

Uxbridge Downtown Revitalization Committee
A statement of the Vision for our downtown

Downtown Uxbridge is the vibrant focus of a thriving small town set in rolling hills and reflecting its strong agricultural heritage.

There is an active street scene, with people - residents and visitors - shopping, browsing, enjoying the company of friends in restaurants and cafes, and strolling along pleasant and attractive streets. A range of stores, more varied and attractive than in the past, and other commercial enterprises, many run by local entrepreneurs, has made it attractive as a place to shop and conduct business. Vacant stores are a thing of the past. The pedestrian orientation of the downtown streets is evident from the modest flow of traffic, with few trucks. A small park, or "town square" in the centre of town provides a focal point for community activities, or for simply relaxing in a pleasant park setting. The town's farming roots are evident from the colourful farmer's market that attracts both residents and visitors, and provides a valuable means for area farmers to offer their produce. A grocery in the downtown provides essentials without the need for a car.

The Uxbridge Brook, once completely out of sight in the downtown area, is once again visible, providing an attractive natural feature to complement the large shade trees along the main streets. The streets themselves reflect Uxbridge's heritage and history, with buildings that have had their exteriors remodeled or renovated in keeping with established heritage guidelines, and signage and street furnishings in tasteful harmony. The rear aspect of buildings facing public areas are no longer an eyesore. The older heritage buildings are complemented by some newer structures (some replacing eyesores or deteriorating buildings), some of which may be more modern in design, but enhance the character of the town.

Uxbridge's reputation as an intensively artistic community is evident from the many works of public art installed around the town, giving it a unique character. And its designation as "The Trail Capital of Canada" is evident from the extensions of the extensive trail system that reach into the downtown, enabling people to walk or bicycle from downtown into surrounding natural areas. Ease of access is provided through numerous public parking areas, well-marked and attractive in design and landscaping. Similarly, ease of access for the physically challenged is provided at most stores and all public facilities. The downtown has a diversified population of residents, with accommodation suited to varying economic levels.

In short, downtown Uxbridge is a place that attracts visitors and tourists, and tempts travelers to stop and explore, with appropriate accommodation for those who wish to stay overnight. The downtown offers a good livelihood to business enterprises located there, and provides a commercial and recreational focus for residents.

Uxbridge is a small town in a rural community, with a downtown that has become an attractive destination for visitors and an effective focus for residents, through a bold approach by the Council and the community, including enlightened planning, good design and wise investment of resources.