



Leiah Horton of Uxbridge doesn't become perturbed at the sight of crumpled fenders and bent bumpers. They're all part of her hobby—driving in demolition derbies. As proof of her skill, she has two trophies, both won in competition at Uxbridge Fair. Husband Jay competes also, but never against his wife. —Jim Thomas.

Being backward driver pays Mother sets pace

By Jim Thomas
UXBRIDGE — For years, women drivers have been criticized. Some (men that is) say they're careless. Others claim they're too cautious, while still others suggest they're a combination of both.

Males that feel this way (and bold enough to admit it), have yet to see Leiah Horton in action. Leiah, 31, and mother of two, is rapidly gaining recognition as one of the area's best drivers, especially when it comes to driving backwards.

Leiah, as many Uxbridge folks know, is a demolition derby expert. She has several trophies to prove it.

Leiah became interested in the sport after watching husband Jay careen around the track, bashing and crashing opponents into submission. "I said to myself, I can hit harder than that," Jay encouraged her to try.

"It's a lot of fun," Leiah says and not too expensive since Jay's a professional welder. He can make a car track-worthy in about a day-

and-a-half. Leah's sponsor is Casey Elson of Casey's Auto Wreckers on the 6th Concession.

Rules governing most demolition derbies are very strict. Because of this, few drivers are ever injured. However, bumps and bruises are not uncommon.

Head-on collisions are not permitted and you can't take aim at another driver's door. The gas tanks are removed.

"The secret is to protect your car's radiator," says

Leiah. That's why backing up is best. A hit-a-minute is required with two minutes allowed to get a vehicle going should it stop.

Jay and Leiah see it as "a family affair." Daughter Jayann, 12, and son Jason, nine, are as enthusiastic as their parents.

Two years ago, at Uxbridge Fair, Leiah tied for first. There were seven entries. This year, she was the lone competitor in her class. The word, it seems, is getting around.

Rejection not end

UXBRIDGE — Despite the fact Township Planning Board was unanimous in proclaiming that a proposal for the conversion of the former Webb Public School, west of Brock Road, was what it was looking for, it was also just as unanimous in turning the application down in favor of another.

The reason? The first applicant didn't own the building, while the second one did.

The former, in this case, was Winrich Weller, who asked the board to consider rezoning the land in question for "light industrial use." He said he would

like to put in a furniture centre ("I thought it would harmonize with the area") in which both retailing and manufacturing would be carried out.

He said he was located in an industrial park in Ajax at the moment and had "almost suffocated."

Mayor Bill Ballinger said it was just "the type of use we encourage," while Councillor Maustyn McKnight called it "an excellent plan."

However, Fred Williams, agent for Durham Board of Education, owner of the school

building, pointed out that the board had already accepted another offer, which would call for rezoning of the area to rural residential. Both applicants had put in similar bids of \$48,000, he said.

Said Councillor Don Jackson: "If that offer was accepted, then Mr. Weller has nothing to do with it."

"We have to assess what's in the public interest," said Mayor Bill Ballinger. "I'd hate to make that decision today."

Councillor Jackson said the township needed what Weller was proposing, "but the legality is that the board's offer is here, and that's what we have to deal with."

A recommendation by board chairman, Sandy Ewen, to support the residential rezoning, was carried.

However, Mayor Ballinger asked to see Weller afterward. "I still don't want to let you go," he said.

"Invaders" pull out Town getting back to normal



Twelve-year-old Chad Redshaw greets Kirstie McNish, 15, in a happy "reunion" at the conclusion of the movie "Space Invaders," filmed in Claremont. Chad and Kirstie were two of fifty "extras" who auditioned successfully for parts in the show. —Jim Thomas.

CLAREMONT — "The Strange Invaders" have departed Claremont Village. Their presence here, however, won't soon be forgotten.

The movie-makers, complete with a space ship and other assorted props, "took off" for points south, Sunday morning, their destination, a location somewhere in New York State. At last contact, it hadn't been decided if any of the "natives" would be taken along.

It was back on Aug. 9 that the American-based film company "set up camp" on Claremont's Main Street. And while most of the scenes were "shot" at night, the activity always attracted a curious audience.

About fifty citizens were selected as "extras." One of these was 15-year-old Kirstie McNish, a Grade 10 student at Pickering High. On occasions, she worked all night. She admits she's looking forward to seeing the movie when it's released next March.

Twelve-year-old Chad Redshaw said he enjoyed the experience, despite the fact he sometimes remained on the set until seven in the morning. The pay was good, he said. On a single weekend, he made \$95. He's saving to buy a new pair of hockey skates. Others who auditioned successfully included Brian and Steve Carruthers, Bill Hammond, Shirley-Ann Smith, Tiffany Houston and April Winterstein.

The Claremont name will not be retained in the movie. Rather, the village will be known as Centreville, Illinois. Lead roles are taken by Paul LeMat and Nancy Allen. The producer is David McLeod.

Claremont was selected as a main site because, according to McLeod, "it's a place that's seen little change." He said the general store, the United Church, the gas station and certain homes were ideal for background required.

Camper hits out at area trailer site

UXBRIDGE — Lazy Lake, the controversial trailer camp on the Uxbridge-Whitchurch-Stouffville townline, has been severely criticized by one of its recent visitors.

In a letter to the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, which forwarded a copy to Uxbridge Township and Durham Regional Health Unit, Bonnie Vickery of Brockville, who, along with her husband James, their four children, and another couple and their two children, stayed at the camp for three days in August, described it as "the worst we have ever encountered."

The water tap was "bone dry"; the beach was filthy with garbage; containers were overflowing; the indoor washroom was deplorable; the entrance door didn't close and there were no working locks on the stall doors," Mrs. Vickery wrote.

She listed several other complaints including a lack of office supervision.

"I urge you to stop advertising this kind of disgrace in the name of an Ontario campsite," Mrs. Vickery wrote, in concluding her letter.

Mayor Bill Ballinger, in acknowledgment of the correspondence at a meeting of planning board, said there had been complaints of "swimmers' itch," at the park, but added that a new director was being appointed. Until that time, there would be no action taken.

It was moved that the letter be received, and a copy be sent to the park mortgagees.

Over the past year, the park owners have several times sought, without success, to add to the present 170 sites, in the hope of converting it into "a family camping and recreation centre."

Mayoralty race Election drama

UXBRIDGE — Mayor Bill Ballinger has officially declared himself a candidate again for the township's top elected office, and he can hardly wait for the campaign to get underway.

"I like the drama," the mayor told The Tribune. "I like the whispers, the small talk, the people, I like the whole thing."

He also likes being mayor, he said, and found his first term that way, "very satisfying. If there was any one highlight, it was 'where council took an active part in paying off the arena... We set a goal and accomplished it,' he said.

The mayor, along with township administrator, Ron Kester, and Ray Laswick,

secretary-treasurer of the arena-fund-raising campaign, delivered a cheque for \$88,000 to the Ministry of Recreation. The money was raised on Arena Day, and it, along with an accompanying Wintario grant, paid off the building.

"It'll save taxpayers thousands of dollars each year," Mayor Ballinger commented.

He said the main issues for the new council to contend with, include expansion of the library, industrial assessment imbalance, storm water management in Goodwood, negotiating for an auxiliary fire department in Zephyr, a central works depot, and working with South Lake Simcoe Conserva-

tion Authority to resolve floodplain concerns in the downtown core.

Probably the top matter, where the mayor is concerned, however, is "convincing the provincial government to enact the Aggregate Act, so Uxbridge can benefit from the aggregate extracted there."

He said the township was looking for four cents a ton, which is exactly four cents more than it gets at present.

A graduate of Waterloo College, with his BA, the 36-year-old mayor is also a graduate of Toronto Teachers' College, and formerly taught school in Uxbridge.

A one-time councillor, and the township's first regional councillor 1974-76, he succeeded Gary Herrema as mayor in a bye-election, shortly after Herrema's appointment as chairman of Durham Region, in 1980.

Owner and operator of a restaurant in Port Perry at the time, Mayor Ballinger sold out his business to devote full-time to his new role.

Opposing him in the November election, is Morley Pitts, a Port Perry chiropractor.

Board queries plaza uses

UXBRIDGE — An applicant for a commercial plaza at Highway 47 and Douglas Rd., was told he'd have to be more definite in the type of uses he had in mind before planning board could deal with his request.

Rick Gay, appearing for developer Peter Magda, told the board his client had 7,100 square feet for such possible commercial uses as a garden nursery, gas bar, farm implement dealership and bus depot.

"Have you had people approach you?" asked board chairman, Sandy Ewen.

Gay said he had, but didn't elaborate.

Said Mayor Bill Ballinger: "There's always an argument about what to do downtown. An abundance of retail space gets a little scary. I'm not opposed to retail, but I am leery of making it (land use) an open book."

Mayor Ballinger said the applicant should submit a list of what uses there would be, so they would not be "in direct competition" with those downtown.

Gay said they wanted "as big a deck of cards as we can have."

"We have an obligation to ensure orderly development," said Mayor Ballinger.

Dr. Milt Michael, Durham Regional planning commissioner, who was on hand for the meeting, said the downtown area should be protected, "but I don't think 7,100 square feet would ruin it."

"You need development, and if done properly, it's an asset," said Councillor Ewen. "The only thing is, are there empty spaces downtown?"

"But we are planning for the future," said Mayor Ballinger.

Councillor Ewen said he supported the application, "but it's a matter of negotiating the right uses."

Campaign ploy?

UXBRIDGE — It's definitely that time of year again.

If anymore proof were needed that the municipal election is on its way, it was supplied by Councillor Sandy Ewen at a meeting of planning board, last week.

Councillor Ewen told the board he had gone to the hospital to see his grandmother, and the first reaction he got on arriving, was that he was there to campaign.

The councillor recently announced he'd be seeking another term.

Murder trial date set

DURHAM REGION: David Stiner, 36, formerly of Winlane Drive, Stouffville, will stand trial for the murder of his estranged wife, Angela Marie, at the October assizes in provincial court, Whitby.

Stiner has been in custody at Whitby jail since the shooting, Oct. 5, 1981. Mrs. Stiner was found dead in her Uxbridge apartment by officers of Durham Regional Police. The couple's two daughters, Lisa and Linda, then eight and six respectively, were not injured.

Stiner was scheduled to appear in court this month but due to a full docket, the case was put over until October.



He "strolled along" in Marathon Walk

A ten-kilometer Marathon Walk was organized in Stouffville, Sunday, in memory of the late Terry Fox. Close to 150 people took part, raising over \$8,000. One of the participants who "strolled along" the six-mile route was two-

year-old Kevin Kent of Goodwood, shown here with his grandmother, Dixie Sellers of Stouffville, a chief organizer of the event.

—Jim Thomas.