw for the 2024 Trip of the Month Club.


The 'Marvel in Marseille' trip was won by Jayne Jackson
ticket #322, sold by Connie Gerrow.

2nd place, \$150, won by Leslie Sachse
ticket #396, sold by Francine Reid.

3rd place, \$100, won by Geraldine Ball
ticket #305, sold by Deb Dee.

Congratulations to our March winners, and best of luck for the April 2024 draw of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge Trip of the Month Club! "Baja Beauty" includes round trip direct, non-stop flights for two from Toronto to Los Angeles, round trip airport transfers, a 4-night Baja, Mexico, cruise aboard the Carnival Radiance in a balcony category cabin. Itinerary includes Long Beach, Catalina Island and Ensenada.

A gift certificate from Getaway Travel worth \$2,500 or cash of \$2,250 is available instead of the trip. Trip must be taken in the month following the draw.

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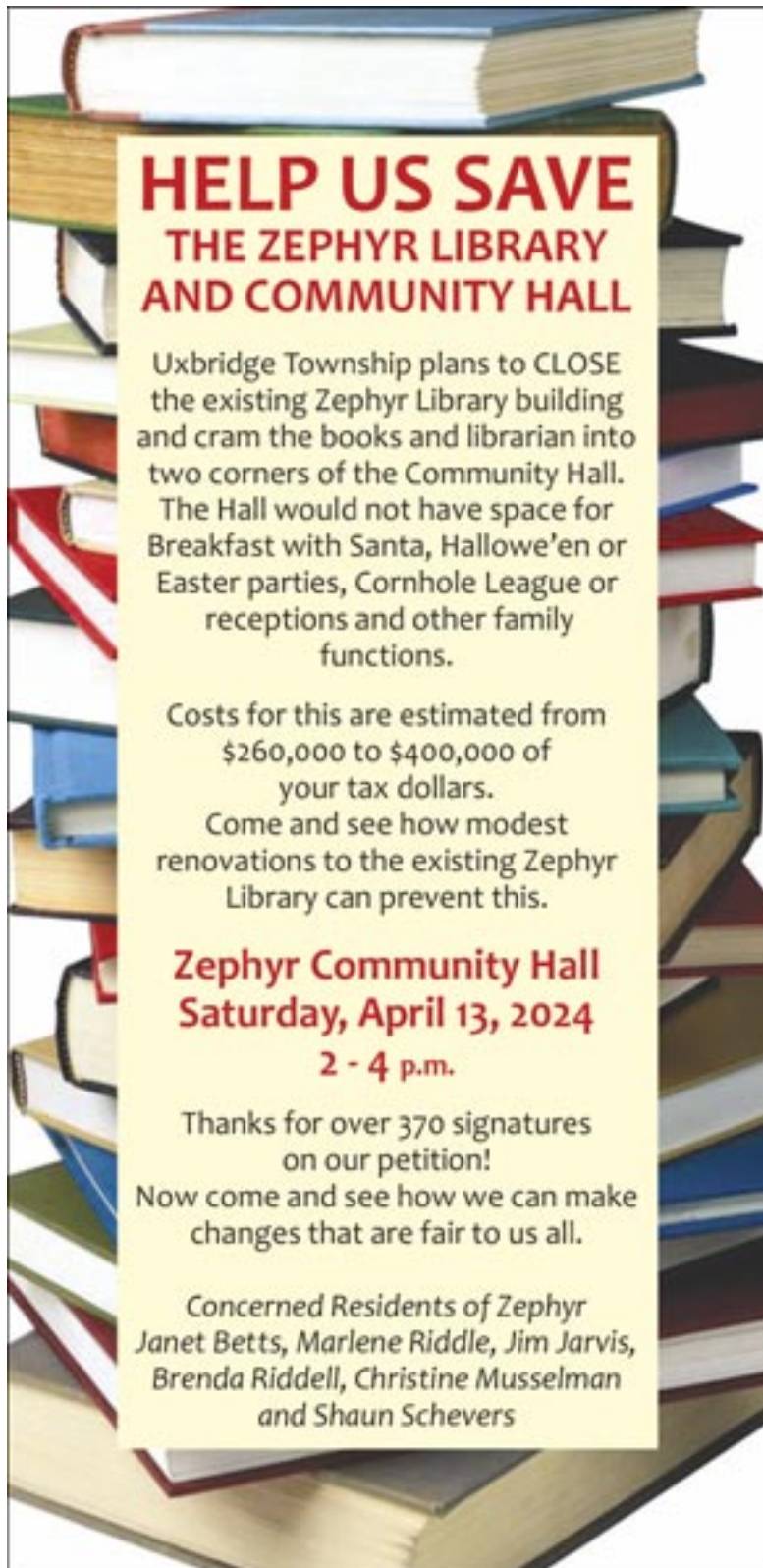
JULY 11-27
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HELP US SAVE THE ZEPHYR LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY HALL

Uxbridge Township plans to CLOSE the existing Zephyr Library building and cram the books and librarian into two corners of the Community Hall. The Hall would not have space for Breakfast with Santa, Hallowe'en or Easter parties, Cornhole League or receptions and other family functions.

Costs for this are estimated from \$260,000 to \$400,000 of your tax dollars. Come and see how modest renovations to the existing Zephyr Library can prevent this.

Zephyr Community Hall
Saturday, April 13, 2024
 2 - 4 p.m.

Thanks for over 370 signatures on our petition! Now come and see how we can make changes that are fair to us all.

Concerned Residents of Zephyr
 Janet Betts, Marlene Riddle, Jim Jarvis, Brenda Riddell, Christine Musselman and Shaun Schevers

Uxbridge Venturer Scout receives top honour

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

The 1st Uxbridge Venturer Scouts recently announced that they were “super excited” to share that one of their own had been awarded the highest honour a youth can earn in Scouting for his “distinguished youth service and excellence within the Scouting movement”

James Marlatt received the prestigious award, with 1st Uxbridge Scout Group Youth Commissioner (and younger sister) Kathryn Marlatt reading aloud the lengthy citation during the presentation in front of James’s fellow Venturers, Scouters, and entire family. She also presented him with the Medal of the Maple, a certificate, and a badge for his uniform.

His fellow Venturers say that Marlatt is “looked up to by youth and

volunteers young and old for his outstanding contribution to Scouting.”



1st Uxbridge Venturer Scout James Marlatt was recently awarded the Medal of the Maple, the highest honour a youth can earn in Scouting. Submitted photo

For demonstrated leadership, he was appointed Patrol Leader at the end of his first year in Scouts, and has sub-

sequently been appointed Troop Leader, Company Leader, and Group Youth Commissioner at various points. These roles were not in name only, as Marlatt was active fostering leadership, being the voice for the section on Group Committee for 5+ years, and recruiting youth and volunteers at numerous events.

This isn’t Marlatt’s first time being recognized. He is also the recipient of two Letters of Commendation, the Meritorious Conduct Award for providing first aid and helping to evacuate an injured Scout out of the woods, and is often informally recognized by Scouters, parents, and other youth for compassion, confidence, and inclusive nature in the way he conducts himself.

He has been the coordinator of several community clean-ups, including of the trails after a tornado went through town (May 2022).

Through Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, and beyond, Marlatt has always been passionate about Scouting. He is often the organizer of section Scouting events, helping to plan and arrange logistics and helping others while they are leading events.

Marlatt says he loves sharing the Scouting spirit with others so much that he was invited to host the Chief Scout Investiture Campfire for Les Stroud, as well as host a regional Camporee for 300 people. He also represents his Scout group on interviews for local media.

He’s earned all of the Personal Achievement Badges in Cubs and Scouts, earned the Seonee Award and Six Star Cub Award, as well as the Chief Scout’s Award.

He says he’s excited about the adventures that await him as he heads into the next level of Rovers.



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Music festival showcases talent North Durham and beyond

Justyne Edgell
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Young musicians get to show off their musical talents beginning this week at the 64th Sunderland Lions Music Festival.

The festival provides an opportunity for “countless numbers of aspiring young musicians to perform publicly before highly qualified adjudicators,” according to the festival’s website.

Welcoming classically trained musicians and teachers from the Townships of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge in the Region of Durham, the former Townships of Eldon and Mariposa in the City of Kawartha Lakes, and the Pefferlaw and Sutton areas in the Town of Georgina in the Region of York, the Sunderland Lions Music Festival has entries in piano, solo instrumental and strings, band, voice solo and choral.

Former chair of the Sunderland Music Festival and longtime organizer, Dale St. John, says that while this is their second post-pandemic festival, they are still getting over its effects.

“We’ve had a big drop in the piano categories,” says St. John. “During the pandemic, many of our piano teachers retired so the students didn’t have that chance to start up again.”

St. John says that while some areas have suffered, he is pleased to see many strong entries in the elementary school categories this year.

“It great to have some returning adjudicators, as well as adding one of our own, Lyle Corrigan, a former teacher at Goodwood Public School,” says St. John.

Corrigan is a York University graduate, trained in classical trombone performance and music education. He also holds a Bachelor of Education from Nipissing University, an Honours Specialist in Music from the University of Toronto, and will be the primary instrumental adjudicator.

This year’s piano adjudicator is Helen Torney, who holds ARCT Diplomas in Piano Performance and in Piano Pedagogy from the Royal Conservatory of Music, Fellowship and Licentiate Diplomas from Trinity College of Music, London, England; an Honours Bachelor of Music from the University of Western Ontario, a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia and an Associate Diploma in Clarinet Performance from the Western Ontario Conservatory of Music.

The voice categories will be adjudicated by Melody Thomas, who has an Honours Bachelor of Music from University of Toronto and an Opera Diploma from Wilfrid Laurier University.

Along with the regular festival classes, the winners from each class are invited back to perform during

the “Stars of the Festival.” This best-of series of concerts run during the evenings of the third week of the festival, and it’s when participants receive their class awards, as well as additional special awards and trophies.

The festival says it’s proud to see sec-



LJI reporter Justyne Edgell receives a trophy at the “Stars of the Festival” concert in the early 2000’s. Left, vocal teacher Jennifer Neveu-Campsall and then festival chair Jim Ferguson.

Submitted by Dale St. John

ond and third generations of participants returning each year, with many past contestants returning years later as parents and/or teachers.

“It is our hope that this tradition will continue and that we will endeavour to make the efforts of all of our participants a rewarding and educational experience,” says St. John.

This year’s festival is dedicated to the memory of Anne Link, a Beaverton area piano teacher who served as the festival’s piano selection committee chair for several years.

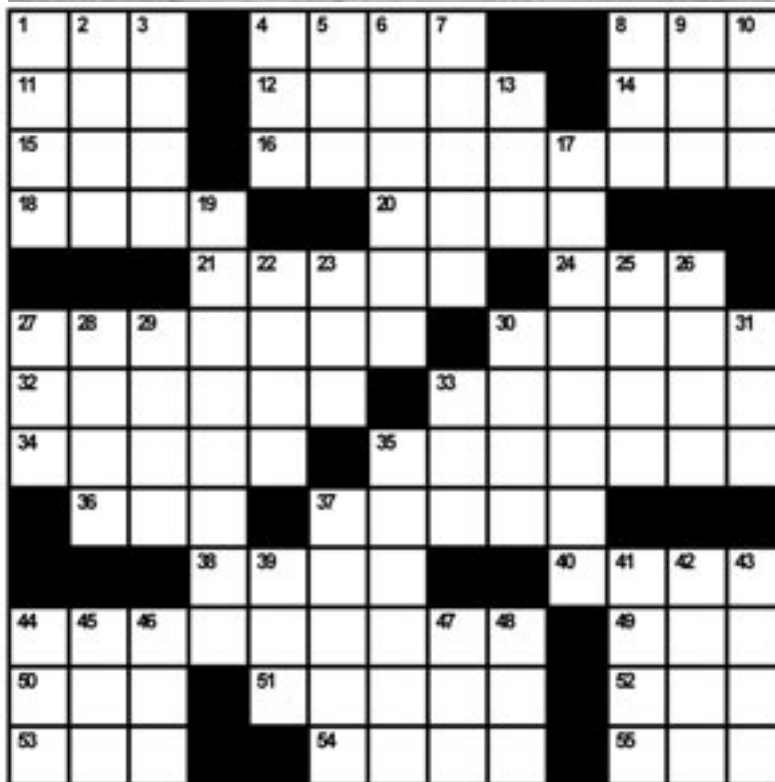
St. John adds that the organizing committee is always grateful for the community and volunteer support for the festival, from teachers bringing their students to the festival to the volunteers who prepare the daily lunches in the United Church Hall.

The Sunderland Lions Music Festival runs from April 3 to 19, 2024, with the Stars Of The Festival concerts April 23 to 25. For more, visit sunderlandlionsmusicfestival.com



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Across

1. Victoria Secret offering
4. Mint
8. Pronoun
11. Tiny particle
12. Not sawn
14. Your and my
15. Kicks
16. Honey farmer
18. Lawyers' charges
20. Green vegetable
21. In the lead
24. "___ lost!"
27. Putting on
30. 60s songwriter
32. Crumbled
33. Actor Robert
34. Fundamental principle
35. Temporary
36. Southern general in the Civil War
37. Dish
38. Good shot
40. Stir up
44. Timely
49. High card
50. Magical
51. Ruhr River city
52. "Help!"
53. Kind of number
54. Evergreens with red berries
55. Cable station

Down

1. Punch
2. Gigolo
3. Green Gables girl
4. Chicago bear?
5. Together
6. First-aid item
7. Microwave
8. Uncooked french toast
9. Shade
10. Do wrong
13. Ice ___
17. Mechanical & design expert
19. West coast city
22. Goes quickly
23. Close
25. Islamic potentate
26. Actress, Spelling
27. Girl coming into womanhood
28. Examination type
29. Barely beat, with "out"
30. Badger's tunnel
31. ___ de plume (pen name)
33. Evidence piece
35. Treat unjustly (2 words)
37. Fall guy
39. Exploration target
41. Hop dryer
42. Desktop object
43. For fear
44. Out of sync
45. Green color
46. Eucharist vessel
47. Novel
48. Coast Guard officer, abbr.

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EVENTS

NEW NORTH DURHAM PROBUS CLUB INFORMATION MEETING Thursday, April 11, 10 a.m., at Hope Church, 14480 Old Simcoe Rd., Port Perry. Come and meet new friends. uxbridgeprobus.com

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Spring is sprung, the grass is riz - grab your poles and get walking!

Submitted by Eesha Mehra
Uxbridge Physiotherapy

Imagine a serene winter landscape bathed in the soft light of a tranquil morning. The air is chilly, yet invigorating as you step out to enjoy an exciting day of cross-country skiing.

Now imagine that you're right here in Uxbridge, mimicking the motions of cross-country skiing by using poles to propel yourself along one of our many picturesque trails or walkways. Amidst this winter tableau, you spot a lively group of people walking and exercising with



Members of the Uxbridge Pole Walker's Club in Elgin Park

poles in Elgin Park. They are members of The Uxbridge Pole Walking Club, established in 2014 by physiotherapist Jodi Bussiere, personal trainer Dale Andrew, and physiotherapy assistant April Ferguson. This year, Eesha Mehra, a recent Life Sciences Undergraduate, is joining their team of qualified instructors.

Pole walking and exercise classes are held in Elgin Park each spring

and fall, and will recommence this May.

"This activity is fantastic for people of all abilities, particularly after being cooped up inside all winter," says Mehra. "We are assisting people who might not otherwise venture outdoors to exercise and are able to help them increase their level of activity in a safe and enjoyable manner."

Hour-long classes include a proper warm-up, several walks in scenic Elgin Park, upper and lower body strengthening, and stretching, all with the aid of the walking poles.

Originally developed in European countries as a way for elite cross-country skiers to train during the off-season, urban poling has evolved into a popular addition to walking routines. It adds an upper body component, reduces impact on the lower body, and enhances balance and stability. In fact, Harvard Medical School suggests that walking with nordic poles burns more calories and activates more muscles than conventional walking.

Other benefits of urban poling include an improved posture, faster

walking speed, and exercising while having fun! It is particularly beneficial for people with osteoarthritis in their low backs, hips, and knees, as pole walking reduces load on these joints. For individuals recovering from hip or knee surgery, poles provide an added support. Other



Members of the Uxbridge Pole Walker's Club in Elgin Park practice some resistance exercises.

people who may benefit from the poles are those with osteoporosis, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and even people who are in wheelchairs.

The Uxbridge Pole Walking Club's spring session starts on May 6, of-

fering three classes per week in beautiful Elgin Park. People can even try a class for free and then decide to join. Poles can be purchased at Uxbridge Physiotherapy, or at other stores that sell sporting goods.

For registration details, visit www.uxbridgepolewalking.com. The group looks forward to getting started next month, and welcomes new members.

Submitted on behalf of Uxbridge Physiotherapy.



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The family of the late Rae Kennedy wish to express our deep appreciation to those who offered such kindness, support, messages of sympathy and comfort in our bereavement. We also send our gratitude and appreciation to Butternut Manor, Low and Low Funeral Home, Reverend Sean Astop, family, friends, and for the many cards, flowers and donations. We also wish to thank everyone who made a difference in our Dad's life.

Donna and Steve Den Ouden & Family
Wayne and Sandra Kennedy & Family



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Cyril Giles

March 30, 2022

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Grandpa and Uncle.

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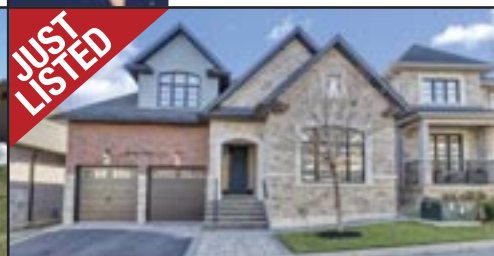


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