

# HOBBY HORSE ARMS

BY ALISON SCOWCROFT



Visiting the Hobby Horse Arms is like taking a peek back into history. The building was originally constructed as the Commercial Hotel, and was moved in 1981 to its current site, 37 Main Street N., Uxbridge. Jim and Nancy Byers bought it in 1995, and have continued to operate it since then as a family business.

Their son, BJ, runs the front of the house, while their other two children, Regan and Matthew, are the executive chefs. Although Nancy no longer works in the kitchen, they continue to use her original recipes.

All the food is made from scratch. Their chicken and beef are organically raised, fruits and vegetables are sourced locally and their desserts are homemade, with sticky toffee pudding being a favourite. I can tell you from experience, their French onion soup is divine—full of onion, a savoury broth and topped with cheddar, mozzarella, Parmesan and a garlic crouton. The fish is lightly battered and served with home-cut fries.

My family and I have tried almost everything on the menu and we all have our favourites. They make jumbo onion rings, enough for sharing, but you might want to devour them by yourself. The burgers are half pounders, each hand formed and can be dressed up with bacon strips, cheese, mushrooms, caramelized onions or even jalapenos. There are salads with fresh dressings, chicken wings, fish tacos and different specials every night of the week. Nachos, not from a bag, are also made in house, and you can top them with beef, chicken or bacon. If you like liver and onions, this is the place to enjoy it.

The Hobby House Arms also offers scotch “nosings,” and wine and beer pairings where they match the beverage to the food being served. Robbie Burns Day is celebrated on his actual birthday, January 25, and yes, haggis is served. A jazz player entertains every second Saturday at 6:00 p.m., September through June. Hobby Horse Arms has one of the largest single malt scotch collections in all of Ontario and all their beers on tap are craft brews.

With a beckoning fireplace and Uxbridge memorabilia on the walls, the Hobbyhorse Arms is a warm and welcoming place to visit on a chilly afternoon or evening. The main restaurant seats 55 people and there is also a 30-seat outdoor patio and a 25-seat function room that can be booked for private parties.

It really is worth a trip to Uxbridge to enjoy the warmth, good food and friendly service always on offer at Hobby Horse Arms.



**HOBBY HORSE ARMS**  
37 Main Street N., Uxbridge  
Tel: 905-852-6126

**Hours of Operation:**  
Tuesday to Sunday, noon to 11:00 p.m.  
Closed Mondays