

Our two cents

'Frighteningly close' to censorship

Normally, the editorial expresses the views of this paper on an issue of community significance. There's an issue currently that must be addressed - that's the last-minute cancellation of a play as inappropriate for Uxbridge audiences. Because the editor/publisher of the Cosmos was one of the two actors, it is inappropriate for her to make any editorial comment. She has, therefore, invited a guest editorial writer - Wynn Walters, active in the Uxbridge arts community, who trained and began his career as a journalist.

The talk of the town this past week has been the abrupt cancellation of a play being presented by OnStage Uxbridge, set to have opened last Thursday. The play was *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, by acclaimed playwright Terrence McNally. It was cancelled following the dress rehearsal, two days before the opening, because it was deemed “unsuitable for Uxbridge audiences.”

The cancellation was an insult to the people of Uxbridge, and an insult to the actors and production team who had put an immense amount of effort into preparation. Particularly galling is the fact that the play was approved by the board of OnStage in June 2022 - which leads one to believe that they had not read the play, or had not done even cursory research to understand the nature of the play, or to see reports from other locations where it had been mounted.

Yes, there's nudity and some sexy banter between the two characters. A reading of the script reveals that McNally's stage directions are very explicit about how the opening scene of the two protagonists making love should be presented. One wonders if the board members read and understood this - and if they objected to loud, explicit and joyous sounds from the bed, why did they approve the play? If members of the OnStage board had pursued it, they would have found comments like this, from a review in the *Los Angeles Times*: "The nudity was not in the original script just for shock value. It was there to set up Terrence McNally's no-holds-barred story ..." Or this, from the director of the play in Wilmington: "We're trying to do a tasteful nudity where it's natural but not explicit. It just happens: you've been making love, you get out of bed, you don't have clothes on."

The nudity has been in every production since its opening off Broadway in 1987, and has been widely commented on. It should have come as no surprise to the OnStage board members. Yes, the “warnings” in the ads probably should have been more explicit. But there are probably few 16-year-olds who don’t know the words or understand the meanings of the erotic banterings. The solution for those who don’t want to see forbidden areas of skin on stage, or hear brief sex talk - just don’t go to the play.

But to have a small group of people decide for a community what they can and cannot see on stage is frighteningly close to censorship. The avalanche of reaction on Facebook reflects the views of an enlightened community well able to handle a gritty, adult play. Almost without exception, people were aghast at the cancellation. As one Facebook post put it: “there are many residents of Uxbridge who would have greatly benefited from sharing in an experience in which the veil of perfection was lifted, and a raw, beautiful, challenging, empowering story was brought to life.”

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Your Universe

The Uxbridge Cosmos


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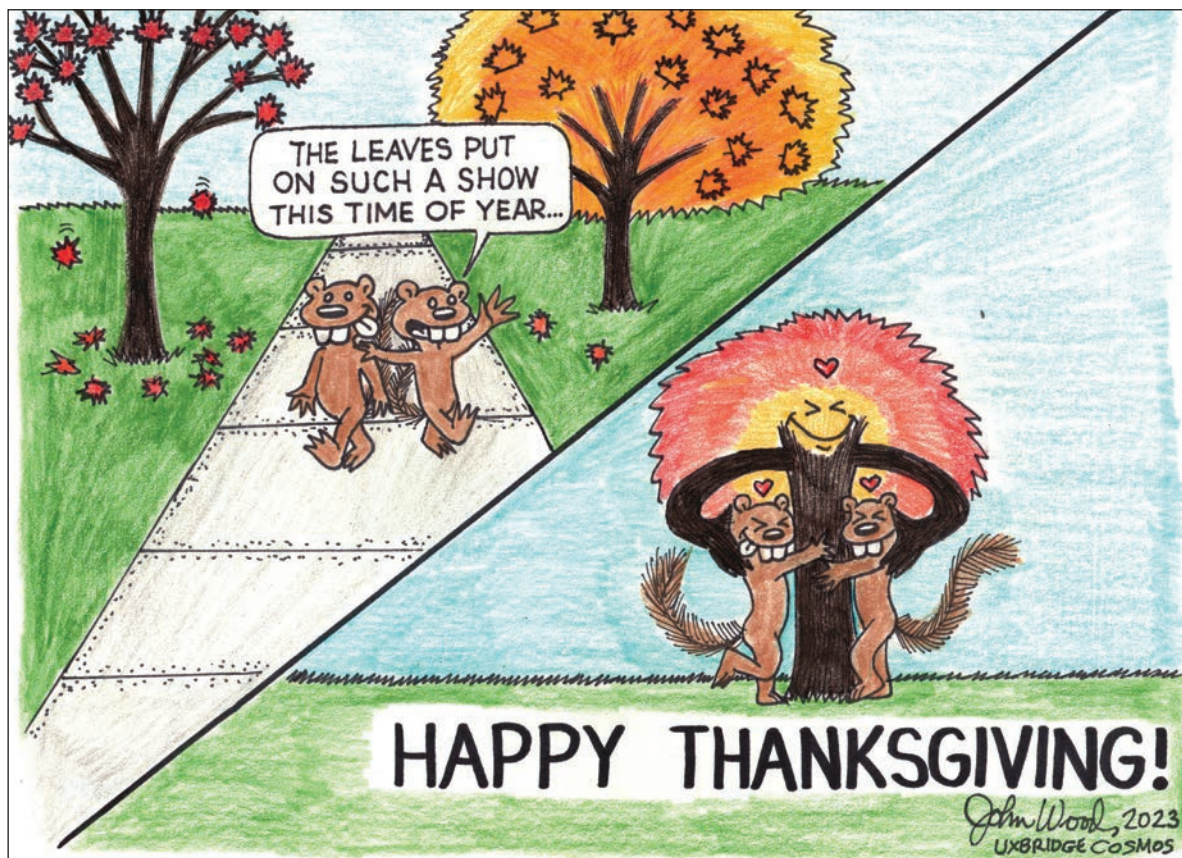
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Letters to the Editor

We are writing to echo the sentiments and gratitude of our neighbour, Kathleen, about the response to the September 22 explosion and fire at our Planks Lane home.

The fire department deserves the highest accolades for its quick, professional and effective action in containing the fire and preventing it from wreaking further damage to our house and that of our neighbours. Many of the firefighters live in the neighbourhood, and upon hearing the explosion, headed straight to the station before hearing an alarm because they knew it was serious.

We cannot express enough gratitude to the fire department, police officers, neighbours and friends for their caring, support and actions during the fire and in days after. So many dropped by or contacted us to make sure we were safe and offered any assistance they could... cars, rides, meals, shelter, clothing, warm blankets and more. Others dropped by with hugs, coffee, treats, kind words and support.

We are so thankful to live in a community with so many who offer selfless help, support and caring. It is truly inspiring!

Greg Eickmeier & Wendy Dunn
Uxbridge

*Re: Proposed fee for stormwater
pond management*

Oh, give me a break! How in the world is the township going to de-

termine how water got from property A into pond B? I've got to think the work to do so would be quite burdensome. There are lots of variables - which way does the property slope, does it slope down to township property or somewhere else, how much of the property is hard surfaced, how absorbent are the lawns and gardens?

And after all that work is complete, the township will determine that most of the water going into the ponds is from rainfall landing on their own roads, sidewalks and parking lots, not from private property.

Don't let this hair-brained idea go any farther.

Grant Baines
Uxbridge

On Saturday, May 21, 2022, a tornado devastated the town of Uxbridge. It destroyed homes, businesses, uprooted trees, and, unfortunately, removed the roof from the Trinity United Church. The church is going to be rebuilt to a smaller facility, along with construction of an apartment building that will take out a family restaurant, a 100-year-old house, and an apartment building (which in the early times of Uxbridge was a foundry).

This construction will also take out a green space with many different kinds of trees, plants and animal habitats (birds, squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, monarch butterflies, bees, etc.).

With all the construction going

on in Uxbridge, with houses going in on every corner, the animals and pollinators have nowhere to go.

Save some of the green space so these creatures have somewhere to call home. Without them we will not be able to survive.

I have lived in Uxbridge all my life. It is not the same “country town” that it was. It’s turning into a “concrete jungle,” and animals have to find a new place to live - like the people who are currently living in homes that are going to be torn down. Things are very expensive these days, and it’s hard to find a place that is affordable and close to where you work to make a living to get by.

Suggestion - build the new church first, before tearing down the restaurant, house and apartment building. Please give the tenants of these buildings more time to find affordable houses. Don't tear them down and leave another hole in the ground of Uxbridge for two or more years. The people making the decision to tear down these buildings already own their own homes, and don't have to worry about finding a place to live.

Instead of building a parking lot for an apartment building, put in a park sitting area, pollinator, vegetable garden and animal habitat so the birds, bees and animals have somewhere to go.

K. Nicholson
Uxbridge

Our two cents, from page 4

One thought that should not get

lost - let's not let anger over the actions of this OnStage board spiral into rejection of everything to

do with OnStage Uxbridge. This theatre organization has been a mainstay of the Uxbridge cultural scene for many years, and has presented many excellent productions - and given opportunities for theatrical outlet to hundreds of residents. Dozens of people are working very hard on forthcoming productions, and they deserve our support.

The director of this aborted play, Conrad Boyce, and his production team were right in rejecting changes to the play and thus sacrificing their artistic integrity. The board of OnStage Uxbridge was dead wrong in its judgement of the Uxbridge community. Conrad vows that he will mount this play on some stage, at some date, in uncensored form, in Uxbridge.

It should be, and will be a sell-out.

Bruins win five in a row

Roger Varley

With three victories last week, the Uxbridge Bruins have now won four games in a row, putting them one point behind the league-leading Clarington Eagles. Those last three wins saw the Bruins score a total of 13 goals, with the scoring spread out among nine players.

Last Tuesday, the Bruins headed north to Lakefield to meet the Chiefs, where they took an early lead with the only goal of the first period. The Chiefs scored two quick goals in the second, but the Bruins responded with three of their own. A late goal in the third was not enough for the Chiefs to overcome the deficit.

Back on home ice on Friday, playing against their Reach Street rivals,

the Port Perry LumberJacks, the two teams traded goals in the first period, with Anthony Lamanna scoring for Uxbridge, assisted by Quinn Meek and Tanner Ryan. Noah Button put the Bruins ahead in the second, followed by Ryan's short-handed marker, but the LumberJacks narrowed the gap as the period wound down.

Meek scored what proved to be the winning goal within the first two minutes of the third. Port Perry had an opportunity to respond two minutes later when they were awarded a penalty shot, but goalie Andrew Cloughton made the save. Port Perry came back with their third goal midway through the period, but their attempt to send the game into overtime was stymied by a penalty in the last minute.

The *Cosmos* selected Meek as the player of the game for Uxbridge and Johannes Kalm for Port Perry.

The following night, it was back up north to take on the North Kawartha Knights in Apsley. The Knights racked up a two-goal lead in the first before Alex Hyde scored a power-play goal with less than 15 seconds left in the period. A short-handed goal restored the two-goal advantage for North Kawartha, but from then on it was all Bruins as they scored one in the second and three unanswered goals in the third.

The Bruins are back in action tomorrow (Friday) night at the arena at 7:45 p.m. to face the Little Britain Merchant and then head down Reach Street on Sunday for a rematch against the LumberJacks.

Bear pause: Prior to the start of Friday's game at the arena, the Bruins paid tribute to former player Mark Boyce. A member of the team from 2002 to 2007, Boyce was the division's leading scorer in 2006-07. He passed away on Sept. 14 at the age of 36.

The Bruins will soon be unveiling their new uniforms, including a third "special occasion" jersey. But the good news for fans is that the new sweaters will feature the players' names on the back.

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