

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 9 No. 8 YOUR UNIVERSE Thursday, February 28th 2013



MARKETING THE FARM - Kelly and Paul Brooks (seen here with baby Penny and son Charlie in the middle of their new sugar bush) have turned their multi-faceted farm on Ashworth Road near Mt. Albert into a tourist destination. And now it's a prize-winning one, as Brooks Farms was chosen top Farm Market in Ontario at a conference last week in Niagara. See story page 6. *Photo by Stuart Blower.*

Inside This Week's Cosmos

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Chickadees, Barton Trail by John Cavers





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The Corporation of
The Township of Uxbridge
www.town.uxbridge.on.ca

**Council and Committee
Meeting Schedule for March**

Monday, March 4th
9:30 a.m. COMMITTEE
Monday, March 11th
March Break - No meeting of Council
Monday, March 18th
9:30 a.m. COMMITTEE
7:00 p.m. Public Planning Meeting -
ZBA 2012-09 - Amarelo Holdings Inc.
(Impact Auto)
Wednesday, March 20th 7:00 p.m.
Committee of Adjustment Meeting
Monday, March 25th
COUNCIL 7:00 p.m.

**ACCESSIBILITY RECOGNITION
AWARDS NOTICE**

Who We Are

The Township of Uxbridge Accessibility Advisory Committee is dedicated to promoting and enhancing, a barrier-free environment for all persons, regardless of needs, to participate as fully as possible in all aspects of community life.

Township of Uxbridge

Accessibility Recognition Awards

To promote greater accessibility and accessibility awareness, the Township of Uxbridge Accessibility Advisory Committee is recognizing and awarding one business and one individual each year to celebrate the commitment to accessibility and holistic inclusion within the Township of Uxbridge.

How to Nominate

To nominate a deserving business or individual for the Township of Uxbridge Accessibility Recognition Awards, you must submit details of their efforts to improve accessibility and/or accessibility awareness, and how the organization and/or individual has gone above and beyond to make accessibility a key factor in the community. You can find the application form and eligibility criteria for these awards at www.town.uxbridge.on.ca. The deadline to submit your nomination form to accessibility@town.uxbridge.on.ca is March 29, 2013. Awards will be presented at the Council Meeting on May 27th, 2013.

What are the Benefits of the Award?

1. Community recognition for championing leadership in the area of Accessibility.
2. Presentation of a Township of Uxbridge Accessibility Recognition Award that may be displayed on an ongoing basis.
3. A Certificate of Recognition to each Award recipient.
4. A Letter of Congratulations to the recipient from the Mayor of the Township of Uxbridge, in recognition of the positive community contribution in the area of Accessibility.
5. Inclusion of the details and description of the accessibility initiatives of the business and individual Accessibility Recognition Award winners on the website of the Township of Uxbridge and featured in the Township Page.

**FROM THE TAX OFFICE...
2013 Interim Tax Bills**

All 2013 Interim Tax Bills have now been mailed. Payments are due on the due dates (payments must be received or paid on or before the due dates).

The FIRST Tax Installment is due on Thursday February 28, 2013.
The SECOND Tax Installment is due on Thursday April 25, 2013.

Please pay promptly to avoid penalty. Penalty / interest of 1.25% is added on the first day of default and the first day of each calendar month thereafter. Failure to receive a Tax Notice does not excuse the taxpayer from responsibility for payment of taxes nor liability for 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 by the following: In person by Interac, Cheque or Cash, by Mail (Post-dated cheques are accepted), telephone & Internet banking, drop box, or at most Banks.

If you did not receive your 2013 Interim Tax Bill, please call the Tax Department at 905-852-9181 Ext. 211.

PLEASE RETAIN YOUR 2012 FINAL TAX BILL FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES. If a reprinted tax bill or receipt is required for any previous year's taxes, a fee of \$10.00 plus HST will apply.

Thank You, Tax Department

**TENDER NO. U13-10
UXBRIDGE LIBRARY
COOLING UPGRADES**

Mandatory Pre-Tender Site Meeting:

Thursday March 7, 2013 at 10:00 am, in the Third Floor Meeting Room of the Uxbridge Library, 9 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge, ON. Only tenders received from bidders who attend the site meeting, sign in on the attendance sheet, and perform a complete viewing of the site during the scheduled meeting shall be considered. Bids received from bidders who have not signed in on the attendance sheet shall be rejected.

Tender packages will be available for pickup from Municipal Office, 51 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge, Ontario at 2:00 pm on Thursday February 28, 2013. Packages may also be picked up at the mandatory pre-tender site meeting.

Cooling Upgrades to include new Chiller and Fan Coil Units, details included in tender packages.

Sealed tenders will be received until Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 2:00 pm Local Time by:

Debbie Leroux, Clerk

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

WINTER REMINDERS

• OVERNIGHT PARKING Please be advised that By-law 89-52 as amended prohibits overnight parking from November 1 until April 1 between the hours of 2 am and 7 am on roadways and Municipal lots within the Township of Uxbridge.

• SNOW REMOVAL OBSTRUCTION Did you know that in accordance with the Township of Uxbridge Traffic By-law 89-52, it is an offence to stop any vehicle on a highway in such a manner as to interfere with the movement of traffic or the clearing of snow from the highway? Please make sure you park off any highway or roadway so as to permit snow removal equipment and vehicles to clean the streets during the winter season.

• SIDEWALK RESPONSIBILITIES Snow Removal By-Law 2008-160 states every owner/occupant of any building or vacant lot within the Township of Uxbridge shall clear all snow and ice from any sidewalk(s) adjacent to their property within 24 hours after the accumulation of snow and/or ice.

• SNOWMOBILE BY-LAW Please keep the Township Snowmobile By-Law in mind while operating your motorized snow vehicle this winter season. You are not permitted to ride your snowmobile on any sidewalks, park lands or any other Township property except to cross. Any person found in contravention of this By-Law is liable to a fine.

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!

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Township of Uxbridge hereby declares the following lands to be surplus to the needs of the Municipality;

Part of Lot 20, Concession 7, more particularly described as Part 1, 40R-14593, Township of Uxbridge, former Township of Scott, Regional Municipality of Durham

FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the Township Council at its meeting held on February 11th, 2013, declared by Resolution No. 2013-03 the aforementioned lands to be surplus to the needs of the municipality. A copy of the plan showing the location of the lands may be viewed in the Office of the Clerk.

Debbie Leroux, Clerk

UXBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Program Director, Pamela Noble,
905-852-9747, ext. 24

OPENS at 10:00 am (previously 9:30)

ZEPHYR LIBRARY: Co-operative story-time on Thursdays, 4:15-5:15 pm, February 21 & Mar. 7. Pre-schoolers, with parent, and Jk-Sk welcome to tag along too! No charge. SIGN UP NOW at the Zephyr Library.

SPRING BREAK SPECIAL: Activities and Events for Grds. Jk-Teen!

Fri. Mar. 8, 2-3:00pm. 'Fortune and Fate'- Durham Folklore Storytellers, Grds. 1-3, parents & siblings welcome too! Cost: \$3.50 ea.

Mon. Mar. 11, 9:30am-4:30pm.

'Babysitting Course'- Grds. 6 & up. Bring lunch & life-size doll or teddy bear. Cost: \$75.00

Tue. Mar. 12, 2-3:00pm, 'Fun for 4's & 5's.

Cost: \$3.50. Stories, crafts, and activities all about spring and Easter. Enjoy a tasty treat while watching an old time fun movie, on a 'reel-to-reel' projector, a machine unknown to most kids!

Wed. Mar. 13, 9:30am-3:30pm. 'The Brook Never Sleeps', Grds. 4-10. Hands on eco-workshops and demos. No charge. Bring warm clothes and boots. Lunch included, thanks to the Ux. Watershed Com.

SIGN UP - UX.YOUTH CENTRE, 905-852-3456, with event PRESENTED at the LIBRARY.

Thurs. Mar. 14, 10:00am-5:00pm. (3 groups) 'PeopleSaver', Grds. Jk-5.

Students learn injury prevention, who and how to call for help, evaluate safe environments & basic care in everyday mishaps. Cost: \$10-15.00, according to length of class. NEW program this year and an excellent way to teach, and re-inforce emergency action throughout childhood.

Thurs. Mar. 14, 6:30-8:30pm. 'Photo Scavenger Hunt', Teens. Race around town to find and 'shoot' items on your list! Teams can be 2-4. Each team bring at least one digital camera. (camera phone okay) Cost: \$5.00/team

Fri. Mar. 15, 2-4:00pm. 'Movie Matinee', Grds. 5-7. Drop-in Rise of the Guardians. Forces join to protect the hopes, and beliefs of children world wide. Cost: \$2.00, with bottled water and hot popcorn available for \$1.00 each.

**** Pre-register for Spr. Brk. events (except the movies) in person, by cash or cheque, at the Uxbridge Library.**

SPRING BREAK SPECIAL at the Zephyr Library: ALL school ages

Tue. Mar. 12, 3:30-5:30 pm. 'Duct Tape Art'. Cost: \$2.00 (incls. supplies). Sign up soon at Zephyr Library to guarantee your spot - space is limited.

Thur. Mar. 14, 3:30-5:30 pm. 'Board Games' Choose what to play or learn a new one! Free.

Uxpool / Summer Camps .905-852-7831
Arena905-852-3081
Historical Centre905-852-5854
Animal Shelter905-985-9547
Chamber of Commerce . .905-852-7683
Ux. BIA ... 905-852-9181 ext. 406

Uxbridge Public Library 905-852-9747
Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat. 10 am - 5 pm, Tues., Thurs. 10 am - 9 pm
Sundays after Thanksgiving to May 24 weekend 1 pm - 5 pm
www.uxlib.com

Zephyr Library
905-473-2375
HOURS Tues., Thurs., 3 pm - 8 pm
Sat 10 am - 3 pm

Township of Uxbridge documents are available in alternate formats upon request. Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at www.town.uxbridge.on.ca or contact the Accessibility Coordinator at 905-852-9181 ext. 209 or at accessibility@town.uxbridge.on.ca.

A Cup of Coffee... with Liz Thompson by Roger Varley

Goodwood Public School principal Liz Thompson accompanied two of her students as they made a presentation to Uxbridge council Monday night. They weren't asking for anything; just reporting on the school's programs to make all students feel safe and included. We decided to ask Ms. Thompson to join us for a cup of coffee; we joined her in her office.

Liz, since you didn't ask council for anything, what was the purpose of your visit?

A few months ago, we were invited to breakfast with the mayor and I know the mayor likes to have ongoing discussions with the youth in our community so she can keep abreast of what's happening and what needs to happen. At that time, the mayor invited all the schools who attended to come and meet with council if they had any concerns or anything they were interested in asking of the council. We didn't have any concerns and we still didn't have any concerns when it was our time (to visit council) so the students and myself decided we were going to use the

opportunity to present all the wonderful things that are happening at Goodwood.

You have a number of programs at the school, all apparently with one aim: to eliminate bullying and to promote inclusiveness. I know other schools have such programs but your presentation indicated these programs are ingrained in everything you do. Where does this come from?

Well, I'd like to say it's grown organically, but certainly it's part of my vision for the students and the school and the community. I think that having a safe, welcoming, inclusive and accepting environment is pivotal to anything else that happens in education and it was one of my goals when I was made principal of this school. To continue the work that had already been started and take it even further. All of these initiatives have come from our board improvement plan. None of this is new, none of it is unique to Goodwood. Perhaps it's the fact that we are a small com-



munity school, the fact that everyone has bought in - teachers, parents and all of the students in our school - that makes it so special.

I get the sense that, even if there were no directives from the school board, this is something that is close to your heart.

You're absolutely correct. I have a passion for inclusive education, I have a passion for all students, I have a firm belief that all students can learn if given the right conditions. And part of those conditions is to have every student feel safe, feel welcome, feel represented, feel included all day every day.

What in your background makes you so passionate about this?

I don't know that I can answer that. It's just who I am. It's how I was raised, it's how I've lived my life, it's how I raised my kids. I have five children and 10 grandchildren. It's in my inner core that I believe everyone needs to be valued, that everyone needs a chance.

Everyone is unique and we need to celebrate that uniqueness.

Although this is an elementary school, I see your programs address homophobia and gender issues. Is it unusual in an elementary school to touch on those particular subjects?

I would say not and I would hope not, because talking about global issues, whether we're talking about anti-homophobia or gender issues or racial issues, all fall under human rights. Obviously it's going to look very different in an elementary school than it looks in a high school, but addressing those kinds of issues - sometimes through the books that are read, sometimes by celebrating days such as Pink Shirt Day - are the ways we do that in an elementary school.

Tell me about Pink Shirt Day, because I noticed pink everywhere when I walked into the school.

Pink Shirt Day is a day we celebrate - all schools across Durham will be celebrating Pink Shirt Day tomorrow (Feb. 27) - to send out that message for bullying prevention, so all students know how important it is that there is no bullying of any kind taking place in our school of any nature, whether it is homophobic slurs, whether it's racial slurs, whether it has to do with classism or social class, whether it has to do with abilities. It's very important for all of our students to be accepting of all other students.

Is it working?

Absolutely it's working. It's evident in our schools: it's evident in this school with the way students treat each other. It's evident in the way teachers interact with the students. It's evident the way teachers and parents interact. It's evident in the fact that I don't deal with a lot of office issues: i.e. incidents that have happened or suspensions and the awful things that you sometimes hear of.

If I can play Devil's advocate for a minute, a school like Goodwood in a small community would not necessarily find that much bullying or ostracization as you would in a city school. Am I right or wrong?

I don't think that's necessarily true. I think that we're very fortunate here at Goodwood because it is a small community school, because it is very well supported by parents and all who are involved. But I would say that it does happen anywhere.

When did all these programs come in? Is it recent or . . .

No, none of these things are new. All of these initiatives are not programs, they are just a part of what we do in education. They are imbedded in everything we do every single day.

But the way you institute these programs or initiatives, is it your own take on the programs? For example, the bucket program.

They are not unique to this school. There are two books written by wonderful authors that are out there for anyone to access. They just happen to be two books I was incredibly familiar with and felt would lay a good foundation for the students. It's something everyone can relate to and we can put out concretely. We can actually have the buckets hanging up in the hall and it's something the students can easily buy into.

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THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

We are looking for an accounting student for our Treasury Department to help out in accounts payable and our tax areas from May 1st, 2013 until August 30th, 2013. Applicants should be currently enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution and returning to continue their education in September. Preference will be given to those studying in related fields. Please ensure that the position being applied for is clearly marked on the application. Please direct resumes to the attention of Gayle Gregor, Supervisor of Accounting no later than Thursday, March 28th, 2013.



TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE EVENT PROMOTION GRANT

The Tourism Advisory Committee is actively looking to support Events that promote Tourism in our Town. A small grant is available for "New Events" or "Free Not for Profit Events". The main purpose of this grant is to help advertise to a larger audience and successful applicants will demonstrate an understanding of all available "free advertising opportunities". Please email aferaro@town.uxbridge.on.ca for an application or further details.

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

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
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 or by visiting 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.

our two cents

A great agrarian tradition

It's unfortunate that after the last municipal election, Uxbridge suddenly had a council with no representation from the farming community. Probably for the first time in its two centuries. For most of those years, the mayor's chair was occupied by a farmer. In the previous council to this one, we had two farmers: organic vegetable grower Ted Eng and dairyman Howie Herrema. Mr. Herrema, who probably would have won if he'd gone for the mayoralty, instead chose to rededicate himself to farm and family, at least for now. Mr. Eng, after many long years battling in Ward 2, gave up that seat after only one term to try for Regional Councillor. He lost to Jack Ballinger, and we lost our rural contingent on council. Heck, even Pat Mikuse lives in the middle of beautiful downtown Roseville.

It was probably inevitable. After all, Uxbridge has been urbanizing ever since Joseph Gould came down from Quaker Hill and built his first mill in the valley. Before that, Uxbridge was all farmers (at least, there's no concrete evidence that First Nations people did anything but camp in these parts on their way through). But despite the fact that the vast majority of the township's population lives in the hamlets, villages and the bustling capital town, Uxbridge's farmers (as demonstrated by our cover picture and the accompanying story on page 6) are as good at what they do as they've ever been.

Many times in the brief history of this newspaper, we've reported that, like Paul and Kelly Brooks, Uxbridge farmers have been selected as top-of-class by their peers across Ontario and Canada. Only a couple of years ago, Lisa and Steve Cooper, who live just a ways down Ashworth Road from the Brooks family, were named the top young farmers in Canada. Ashworth Road obviously has some of the best soil in the country.

In fact, as we delve back into the *Cosmos* archives, we're reminded that our first two issues, in September of '05, had horticulturalists on the cover, and they lived almost next door in Uxbridge - Cosmos Queen Sharon Bognar and Garlic King Bryan Mailey.

Since then, we've talked about just every possible farm product you can imagine - from asparagus to apples to strawberries, from horses to emus to alpacas. There's even a farmer west of Sandford who raises exotic birds. Uxbridge farmers have tried, and continue to succeed, in growing or raising everything except pineapples or kangaroos, and if global warming continues, we might even see those.

What makes the Brooks' and Coopers special is that they revel in telling people about how wonderful farming is, and proving it through the marvellous things they sell in their farm markets. Through the marvels of social media, hundreds, even thousands of urbanites across Ontario are being attracted to Uxbridge because of its farms. The initial pull might be something like the Cooper's corn maze or the famous pumpkin cannon at Brooks Farms, but what stays with them is the quality of our honey, or maple syrup, or apple cider.

And as much as our historic attractions, or our artistic community, or our trails, are important cogs in our future as a tourist destination, the foundation is Uxbridge's first and proudest industry - agriculture.

The Uxbridge COSMOS

9,000 copies of the Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge: 8,300 delivered by mail, 700 available in stores and boxes.

Publisher/Editor Conrad Boyce 905.852.1900

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Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

EDITORIAL POLICY: Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of the *The Cosmos*. Letters must be signed and the telephone number provided (number will not be published). Requests that a name be withheld will be honoured only if there is a compelling reason. Errors brought to our attention will be corrected. The *Cosmos* reserves the right to edit or refuse to publish unsolicited material. ADVERTISING POLICY: The *Cosmos* reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The *Cosmos* is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors in advertisements or any other errors or omissions in advertisements. All material herein, including advertising design is copyrighted, and may not be reproduced in any form without permission.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRI. MAR. 1ST 11:00AM UXBRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH
SPEAKER: ANNE WOOLGER OF MATTHEW HOUSE T.O.
INFO: 905-852-3662



Stemp's Stew column by Harry Stemp

To many Canadians the Senate is a cozy haven for people who have worked for the political party in power, or good friends of a politician and a complete waste of tax dollars. For one thing, few Canadians even know what the Senate does. Oh sure, Senators will tell you they work very hard, and I'm sure a small number do, but others often don't bother to show up for sessions and they still get paid a large salary as if they have perfect attendance. Besides the large salary, they have huge fringe benefits. Travel all over the world on our tax dollars even if they aren't conducting Senate business. I recall many years ago chatting with a Senator on a flight to Barbados and while I was in the long lineup with the commoners he was going through the short lineup designated for residents and diplomats. He told me he was on official business but I also knew the Canadian High Commissioner and when I mentioned this to him he laughed and said, "What a joke".

On my recent travels to South Africa there was a retired Senator from Manitoba travelling with us. I enquired about his retirement package. Besides a nice fat pension for life he still enjoys his travel perks so, folks, you and I were paying for his travel and, I can tell you, it is not cheap to travel that far.

Now we have Senator Mike Duffy grabbing headlines by gathering at the already crowded Senate money trough. But you gotta hand it to Mike. He is a fairly new Senator, but it didn't take long for him to realize that he had just won the lottery without buying a ticket. Although he has lived in Ottawa for years, he claimed that his principal residence was in an Atlantic province which meant he could charge for living expenses in Ottawa. A bit of investigative reporting by a member of the press who chatted with folks in that community revealed that they hadn't seen Duffy there for years.

When interviewed, Duffy said that Canadians knew his record and how he respected their tax dollars. So much so that I hear he has sent a cheque to the Senate finance committee paying back about \$42,000 he had received illegally. Bet there was a large tear in his eye. But Duffy is not the only one. Two other Senators are coming under the gun as well. Newly appointed Mac Harb, who lives not too far from the Parliament

Buildings, was charging a residence in Quebec which, I understand, belongs to his son. Then we have Pamela Wallin who racked up so many travel expense dollars one wonders how she ever had time to attend any of the sessions.

Pressure has caused the Senate to take action and call for a review of the expenses of all Senators - they never thought of this procedure that is common in private business - and guess what. They will be audited by a member of the Senate. Now don't get me wrong. This could be a completely legitimate audit. But wouldn't Canadians feel better if an independent accounting firm was called in to look at the books rather than one of their Senate cronies.

So is it any wonder that PM Harper has strong support with Canadians as he tries to get away from Senate appointments being given to party hacks and have all Senators elected instead of appointed. And also they would have to run for re-election the same as Members of Parliament, provincial members and those who take seats on our municipal council.

But all is not lost. Recently the *Toronto Star* published a brilliant web site which contains photos of all the members of the Senate. Just place your cursor on a photo and up pops info on that Senator, especially their expenses. You may want to share it with friends across Canada. Here is the web site. It may be advisable to have a few cold ones before doing this so you will be relaxed and won't blow your top.
http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2013/02/15/senate_finance_data.html

Important that we be fair. When you go through the list of Senators you will notice that Senators who were appointed because of their interest in the environment and other important social issues are among the lowest in using travel and other perks they are entitled to. That should tell you something about those who want to make a difference and those who see a Senate appointment as a lifetime of financial security.

Appreciated the response I received from my report on a wonderful trip through Africa and mentioning that, like me, it was top of their bucket list. Over the years I have written about my many travel experiences that I have been fortunate

to enjoy, and it is good to know readers enjoy sharing in my travels. Many asked about photos and the best I can offer is a wonderful website that I use called Picture Trail. For those interested, just go to <http://www.picturetrail.com/hstemp> and go through the 'African - 2013' albums. There are more to be added when I get time.

Back to the trip, and something I noticed on one of our bus tours was that none of the vehicle windshields were splattered with bugs as we suffer here in Ontario. However, along the medians on the divided highway was a continuous line of beautiful flowers. The bus driver explained that they plant Oleander which are dangerous to flying insects thus no bugs flying around the highway means no splatters on the windshields. Clever, I thought, but with our climate it would never work in Ontario.

Another was the lack of solar panels in a country that has more days of strong sunshine than most countries in the world. The guide explained that they have very cheap electrical power so no need to go to that expense and also the country experiences very strong winds that also contribute to the power grid.

Before travelling to Africa I realized that, besides the beautiful scenery, we would be exposed to what are commonly known as 'shanty towns'. These are large areas of shabby steel shacks which house thousands of Africans who have no incomes and unfortunately the children have no hope of ever getting away from the 'shanty town' slums in their lifetime. What I wasn't prepared for was the vastness of these 'shanty towns'. I expected small pockets but was shocked to see them run about a half mile from the rail tracks and as we travelled along go on for miles and miles. Very depressing. Life is the roll of the dice and I thought there, but for the grace of God, go I. It certainly made me feel very thankful to be born Canadian in Uxbridge.





ravenshoe ramblings

column by Roger Pires

Cleared for takeoff

My son and I had the good fortune to spend the Christmas break in Portugal. Admittedly, it was an unorthodox choice. December on the Iberian coast is not the ideal time to sun your pale, winter-bound hide. Even in these southern latitudes a day at the beach is not complete without an ice chipper and the threat of hypothermia. Only the most ardent beachcombers or the criminally insane would consider taking a dip in the angry Atlantic at that time of the year.

But this was no ordinary vacation. It wasn't about frying in the semitropical heat. It was instead, a voyage of personal discovery. I would be returning to the land of my forebears to explore my roots. I had aunts, uncles, and cousins I hadn't seen in decades. In fact, a whole generation of Pires' had sprouted since I last hopped the pond. Obviously, talking about ourselves isn't the only thing my family does well. Above all, I was fulfilling a promise I had made to my dad. Before he passed away, he asked me to deliver some of his personal effects to his brother and sister in Portugal. What better time than Christmas.

The trip would be especially enlightening for my son. In his fifteen years he had left the province of Ontario exactly once, on a three-day school trip to Montreal. Hardly a world tour. Since my parents were the only ones to emigrate, we could hold the Canadian leg of the Pires family reunion in a phone booth. So the kid was pumped at the prospect of spending Christmas surrounded by people that shared his last name. But there was still the potentially thorny issue of communication. He spoke no Portuguese and I wasn't much better. The situation was manageable as long as we stuck to the confines of Portuguese 101. "Good night." "Good morning." "I wish to speak to my lawyer." Beyond that we were at the mercy of my cousins to translate. And this is where it could all go off the rails. Many a trans-Atlantic family feud has begun over an unfortunate malapropism. In a country where wine flows like water, a well-oiled translator could easily turn, "Thank you for this lovely dinner" into "Your mother-in-law is a gorilla".

We needn't have worried. Apparently we weren't the only ones looking forward to our trip. A few weeks before our departure, several of the kids messaged their "Canadian cousin" on Facebook in perfect English. Why bother bringing a dictionary? Introductions were made. Parties were planned. And I had a submission for the good people at "Jeopardy". Answer: The native English speaker. Question: What is the laziest creature on Earth?

Unfortunately my wife was unable to join us. She had not amassed the required vacation time. This came as a mixed blessing. Although saddened she couldn't accompany her boys on their pilgrimage, there was a main bathroom in dire need of some TLC. And no matter how adept your hand at redecorating, it is impossible to churn out the required masterpiece with a couple of jocks littering your workspace with their sweaty long johns. So with mixed emotions she gave royal assent to the voyage.

It had been years since I last had to pack for a trip overseas. I use the term loosely. I always thought "pack" was Latin for "roll all your belongings into a giant ball, stuff it into a suitcase, and have someone sit on it while you zip it up." That was before I met my wife. Her organization skills are legendary. Had she overseen the loading of the Ark, she could've added a couple of jumbo jets and the entire cast of "Riverdance" and still have had enough room for a gymnasium and a movie theatre. (Author's note: I am by no means implying she was actually around when Noah built the Ark). So I left this logistical nightmare in her capable hands.

The bulk of the payload was taken up by gifts for the kids. Since we would also be cultural emissaries, the theme would be Canada and all things Canadian. There were hats, mitts, and scarves for the girls; mini sticks with the logos of the Canadian NHL teams for the boy; a jigsaw puzzle of the Canadian flag with each piece depicting a scene from Canadian life; a container of maple-infused shortbread cookies which almost didn't make it into the suitcase; and other assorted Canadiana. Throw in two bottles of Niagara wine and I would need a shipping container to get this stuff over there. My wife made it all disappear along with a week's worth of clothes and she still made the weight limit.

When she had completed her optical illusion we hauled the suitcases downstairs and stacked them by the front door. I could now give my undivided attention to a nagging little detail I had been ignoring as if it were a "check engine" light: I was about to get on an airplane! Once upon a time I embraced hurtling across the stratosphere in a metal tube with nothing but the deep, blue sea below me, as an adventure. Twenty-five years later and scant hours from being launched into inner space I realized I hadn't updated my will. I asked my son if he was excited about the prospect of air travel. He shrugged with teenaged sang-froid. "I'll just sleep through it." As I felt my palms start to sweat, I couldn't help wonder if Graval came in barbeque flavour.



the barris beat

column by Ted Barris

Making a musical tradition

A couple of weeks ago, I had a conversation with some of my journalism students about the annual parade of awards shows - the Grammys, the People's Choice Awards, the Oscars and the rest. The subject of this year's Canadian music awards, coming up in April, eventually cropped up. They had all heard of the Junos, sure. But then - with my usual tendency to target the trivial - I asked if anyone knew the origin of the Junos. "Oh, it's the name of the Canadian beach on D-Day," one said.

"Yes, you're right on the D-Day reference," I said. "But not the musical one."

"I know," said one of my more erudite students. "Juno is the Roman goddess of marriage and queen of the gods."

"Right again," I said. "But she's got nothing to do with the Juno Music Awards in Canada."

I was nearly at the end of keeping them in suspense, but not quite. I asked if they had ever wondered where Canada's popular music industry came from - its recording studios, record labels, music distribution system, music production industry, hit parade, a.k.a. its star system. Oh, did I mean where Justin Bieber or The Sheepdogs or Feist came from? Well, sort of. Clearly, my students needed a short lecture about the birth of an independent Canadian music industry. And, yes, it's tied to the Juno Awards. I reminded them that Justin Trudeau had a father named Pierre, who was Prime Minister of Canada from 1968 to 1979 (then again from 1980 to 1984). I explained that among Trudeau's priorities were justice, multilingualism, the family, free lifestyle choices, multiculturalism and participatory democracy, "a just society." But Trudeau, I suggested, was perhaps most passionate and proud of Canadian culture.

That's when Trudeau enlisted the talents of a contemporary of his, a Montrealer from a working-class family, a fellow student at the University of Paris and co-founder of the dissident magazine *Cité Libre*. Pierre Juneau joined the National Film Board in 1949, founded the Montreal International Film Festival in 1959 and became the first chair of the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC) in 1968. That's when Trudeau challenged Juneau to research the Canadian music industry with an eye to saving it from being totally overwhelmed by the American pop music scene, its youthful energy, its powerful traditions, its vast radio signal reach and its multi-million-dollar star system. North of the 49th Parallel, Juneau's investigation listened to producers, record label reps, artist and repertoire scouts, musicians, sound technicians, radio DJs and even the public to find a way to save Canadian music.

On Jan. 18, 1971, Juneau, as chair of the CRTC, introduced Canadian Content regulations. The CanCon rules required AM radio stations to give no less than 30 per cent air play to Canadian artists from 6 a.m. to midnight each day. The result, of course, was a veritable boom in Canadian music production and the flourishing of such Canadian artists as Ann Murray, Lighthouse, Blood Sweat and Tears, Bruce Cockburn, The Guess Who, Edward Bear, Gordon Lightfoot, Leonard Cohen, Ian and Sylvia and Crowbar, to name a few. That same year, 1971 (42 years ago this month) the first Juno Awards (named in Pierre Juneau's honour) were handed out at the St. Lawrence Centre in Toronto.

"From an industry that has barely begun to burgeon," wrote Marci McDonald in the *Toronto Star*, "(the Junos) was a ceremony that made all those interminable glory shows, the Grammys and the Oscars ... look like amateur night at the high school gym."

And that first year of the Juno Awards, the creators of the awards, RPM Magazine in Canada, recognized Pierre Juneau as Music Industry Man of the Year.

I remember the earliest years of CanCon. In those times, I worked both on air and in print covering the Canadian music scene in earnest. As a disc jockey on such stations as CKLY AM in Lindsay, Ont., and in Toronto on CJRT (now Jazz FM) I programmed my music ensuring that one in three record choices I made was Canadian. It wasn't a chore. I loved the idea and most often preferred playing David Clayton Thomas to Jim Morrison, Joni Mitchell over Joan Baez, Ronnie Hawkins over Kenny Rogers, Salome Bay over Aretha Franklin, Murray McLauchlan over Arlo Guthrie, Neil Young over Bob Dylan, even The Band over the Beatles. And it wasn't just the colours of the flag; it was the resonance of the music that delivered, defined and distinguished us from the rest.

As much as I take pride in recounting his story to my journalism and my broadcasting students, I can never say that I met Pierre Juneau face-to-face. I spoke with him on the phone once. I thanked him for his life's work - being granddaddy to a Canadian music scene that thrives today because of his foresight. Pierre Juneau died a year ago this week.

For other Barris Beat columns go to www.tedbarris.com

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The Brooks family secret **Knights will give back to Uxbridge**

by *Shelagh Damus*

"We're a destination," says Paul Brooks of Brooks Farms, who were just honoured by the Ontario Farm Fresh Marketing Association (OFFMA) with the Outstanding Farm Market of the Year 2013 award. "If you don't head out the door saying we are going to Brooks Farms today, then you aren't likely going to end up here."

The farm market has had to be creative in their approach in order to get people on the road to the farm. "We aren't as fortunate as some markets that are on major highways and get massive traffic just passing by," says Brooks.

It is this creative approach, and the success they have had with bringing people out to the farm, that helped in gaining the respect of the Ontario Farm Fresh community and was in part responsible for them getting the award. Creative approaches to signage and promotional campaigns have been instrumental in pushing the business forward. Brooks credits his wife, Kelly, with the much of this creative effort on their website and on Facebook. Their ability to get 'social' has had a big impact.

"Our Facebook page now outperforms our website by about 10 to 1," says Brooks. They get about 60,000 impressions on Facebook a month compared to a similar number of hits on their website for the year. "In the last year we have gone from 1400 likes to 2800 likes on Facebook."

Brooks also attributes the success to the farm's expanding work year calendar. Over the past few years the farm has been expanding what they produce and what they do. They added apple

trees about five years ago and that has extended the business into September.

"We just started tapping for maple syrup this year," says Brooks. "It is in production now, and we will be open to the public for the next six weekends." This has backed up their calendar by a couple of months. "We are now open for about 8 months of the year," and there are plans to sell Christmas trees which will add again to the number of days open. It is this expansion and the farm's ability to generate increased income by adding to the products and services provided that gained them the recognition.

The Ontario Farm Fresh group has been around for almost 40 years. The 350 members list are a who's who of Ontario Farms. And for Brooks it is a community that works well together. "If I need help we can call," says Brooks of a few of the farms on the list. "We are on a first name basis and the group provides easy access to good information."

Brooks fielded a call from a farm in Milton this week, needing info on acquiring a particular piece of equipment for their playground. While many of these farms are the competition, there seems to be a real camaraderie among them.

In addition to the Maple Syrup Festival weekends, Brooks Farms will be hosting Easterfest on Easter weekend. Details are available on their website (www.brooks farms.com). To get regular updates on the goings on at the Farm you can always like them on Facebook.

by *Nancy Melcher*

They come from all walks of life, ranging in age from the mid 30s to mid 80s. They are husbands, single men, fathers and even ordained men, all with a common desire to live in service to others while living out their faith. Uxbridge's newest service group is Sacred Heart Parish's Knights of Columbus. Taking their name from that very famous explorer, the 30+ men signed up to start the local council, to have a way to give back to their community and show their dedication to God.

"Founded in 1882 as a way to help individuals who were helpless with great needs, the Knights of Columbus Order is focussed on Christian ideals of charity, service, family, virtue and the sanctity of life," explains Daniel Torchia, a member of the local council. "We exist to serve the needs of our members and their families, the needs of our parish and the needs of our community."

Father John Duffy, pastor at Sacred Heart, proposed the idea to start up a council in his Uxbridge parish six months ago. Aided by Knights of Columbus District Deputy David Morris and Deacon Bill Letterio, these leaders presented the idea to the men of the parish, answering all their questions and helping to recruit members.

As Torchia continued, "Joining requires a commitment to service, spiritual growth and to working at improving one's character, parenting skills, spousal skills, etc! Signing up men to an order like this is a tall order. We'd wanted to start one in the past but did not [succeed]. This time it worked!"

Council members are drawn from every walk of life, from all fields of business and industry, professional services to manufacturing, local businessmen to downtown Toronto commuters. Any Catholic men over the age of 18 can become members.

The main service programs of the Knights of Columbus are the local "Coats for Kids" and "Food for Families", along with international

partnerships with Special Olympics, the Global Wheelchair Mission, and Habitat for Humanity. They would also like to work with local youth and the elderly, as well as helping their own parish family, such as their recent renovations to the Parish Hall.

These initiatives will be funded in a variety of ways. Breakfasts and dinners will be one way Uxbridge area residents can assist the Knights. They will also be holding golf tournaments and car draws. In addition, donations from the community are always welcome. Meetings are held at Sacred Heart Parish Hall.

This organization was founded to help widows. It has grown in numbers and scope to become the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization. During the last decade, the Knights of Columbus has donated \$1.406 billion to charity, and provided more than 653 million hours of volunteer service in support of their charitable initiatives.

The Knights are "devoted to the growth of men and their transformation into selfless givers."

Interested individuals who feel drawn to the Order should contact Father Duffy at Sacred Heart Church.



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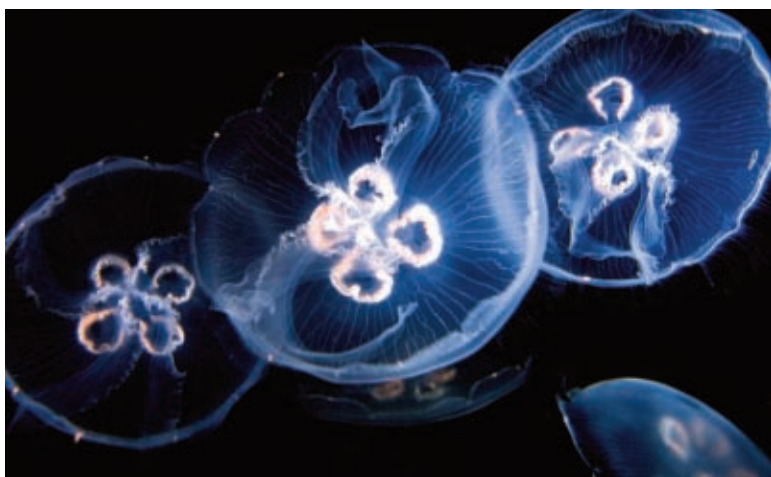
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Commentary by Father John Duffy

Pope Benedict XVI the teacher

On the evening of Thursday, February 28, the Chair of Saint Peter will be vacant due to the most publicized resignation the world has likely ever seen. After much discernment and prayer, Pope Benedict XVI announced on February 11 that the office of the pope requires more energy, health and stamina than he could muster; his health was failing faster than most had thought. His decision shocked the world due, in large part, to a long list of popes spanning more than 600 years who chose to hold on to the papacy to their last breath. Through his bold resignation, Pope Benedict reminded people of the human side of the papacy and offered the Church a subtle refresher in the Code of Canon law, the official laws that govern the Catholic Church, which allows for the resignation of a pope. Pope Benedict, after all, is considered by many to be one of the greatest teachers of the faith.

Born in 1927, Joseph Ratzinger has had a stellar career as an ecclesiastic. As a youngster in Bavaria, he and his family were staunch anti-Nazis. His family, his father in particular, suffered numerous hardships as they continued to put into practice their faith even with the rise of Nazism. With his father's example, young Joseph Ratzinger learned the cost of discipleship at a young age. As a priest, Ratzinger was

a brilliant scholar and a great leader at the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965). At the Council, he demonstrated great aptitude for bringing Christian doctrine to the modern era of media. Cardinal Ratzinger became the personal theologian to Pope John Paul II. In a quiet – yet effective way – he worked to provide clarity in a world that was showing signs of confusion and growing relativism that pitted people against their faith. As pope, Benedict continued in his mission to re-evangelize the world, insisting that human laws are at their best when they are founded on God's laws and principles of human dignity and respect for life.

Throughout his Papacy, Pope Benedict committed himself to ecumenical and inter-faith dialogue with energy and sincerity. Remembering the horror of the Holocaust as a child, he brought Christians and members of the Jewish faith closer than during any other time in history. He did the same with members of other faiths as well as non-believers. Pope Benedict, in his old age, prayerfully decided to retire and pass on the seat of St. Peter to a younger man. We remember him as a gentle, yet powerful defender of Christ and His Gospel.

Father John Duffy is pastor at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Uxbridge.

Uxbridge swimmers top podium



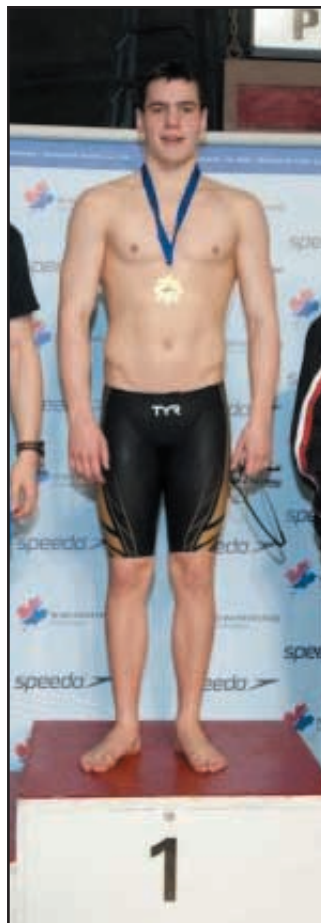
Uxbridge swimmers continue their proud tradition in the pool - including two young women competing in their first meet.

On Feb. 2, Madeline Sweet, 17, (left in the photo above) and Tori Snell, 13, who participate in a Precious Minds fitness pro-

gram, swam in a Special Olympics meet in Oshawa, and topped the podium, Madeline in both the 25m and 50m freestyle, and Tori in the 25m freestyle and 25m backstroke.

Meanwhile, two members of the Uxbridge Swim Club participated in the four-day short-course Speedo Eastern Canadian Championships in Montreal. Uxbridge Mitchel Ferraro (in photo below right) won six gold medals - for 50 Back (26.04), 100 Back (55.24), 200 IM (2:04.62), 50

Free (23.13), 100 Free (49.32) and 50 Fly (25.10), setting meet records in all but the last. He also won two silver medals for 200 Free and 200 Back. Mitchel is now top in Canada for four events in the 16 and under category - 50 Free, 100 Free, 50 Fly and 100 Back.



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Coming Up

THIS WEEKEND

Thurs., Feb. 28 Soup Lunch Join us 11 am - 1 pm for homemade soup, bread, dessert and beverage - all for just \$3. Fun and friendship free. Goodwood United Church.

Thurs., Feb. 28, join the Early Learning staff at the Uxbridge Arena for a **morning of skating**, 10:30am to 11:30am, strollers with clean wheels are permitted on the ice, staff are available to assist with lacing on or off of skates.

Fri., Mar. 1, 11:00 AM, **World Day of Prayer**. Uxbridge Baptist Church hosts the event for all the churches of Uxbridge. Anne Woolger of Matthew House, Toronto will be our speaker. A soup lunch follows. Everyone is welcome. For information, call 905-852-3662.

Fri, Mar.1, 9:30AM, **Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike**: Walker Woods 8+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Hike or snowshoe. Hilly. No dogs please. Meet at parking area on east side of 6th Conc., 2 km south of Durham Rd 21, at Albright Rd. Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Mar. 1 & 2 Quilt Marathon for Hearth Place Drop by for great prizes in our Chinese Auction, make a donation and add a few stitches to our Quilt. Quilter's Cupboard, 202 Brock St. E.

Sat, Mar. 2, 7:00AM, **Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike**: Al Shaw Side Trail 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Hike or snowshoe. Meet

at the entrance on the west side of the 6th Conc. 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sat, Mar. 2 Musical Families Concert in support of the Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust, 7:30 at St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Toronto Street Entrance. A wonderful mix of eclectic and entertaining music featuring the Anderson, Chester, Edgell, Foster and Smith families, with MC Ted Barris. Tickets at the door: Adults 15.00, Students 10.00, Children under 10 free.

Sat., Mar. 2 Julien Kelland EP Release Party 7:30 p.m., Uxbridge Music Hall.

Sun., Mar. 3 Music Fest now in our 21st year, 10-11 a.m. at Reachview Village, Uxbridge. We welcome everyone to come and participate - sing, dance, tell stories...the sky's the limit! For more information please contact Jo at 905-852-6487.

NEXT WEEK

Fri, Mar. 8, 9:30AM, **Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike**: Brock Tract 10+km; Fast pace; 2+hrs. Loop hike or snowshoe, some hills. Meet at parking area on the east side of Uxbridge 6th Concession, 0.6 km north of Uxbridge Pickering townline, or 5.5 km south of Durham Road 21. Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

Sat, Mar. 9, 7:00AM, **Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike**: Al Shaw Side Trail 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Loop hike or snowshoe.

Meet at the entrance on the west side of Uxbridge 6th concession, 1.5 km south of Durham Road 21. Join us for breakfast after the hike Russ Burton at 905-830-2862.

UPCOMING

Mon, Mar. 11, 9:30AM, **Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike**: Uxbridge Countryside Preserve. Slow to Moderate pace; 2hrs. Rolling meadow and forest trails. Well mannered dogs are encouraged to bring their owners. Meet at parking area behind Wal-Mart/Rona shopping complex in Uxbridge near Hwy 47 and 6th Conc. Brian & Wilma Millage at 905-853-2407.

Tues., Mar. 12 Uxbridge Networking Group Lunch 8:15am to 9:30am, Scrambles at the Foxbridge Golf Club. Guest Speaker: Rory Sheehan, Positive Strategies.

Wed, Mar. 13, 9:30AM, **Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike**: Clubine/Norton & Al Shaw 15+km; Fast pace; 4hrs. Hike or snowshoe. T&B. No dogs please. Meet at parking on the east side of the 6th Conc., 2 km south of Durham 21 at Albright Rd. Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Wed., Mar. 13 2nd Annual DreamFeather March Break Volleyball Clinic Claremont C.C. 9-4. am Skills Session, noon OVA Player Demo Game, pm. Mini-Tournament. drills, competitions and prizes. Pre Registration a must, Contact Larry Griffiths 905.649.6309 or dream.feather@hotmail.com, limited enrollment... all ages and vb experience welcome.

Wed., Mar. 13 The Brook Never Sleeps

Experiential eco-workshop, ages 10 and up. Ux. Public Library, 9:30-3. Co-sponsored by Ux. Youth Centre and Watershed Advisory Committee. Door prizes and swag! Call to register 905-862-3456.

Sat, Mar. 16, 7:00AM, Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike: Al Shaw Side Trail 4+km; Moderate pace; 1+hrs. Hike or snowshoe. Meet at the entrance on the west side of the 6th Conc., 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. Joan Taylor at 905-477-2161.

Sun, Mar. 17, 2:00PM, Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike: Al Shaw Side Trail. 4+km; Slow to Moderate pace; 2hrs. Loop hike. Families and well-mannered dogs welcome. Bring snacks and water. Dress for the weather. Meet at parking area on east side of the 6th Conc., 2 km south of Durham 21, at Albright Rd. Brian & Kathy Clark at 905-841-9757.

ONGOING

Registered program, **"Focus on Toddlers"** offered at the Uxridge Early Learning Centre, no fee, registration is required, call DFRFR at 905-862-3131 for more details.

Adult (18 and over) Pick up Basketball starting Feb 21, 2013 for ten weeks. Men and women welcome. We are playing at St Paul's Leaskdale church building Thursday from 7pm till 9pm... or we're tired. Contact jimhoneyford@hotmail.com

The **Uxbridge Ladies Slo-Pitch League** is welcoming new players for the 2013 season. For more information please visit our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/450264671708669/> or email us uxbridgeladieslopitch@gmail.com

Every Wednesday, 8:30 am to 11:30am, **Free Early Learning** programs are now available at Joseph Gould PS, call DFRFR 905-862-3131 for more details or see calendars on the website, durhamfamilyresources.org.

Loaves & Fishes Food Bank is open Wednesdays 1-4 p.m. for those requiring assistance. All donations are always appreciated. Current needs include: Instant Coffee, Tea, Ketchup, Peanut Butter, Tuna/Hamburger Helper, Canned Fruit, Toothpaste, Soap, Shampoo. Tax receipts are issued for Financial Donations. Donations may be dropped in the Food Bank Box at Zehrs or at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Monday to Friday 9 a.m.-noon.

Hospital Auxiliary "Chances Are" Store on Bascom Street accepting good winter and spring clothing. Proceeds to Cottage Hospital.

If you have a community event you'd like us to mention, please contact us at cosmosboycy@powergate.ca or 905-852-1900. The deadline for our next issue is 6 p.m. Sunday.

Tiger Talk



by Jenna Smith

Some might view it as fate that as I sat at home on Friday afternoon, wondering what I might write my article about this week, a story fell right into my lap. I was cruising through twitter, as my generation tends to do, when I saw a tweet that made my heart leap into my throat. It read quite plainly "EXTRACURRICULARS ARE BACK!" I wanted to jump up and yell to my mom, to my dad, to anyone who was remotely close to me. Could it really be true? Was the strike finally over, bringing with it the return of our beloved sports and clubs? I didn't want to get my, or anyone else's, hopes up by making a big deal. I decided I would do some research

first. I stumbled across an article from *The Star* that stated "The go-ahead for high school teachers to resume extracurricular activities came from the union Friday afternoon". However, in fancy terms the Teacher's Union also stated that the voluntary activities were just that - voluntary. There was no guarantee that extra-curricular activities would be returned to the students of USS because it was up to each individual teacher as to whether or not they wanted to invest their own time on running a team or committee.

The news was conflicting and confusing. What did this really mean? Well, I sat there and thought about it for awhile until I finally drew a conclusion. Through all the

politics and whatever else was surrounding the job action from the Union, they were stating something students, teachers and parents already knew; that teachers offering up extra time to run activities for students WAS voluntary. It's how it always had been. If there was no supervisor willing to run a team, then that team didn't run. Many schools never had a curling team, a co-ed volleyball team or a junior boy's hockey team simply because there was no one there to run it. Fortunately for the kids of Uxbridge Secondary, we had all of those things plus some. That is where my unwavering faith of the faculty at our school kicks in. Though there were no heart warming announcements on Monday morning of when sports and clubs may begin again, it did not mean they weren't happening. After all, if we had the chance to allow kids to get involved again why would we

pass it up? USS happens to pride themselves on getting involved! We preach it to the grade eights still in their elementary schools, to the grade nines entering the school on their first day, and to each student every day after. The end of the strike should be a dream come true for the students and staff of Uxbridge Secondary School.

Despite the uncertainty, there are some committees that have gotten the jump on the abrupt end of the job action. Leadership Committee, for example, is planning Leadership

Camp in full force and is running their annual Information Assembly this Friday. It is for all students who may be interested in coming to Camp Kandalore for four days at the beginning of May. This perhaps will set the bar for the rest of the school or provide an example that the rest of the teams and clubs will soon follow. In the end the students of USS are rejoicing at the news and are keeping their fingers crossed for the future!

Goodwood News with Bev Northeast

This has been a crazy winter with snow, ice, rain, balmy days and freezing temperatures so here is hoping the ground hog was right- an early Spring...

The skating at the north park has been fantastic and the kids are certainly having fun, and mom and dad appreciate not having to drive to Uxbridge. All thanks to the Lions Club...

Reminder the community garage sale and give away sale is May 4 with rain date May 11, so start collecting all of those treasures to sell or give away. Don't forget to hang a red balloon at the end of your street and at your home, so those who want your treasures can find you easily.

Goodwood Minor Ball Association is holding their baseball registration at the Lions Hall (north on Front Street) Feb 28 7:00-9:00 pm and Mar 2 10am -1pm. Spots fill up fast so don't miss the registration if your son or daughter want to play ball...

The United Church soup lunch is Feb 28 11:m -1pm. There is soup, homemade bread, dessert and beverage all for the low price of \$3.00...

The Gospel Hall Sunday service is at 11:00 am and all are welcome to attend...

The Baptist Church Kids Club for boys and girls grades 1-8 is Tuesdays at 6:45, & 7:00 pm Bible study and Prayer with regular Sunday service at 11:00 am...

In the Community Centre we have Zumba on Tues and Thurs. nights at 7:00 call 905-471-1650 and Yoga on

Sat. mornings at 9-10:15 am until March 23 so call 905-649-8596 and if you want to try new recipes call Joanne at 905-642-5689...

Also International Women's day is Mar 7 at 7:00 pm and our guest speaker is Native Canadian, and we also have Dianna Davis playing the crystal bowls and flute, and she will also bring drums for all to try their hand at drumming. Please call me and book your spot 905-640-3966...

Our Talent Night May 15 7:00 pm is booking up, so give me a call if you want to entertain us with your special talent, and remember this is not a competition and all talent is acceptable. Call to book your spot on stage 905-640-3966...

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TOWN HALL

by Roger Varley
Notes from the Feb. 25
Council meeting

Special events bylaw receives rough ride: A draft of a proposed special events bylaw was not well received by members of Uxbridge council at a special council meeting last Wednesday.

In a preamble to council's discussion, Mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor noted the bylaw was drawn up by staff in response to questions from councillors and pointed out the draft was "a working document". Nevertheless, the mayor said she couldn't see the bylaw being passed in its present state. She said the bylaw, whatever its final shape, will not come into effect until January 2014.

Chief Administrative Officer Ingrid Svelnis added that the draft is a collection of ideas and everything in it is up for discussion.

"From these discussions, we'll get to where we want to be," she said.

Clerk Debbie Leroux agreed the draft "certainly needs work".

Councillors agreed as they attacked various sections of the draft, with Councillor Pat Molloy suggesting it should be tabled to enable councillors to make submissions to the clerk. However, the mayor asked

council to go over the draft section by section.

Councillor Pat Mikuse noted that three of the five major events held annually in Elgin Park - the Fall Fair, the Highland Games, Art in the Part, RibFest and Everything Equine - have lease agreements with the township.

"These lease agreements have worked well," she said. "I think we can work with these without putting them in the bylaw."

Councillor Bev Northeast agreed with Ms. Mikuse and her motion to remove the section including the five events in the bylaw was carried.

After Councillor Jacob Mantle opined that there should be different rules for events held on private property, as opposed to those held on municipal property, councillors agreed that the bylaw would only be aimed at private property events.

Ms. Northeast then questioned a section which would limit special events on any specific private property to one a year. She said that would impact a number of events held at WoodNewton, where about three are held each year. She said there is no municipal property that could be used for the type of events held at WoodNewton and limiting them to one a year could affect the number of visitors to Uxbridge.

Ms. Mikuse agreed, saying a decision should be made on each appli-

cation council receives rather than limiting the number.

But Ms. Leroux asked how they would determine how many events on a specific property are too many. "What's the threshold?" she asked.

Ms. Mikuse also had concerns about the proposed bylaw's requirement of police checks for all people working special events.

"This is awful and should be removed," she said. "This whole community has been built by volunteers and some are on more than one committee. We'll see a lot of people walk away (if police checks are required)."

She moved that the section be removed but received no support.

The proposed bylaw will go back to staff for reworking and will come back to council sometime before the end of April

Contract negotiations coming: CAO Ingrid Svelnis said contract negotiations will be commencing soon with Local 53 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). In a report to council, she recommended the Township's bargaining unit consist of herself, Public Works director Ben Kester and Councillors Molloy and Northeast.

Only Uxbridge's public works employees are covered in the CUPE contract.

Bruins take big lead in close series

by Roger Varley

It went into double overtime at the arena on Tuesday night before the Uxbridge Bruins managed to pull off a 3-2 win over the Port Perry MoJacks, giving them a three-game lead in their best-of-seven OHA Jr. C Central Division semi-final playoff series.

Korey Brand scored the game-winning goal, assisted by Marco Mastrangelo, just a minute after goalie Brandon Francey had turned away a MoJacks penalty shot by Matt Paul, awarded after the referee ruled the Bruins had deliberately knocked the net off the posts during a Port Perry attack.

The win was not an easy one for the Bruins as the MoJacks continued to press all through the game, forcing the Bruins defensive squad into a considerable number of mistakes, misplays and errant passes.

The MoJacks took the lead in the game halfway through the first period with Dylan Ross serving time in the penalty box for tripping. However, defenceman Justin Bean evened the score for the Bruins with an unassisted goal from a near impossible angle with just three minutes left in the period.

Jarrett Smith put the Bruins ahead late in the second period with a power-play goal, assisted by Patrick Morgan and Bean. Smith was standing dead centre in the MoJacks' zone when he one-timed a pass from Morgan.

Port Perry sent the game into overtime when they scored their second goal midway through the third, taking advantage of a Bruins defenceman being way out of position on the play.

The defensive problems first showed in the second half of the second game, played in Port Perry on Sunday, which also went into overtime. Although the Bruins won the game 4-3, the MoJacks outplayed them in the second half.

Matt Allen put the Bruins ahead with the only goal of the first period. In the second,

Port Perry came close to tying the game during a power play, ringing the puck off the posts a couple of times. But Joey Vocino put the Bruins ahead 2-0 at the 15-minute mark on a beautiful to-man passing play with Jarrett Smith.

The MoJacks scored their first goal directly from face-off with just over a minute remaining in the period. The teams traded goal in the third, with Morgan scoring for Uxbridge. Five minutes into overtime, Douitsis scored the game-winner, assisted by Morgan.

The series began last Friday at the arena when the Bruins dominated the MoJacks all through the game, coming out with a 4-1 win. The Bruins scored three goals in the first period, two of them on the power play, as the MoJacks were in complete disarray. The goals were credited to Bean, Wyatt Trainer and Cairns. In the scoreless second period, the MoJacks showed more offence, but Francey was sharp in the net for the Bruins. Vocino made it 4-0 for Uxbridge early in the third period, also on the power play, assisted by Lynch and Douitsis. The MoJacks finally spoiled Francey's shut-out bid at the seven-minute mark with a power-play goal.

The two teams were scheduled to meet again last night. If Port Perry won, the teams will play at the arena again tomorrow night at 7:45 p.m. If the Bruins won, Uxbridge will likely begin its best-of-seven final series against the Lakefield Chiefs early next week. Lakefield completely crushed the Clarington Eagles in their semi-final series, sweeping the Eagles in four games and allowing only one goal while scoring a total of 16.

Bear pause: Before the start of Friday's game, the Bruins were awarded trophies for best goaltending in the league during the regular season and for winning the league title with their first-place finish.

And, in keeping with a long-standing Bruins playoff tradition, most of the team members are now sporting blonde hair.

Designed Lifestyles with Susan Fedorka

Calendar of Events

How is that emergency kit doing and that resolution to start taking better care of your house? Were you one of the hundreds of people calling the furnace repair people during the recent cold snap?

We have been lulled into a false sense of warmth with the recent winter weather that we have been having. The reports on the television indicated that some of the furnace problems could have been solved with basic maintenance such as replacing filters.

There have been numerous house fires in the past couple of weeks - were they started by space heaters placed too close to flammable items? Were they the result of unsafe extension cords? On extremely cold days, some homes may have cold spots and a space heater may be the perfect solution, but a space heater should never be left unattended for long periods of time and it should be positioned well away from furniture, drapes, bedding or any other items that might be flammable.

The year is still young, so why not sit down with a paper calendar and put important "house dates" on it? Then hang it somewhere where you will actually see it. Included on this calendar should be yearly furnace check ups and cleanings, chimney cleaning and a check of the hot water tank to make sure it isn't leaking or showing signs of wear. We know to change the batteries in our smoke alarms and carbon dioxide detectors when we change the clocks, so why not make other, equally important home maintenance items, a routine?

Do you have enough salt/sand to get

you through until the Spring? With the up and down temperatures that we have been having, ice and slippery conditions have been as much of a problem as snow has been. Are you regularly keeping your walkways cleared and sanded?

A recent television commercial by a lawyer advised people that they could claim damages for slip and fall accidents on private property. Do you need the hassle that will ensue if you decide to skip clearing your walkway and someone falls? Would it not be better to be known as the person who always clears their walkways and keeps them in good condition?

Insurance companies are not in the business of freely handing out money. Be prepared and be consistent.

Other maintenance items you might want to put on your calendar include getting your air conditioner looked at before the heat of summer, your lawn mower tuned up, maybe you need to purchase some new gas containers as well. Even if you don't want to commit these items to a calendar, at least make a list of things that should be done and post it somewhere that you will see it on a daily basis.

Finally, make sure you keep all your receipts for work done on your home. A strong box is a good investment. In the event that you do have a fire, or some sort of damage to your home, your insurance company will want proof that you have maintained your home in good condition. Being prepared should help you and your family get through the crisis more quickly and hopefully, with less stress.

Letters to the Editor

In response to Earle Lockerby's letter regarding the butchering of "Leaskdale" (Feb. 21), he should do well to stay away from the Uxbridge Township website ward maps. During the last municipal election, I discreetly pointed out to the clerk's department that Leaskdale was spelled incorrectly. Mr. Lockerby's letter prompted me to check the maps again and the name remains as it was. Perhaps this public recognition of the misspelling of Leaskdale will prompt the Township to finally correct the ward maps. (Cc...info@town.uxbridge.on.ca)

Mary Dube
Zephyr

On Saturday, February 23rd Rotary International celebrated its 108th birthday. On that day, Minister of International Cooperation, Julian Fantino, announced the lifting of a funding cap and announced that Canada will match all contributions to the 'Pennies and More for Polio' matching fund initiative. With additional matching by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, this means that close

to \$5 million has been added to the global fight against polio by Canadian Rotarians and their friends.

At its executive meeting on February 25th, our local club unanimously approved the following motion. 'The Rotary Club of Uxbridge extends its thanks to Durham Member of Parliament, Erin O'Toole, for his role in removing the upper limit for Government of Canada matching of donations to Rotary International's campaign to End Polio Now.'

The campaign, which began in 1985, has reduced the number of endemic countries from 125 to 3 and the number of annually reported cases from 350,000 to 200. It is projected that 2015 will be the first

polio free year making the disease only the second in history to be eradicated from the face of the earth.

Chuck Taylor
Rotary Foundation Chair
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kids in thoughtful activities (sports, reading, crafts, etc) and other tasks as needed. M-F 44 hours/week \$485 net/week. Swimming skills required and CPR. Please send resume to suzana_brito@yahoo.com 3/7

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The Voice of Business

by Claudiu Popa



Protect your customers and grow your business

Achieving large calibre data protection on a small business budget is a matter of process and priority.

If you've ever heard the phrase "you can't get fired for buying Big Blue" and rolled your eyes, you probably know how it feels to be a small fish in a big pond. Big busi-

nesses like to do business with large companies but not for the reasons you might think. Large companies are no longer known for superior technology nor world-class expertise. But paying their high fees guarantees your audience a high level of assurance that you're cutting no costs and offering them the red carpet treatment, especially when it comes to security and privacy.

That kind of attention to quality and 'no expense spared' approach impresses your clients and serves to differentiate your business from the competition. But what if you don't have the budgets to pay the kinds of inflated rates Bay Street banks are accustomed to approving? You're in luck, because today's discerning customers and business partners are sharp, savvy and discerning. They know that big brands come with high price tags and those costs are typically passed on to them. Instead, they look for very specific things that help them arrive at the least risky decision and that may just translate into a loyal customer for life. So let's be clear: knowing what your audience expects to see will give you an advantage not only over your competition, but also over big businesses and their plus-sized budgets. And those wants are simple:

1. They want to be able to trust

you. You're the expert. You need to know what you're talking about. You need to show that you've got all your bases covered, from having the certified IT personnel in place, to being in compliance with privacy laws. Just know what you need to know and describe what you're doing. That makes a difference. That wins contracts. That boosts trust in you in a way that showing disregard for their data simply doesn't. So don't do the latter, focus on the former.

2. They want you to make them look good. Naturally. They've done their best to make their business as appealing as possible. Now they want to show that their chosen supplier is not just up to their standards but also raises their profile. Let them flaunt the quality of your work. Outline the rigor with which you do your work. If you're an accountant, wow them with your ability to follow the key principles of privacy, especially as you exchange information over the Net. If you're a restaurant, ensure that your staff doesn't disappear with customer credit cards or use beat up old card readers. If you're a web design company, show clients that your digital certificates and voluntary monthly check-ups make them more secure. Show a higher standard and let your customers benefit

from your service quality.

In short, clients want you to care about them as much as you do about your own business. And you do. I know you do, or you wouldn't be passionate about being in business – but how do you show it? Simple. Process. Look at the way you do business today and find the areas that could hurt or embarrass clients. For example:

Are your customer service reps collecting information?

Have staff read out scripted privacy policies and build the sensitive parts of the data collection process – such as when you have to speak passwords into the phone to get support – into an inexpensive voice mail system (like ING Canada does).

Does your website protect the security of an online transaction?

Draw visitors' attention to your digital certificates and reputable processing company.

Do you use surveillance cameras? Post a clear notice in plain English that complies with privacy law.

Simple practices clearly explained are guaranteed to delight your customers and make them proud of their decision to choose you over your competition.

Claudiu Popa is a corporate security and privacy-risk advisor with Informatica Corporation and founder of KnowledgeFlow.ca. Claudiu is a sponsor of Uxbridge Chamber of Commerce (uxcc.ca or info@uxcc.ca).

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VIEWPOINTS

How well do you know the highways and byways of Uxbridge Township? The first person each week to call into our office number, 905-852-1900, and correctly identify the location of our photo, will receive a prize; this week, it's two tickets for an Uxbridge Bruins playoff game. Last week's viewpoint (lower photo) was on Davis Drive - it was guessed by Brenda Yule of Sandford. We'll have the answer to the upper photo next week.



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Coffee with Liz from page 3 Would you explain what the buckets are and what they do?

The premise is that everyone has a bucket. Ideally, you want to have that bucket full. When your bucket is full it means that you feel good. So if somebody does something that is unkind or hurtful, then they are dipping into your bucket, they are taking something out of your bucket. Likewise, if you do that to someone else, that's what you are doing. On the other hand, what we hope our students will become are bucket fillers. So we look for students who are demonstrating positive character traits, who are committing random acts of kindness, for students who are standing up to acts of bullying, for students who are simply being good citizens. That's the way we encourage students to fill each other's buckets.

Your school also requires students to get a licence to use personal electronic devices at school?

Yes. Our teacher-librarian, in collabora-

tion with others, put together a program for digital citizenship. That program actually has students coming through the library to learn how to safely navigate the Internet, learn about things like cyber-bullying, online bullying, learn how to protect your identity and your information and students from Grade 5 through 8 learned a series of lessons to be able to successfully pass a test and earn their digital citizenship licence. Once they did that, then students are encouraged to bring their own devices to school, whether it be their iPads, their iPods, cell phones, devices that hook them up to their world. As teachers, we encourage their use as teaching and learning tools. Rather than having teachers against students and having them put them away, there are certain times of the day, certain projects that they might be working on, where these devices are encouraged. We want them accessing the information that's right there at their fingertips. But we want them to

do it safely.

Are you seeing academic results stemming from these programs?

I would like to say so, yes. Absolutely, academic achievement is going up. Are these the only factors? No. But, going back to that whole teaching-learning process, teachers are constantly affecting students and constantly monitoring and changing their plans to help their students to become more successful.

How long have you been at Goodwood as principal?

This is my first year. I just started in September.

Do you live in Uxbridge?

No. I used to live in Uxbridge and my own children went to school in Uxbridge.

I don't know how the system works. Was it your choice to come here or were you assigned?

I didn't know where I was going to end up. When you are promoted from vice-principal to principal, that's a decision made by the powers that be.

Have you taught in a small rural school like this before?

I started my career as an educational assistant in a small school: not a small rural school but a very small school, only about 100 students. So I know what it's like to work in a small community school. Prior to coming to Goodwood I was at a very large triple-track school in Port Perry. That means we had an English stream, a French-immersion stream, a gifted stream and special education classes. Over 800 students. We have about 225 students here.

Was there some adjustment necessary on

your part coming to a small school?

There's a little bit of adjustment. Moving from the role of vice-principal to principal Number One. But kids are kids and parents are parents are parents, no matter how big or small the school.

But I'd put it to you that in a small school like this you get to know a lot more kids.

Absolutely. There were a lot more "Buddies" and "Sweethearts" at my last school. But in this school I know everyone's name.

Liz, thank you.

Thank you.

One Way of Looking At It with Jai Darshanand

Beware the Ides

With all the excitement created by zombies roaming the countryside dancing Gangnam Style, folks have forgotten about the Ides of March and the true significance of this date. Mention the name Julius Caesar and most people will think of croutons, but a few might remember a stubborn Roman general and statesman who chose to ignore the soothsayers' warning about the Ides of March. The soothsayers insisted they were telling the sooth, the whole sooth and nothing but the sooth, when they predicted that Mark Antony would soon be doing a funeral oration. So, inevitably, Julius ended up dead and Mark went on to bigger and better things, hiding in J.Lo's shadow. Thus, the middle of March, or the Ides of March, has been associated with tragedy, mayhem and a prelude to the NHL playoffs. In an effort to cover up this dark blemish in our history and generate tourist revenue for the Sunshine State, it was agreed to use the term March Break instead.

I hate to break it to you, but, the hills are alive with Ides, every month has them around the fifteenth, that's when disasters happen and unless you have access to a soothsayer, you won't know ahead of time. As I write this, it's the Ides of February and Rome is again in the news, a job vacancy has opened up unexpectedly but will be resolved once the smoke clears from this fallout. Speaking of fallouts, a meteor has almost leveled the peaceful scenery of Siberia and a few hours later, an asteroid cruised by the planet looking for a Timmy's Drive-Thru. This had the makings of a major disaster, but NASA's

instant replays clearly show that Chris Hadfield poke checked it with the Canadarm. I suspect this was the reason they sent Chris to the ISS. Someone, obviously a soothsayer, had a premonition of impending doom and who best to prevent it but a Canadian with nifty stick handling skills? God has taken his eyes off the ball, He's tired of watching the Earth revolve while nothing gets resolved, and He also needed time to set up His Twitter account to garner some followers. Chris is there to keep an eye on things, especially William Shatner, Justin Bieber and the Senate of Canada.

My brush with the Ides of January came in the form of unexpected gum surgery. To add insult to injury and salt in the wound, the periodontist informed me that, as with most people, my mouth is one of the filthiest places on this endangered planet, even though I don't cuss too much anymore. I couldn't argue with her as she had a sharp instrument in her hand at the time, but I did promise to floss after every beer. Our parents were on the right track when they threatened to wash our mouths out with soap, but today this threat would fall upon ears continually plugged with earbud headphones. Sadly, no amount of soap, toothpaste or dental threats will ever completely remove the bacteria that have taken up residence in our mouths, although recent research has shown promising results with exposing the wide open oral cavity to a full blast of Lady Gaga's music.

The gnashing of teeth you heard during the Ides of December were mine. My snow blower choked right on schedule. I bought the machine in December 2011, and it

sat idle since then due to a lack of snow and plain laziness. When the time came to earn its keep one year later on a snowy day, the choke shaft broke. Needless to say I didn't have access to a soothsayer, but my wife felt we should have bought a snow thrower instead of a snow blower. I then reminded her that I used to be the snow thrower before we bought the machine and she said, "My point exactly."

I've been looking around for a good soothsayer to help me deal with my Ides, but so far I haven't found one who makes house calls. They've come a long way since Caesar's time and most now earn a living at CNN as Political Analysts. Some of the smarter ones have made names for themselves in weather forecasting and masquerade under the titles Wiarton Willie, Gary the Groundhog, Brandon Bob in Manitoba and Balzac Billy in Alberta.

In the absence of a soothsayer, I must rely on my horoscope which I read every day and for good measure I also study my wife's and my boss's, looking for signs that my current streak of bad luck is about to end but to date, I'm sorry to say, the outlook is bleak.

March 7th • 5-8pm @ G&C Pet Centre

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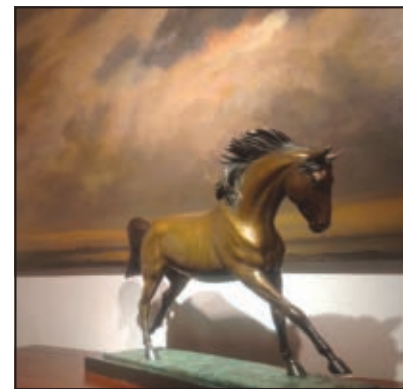
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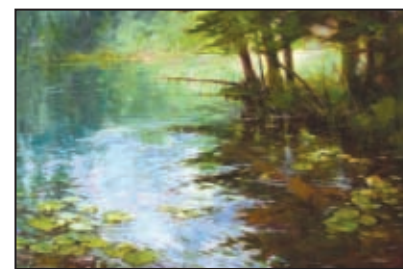
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