

# Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley



## Another bylaw! Really?

When she was campaigning for a return to the mayor's chair during the last municipal election, Gerri Lynn O'Connor promised to visit Uxbridge Township's bylaws with a view to revoking unnecessary and unenforceable bylaws.

This was, perhaps, a reaction to the ridiculous graffiti bylaw that the previous council had passed which, in effect, made it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to purchase a wide-tipped felt marker in the township. The bylaw also required stores to prominently display a sign saying they were required to seek proof of age for anyone desiring to purchase such an implement. Have you ever seen one?

But it appears the mayor has not revisited any of the bylaws we have that require eradication - is it still illegal in Uxbridge to have an internet connection faster than 56k?

And now, council is considering a new special events bylaw that could possibly result in the demise of a number of events we all look forward to every year. It is still in draft form and can be changed considerably, presumably

depending on the comments and reactions of township residents. Council was to take its first official look at the proposed bylaw yesterday morning in a special session.

Given my reading of the draft, Council needs to give this particular bylaw a good, hard look and not rush into passing it. Indeed, council might want to consider whether the bylaw is needed in the first place.

To start with, the preamble to the bylaw states that "the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge deems it necessary to regulate special events". Is someone trying to tell me that council has not felt it necessary in the past? Is someone trying to tell me the township doesn't already have regulations in place to cover special events? How have we survived this long?

The major problem I have with this bylaw is the utterly confusing wording. For example, it refers to a "major event" as any event which is held "for profit or otherwise" at which more than 1,000 people are expected to attend. It is the only time in the bylaw that the phrase "major event" is used. All other references are to "special events". Is there a difference? If so, what? And events held "for profit or otherwise"

would, in my opinion, cover all such occasions, so why include the confusing terminology?

That reference to 1,000 people in attendance also raises questions. For example, I'm sure the Optimists draw at least that number of people to their annual Fantasy of Lights in Elgin Park. But that would be over the course of a couple of weeks. Does that constitute a special or major event?

Oddly, not all special events will require a special events permit. For example, such a permit will not be required for an event held on a municipal highway - (the Terry Fox Run, Run for the Diamond, the Santa Claus Parade etc?) - or by any registered charitable organization using any property owned by the municipality.

The proposed bylaw would require everyone applying for a special events permit to undergo a police check. And for any corporation running an event, all the corporation's "operators and employees" who work the event will also have to have police checks. For Art in the Park, for Pete's sake? The Duck Derby? Many of these events are run by our service clubs and it is my understanding they are all incorporated. That means all their volunteers would be required to undergo police scrutiny. All these

police checks, by the way, would be paid for out of the applicants' and volunteers' pockets. As for Huck Finn Day, would Pat Higgins

have to pay for police checks for all of his Canadian Tire employees who show up to help run that marvellous annual event?

The bylaw does not spell out whether police checks would be required for vendors and their employees who turn up at any number of these special events. I would be surprised if there were not a couple of people among the ribbers at RibFest who have police records.

As an added incentive to anyone seeking a special events permit, they will be subject to investigations by and comments and recommendations from at least seven different municipal, regional and provincial agencies. They will also be required to submit letters of approval or recommendation from the following: the owner of the property where the event is to be held, the Ministry of Health, Durham Regional Police, the Uxbridge fire chief (two letters), ambulance services, St. John Ambulance, Public Works, Uxbridge's chief building officer (two letters) and the bylaw officer. That's a total of 11 letters.

So many questions, so few answers. I believe that, if a bylaw is passed, one should not have any lingering questions when one has finished reading it. This bylaw, in its present format, raises more questions than a season's worth of *Jeopardy!*

It seems to me council is in danger of bringing an end to some worthwhile and well-established home-grown special events in Uxbridge, if it does not send this bylaw back for some serious reconsideration.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE

### SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

The Township of Uxbridge is accepting applications for a Summer Student placement within the Clerk's Department. An applicant should be currently enrolled in a post-secondary education program and returning to continue their education in September, 2013.

#### Position Summary:

- Assists with File maintenance, including laser fiche scanning & index up-dating
- Provides main receptionist relief, including mail processing
- Completes various tasks as assigned by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk

#### Minimum Qualifications:

- Excellent oral, written and communication skills
- Superior customer service skills & ability to deal with the public & staff in a courteous & tactful manner
- Proficient in the use of computers & current related software
- Self-starter with demonstrated strong time-management and organizational skills
- Must possess valid Driver's Licence
- An interest in Public Administration

Interested candidates are invited to submit a cover letter together with a detailed resume outlining experience and detailing how the minimum qualifications are met, identifying the position being applied for and marked "Confidential" to the attention of: pshipway@town.uxbridge.on.ca or the undersigned no later than 4:30 pm, Thursday, March 28th, 2013.

#### Township of Uxbridge

ATTN: Paul Shipway, Deputy Clerk  
P.O. Box 190, Uxbridge, ON, L9P 1T1

We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those being considered for an interview will be contacted.

### WINTER ICE CONDITIONS ELGIN POND

The Township of Uxbridge will be testing the ice conditions at Elgin Pond throughout the winter:

**No Flags - Not started to test**  
**Red Flags - Ice is not safe to be on**  
**Yellow Flags - Skate with caution**

Please keep away from water inlets and outlets as ice thickness is compromised.

**Please note: Flags are located at the North End of Elgin Pond.**

#### Stormwater Management Facilities

Please keep off of all stormwater management facilities. Water levels fluctuate at these facilities and these facilities are not safe for skating or other activities.

### AT THE GOODWOOD HALL

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 7th, 2013 Goodwood hall  
7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.  
Registration 905-640-3966  
bnortheast@powergate.ca

#### TALENT NIGHT

May 15th, 2013 Goodwood Hall  
7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.  
Registration 905-640-3966  
bnortheast@powergate.ca  
Not a competition -  
Everybody Welcome!

## CAMPS, CAMPS, CAMPS!

### MARCH BREAK CAMP!

Come and join us this March Break for our 1 week and day-by-day programs! We have a variety of Camps for ages 5-13! Swimming everyday included! March 11th-15th

#### • Jr. Variety Camp!

- M: Crafty Kids!
- T: Superhero Day!
- W: Daring Detectives Day!
- Th: Jr. Whiz Kids Camp!
- F: Adventure Day!

#### • Sr. Variety Camp!

- M: Bowling and Game Day!
- T: Cooking Club!
- W: Bowling and Sr. Whiz!
- Th: Cooking Club!
- F: Bowling and Skating!

#### • Jr. AND Sr. Sports Camp! - Variety of gym Sports, PLUS bowling everyday!

#### • Dance and Cheer Camp! 1 week program, with Dance/Cheer performance on Friday!

For more detailed program information, please see Page 12 of the NEW 2013 Spring/Summer Uxbridge Community Guide, pick up a flyer at the Uxpool, or visit [www.town.uxbridge.on.ca](http://www.town.uxbridge.on.ca)

### UXBRIDGE SUMMER CAMPS!

The Town of Uxbridge Summer Camp flyer is hot off the press! Get your copy at the Uxpool, or see the centre fold of the NEW Spring/Summer Community guide! Registration starts March 2nd. Register before May 31st and receive a FREE Camp T-shirt AND a 5% discount per registration! NEW this year: Skateboard Camp and Soccer Club! "UX CAMP ROCKS!"

Questions?

Camp Coordinator: Rebecca Harman  
[camps@town.uxbridge.on.ca](mailto:camps@town.uxbridge.on.ca)  
905-852-7831

The Township of Uxbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

If you require accommodation at any time throughout the employment activities process, please contact us at: 905-852-9181 ext. 209, [accessibility@town.uxbridge.on.ca](mailto:accessibility@town.uxbridge.on.ca) or by visiting [www.town.uxbridge.on.ca](http://www.town.uxbridge.on.ca) and we will make every effort to provide appropriate assistance pursuant to the Township of Uxbridge Employment Activities Accommodation policy.

## Leaskdale News with Helen Harrison

Our very best wishes to all local participants in the Lions' Sunderland Music Festival, which is now underway...

Sincere sympathy is extended to the Prozenko Family on the tragic death of Steve recently. A memorial gathering took place at Udora Community Centre last Sunday...

The Annual General Meeting of St. Paul's Leaskdale Presbyterian Church will take place on Sun. Feb. 24. Beginning at 12:30 p.m. with a hot lunch, the meeting will follow immediately afterwards...

We have been experiencing an 'old-fashioned' February this year with frequent stormy, windy, and cold weather...

We give our best wishes to Cliff Taylor who is slowly making progress after receiving treatment for a heart condition. Keep improving, Cliff...

We are sorry to hear of the recent passing of Bob Donaghey of Scarborough. Bob was the beloved husband of the late Ruby Lapp...

Men's Breakfast at St. Paul's Leaskdale will take place on Sat. Mar. 2 @ 8:30 a.m. Come and enjoy good food and great fellowship.