

# The Uxbridge COSMOS

Volume 15 No. 27

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, July 18, 2019



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**ROCKING OUT UXBRIDGE** - Uxbridge band Eight Five Two plays a set during last Saturday's Trillium College Uxbridge Craft Beer HitsFest, held in Elgin Park. Produced by 105.5 HitsFM, HitsFest was the first craft beer festival held in Uxbridge, and although the rain put a damper on some afternoon performances, evening bands and soloists played to a packed house - er, park.

*Photo by John Cavers*

## Council okays financial assistance for YDHR

by Roger Varley

Uxbridge council decided Monday to provide up-front funding to assist the York Durham Heritage Railway (YDHR) in paving an area just north of the railway station to provide for additional parking.

Two reports to council - one from Chief Administrative Officer Ingrid Svelnis and one from treasurer Donna Condon - both addressed the issue of providing assistance to YDHR.

The Svelnis report said YDHR had asked that Uxbridge pay the \$70,000 cost of the paving up front, with YDHR to repay the amount by the end of the year. According to the report, YDHR would use money realized from the im-

position of a five-per-cent levy on ticket sales to make the repayment.

The question of the levy was addressed in the Condon report. She said YDHR would provide a monthly report on the funds raised by the levy - to be called the Train Station Improvement Levy - with the funds being placed into a Train Station Improvement Fund Reserve, whose purpose would be to fund major station renovations and enhancement projects. Condon said YDHR had proposed such projects could include the paved parking lot, construction of a \$200,000 workshop building (to work on locomotives), a picnic area on the site of the soon-to-be-demolished red barn at \$20,000 and the installation of lighting for the new parking lot, with an estimated cost of \$45,000.

Further, her report said YDHR wants the Township to front end these capital improvement projects, should sufficient funds not be in the Reserve at the time a project commences.

Condon also recommended that council approve creation of a Train Station Improvement Fund Reserve and tell staff to bring in a by-law to enact such a reserve.

Councillor Bruce Garrod cautioned his colleagues to move slowly: "don't rush into it." Regional Councillor Gord Highet suggested the first priority at YDHR should be to remove or refurbish the old train carriages already sitting on site. However, council agreed to put up half the requested parking lot sum, with YDHR to provide the other \$35,000 before the paving starts.

### Inside Your Cosmos

'Kid'ding around . . . . . page 3

Pump park is on again. . . . . page 3

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# Uxbridge at a Glance

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## Council & Committee Meetings

Schedule for the month of July,  
2019

**DURHAM REGION STRATEGIC  
PLANNING TOWN HALL**

Tuesday, July 30, 7:00 p.m.

Schedule for the month of August,  
2019

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday, August 12, 10:00 a.m.

## Free Public Swimming for Families



**Jumpstart**

Tues. and Thurs. evenings, 7 - 8 p.m.  
Registration is now open at  
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## Tender U19-16 Snow Removal for Municipal Parking Lots

Sealed Tenders will be received until  
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9181, Ext. 220.



## Pump Park Information Session

Portable pump track available to ride!

The Uxbridge Pump Park Committee is holding an open-house on July 20th at the Uxbridge Seniors Centre to introduce the design plans for the new pump park to the public, and to receive comments.

A portable, mini-pump track will be setup on the baseball diamond for those residents who wish to try it out. Don't forget your bike and helmet!

The information session is from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Uxbridge Seniors Centre on Saturday July 20th.

## Off-Loom Weaving

Join Len de Graaf at the Uxbridge Historical Centre on July 20 from 10 am-4 pm. Len will lead participants in creating their own branch tapestry with various types of textured yarn, beads, natural materials, and other found objects.

For more information or to register online go to:

[https://ca.apm.activecommunities.com/townshipofuxbridge/Activity\\_Search/2913](https://ca.apm.activecommunities.com/townshipofuxbridge/Activity_Search/2913)

or call at 905-852-5854.

## Artists on the Hill

The Uxbridge Historical Centre is opening its doors to artists this summer for five drop-in studio sessions. Our open studio days offer a welcoming place for artists practicing in all media to gather on Quaker Hill for a chance to chat, share tips and tricks, work on projects, and refresh their creativity.

Dates are July 5 & 19, and August 2, 16, & 30.

For more info call 905-852-5854 or visit

<https://www.uxbridgehistoricalcentre.com/new-for-2019>

## Attention All Pet Owners!

Please help keep our community clean by picking up after your dogs. Not only is it the responsible thing to do, it's also the polite thing to do. It only takes a moment to do your part! Let's continue to keep Uxbridge a clean and healthy environment we can all enjoy!



## 2018 Consolidated Financial Statements

The 2018 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge have been approved by Council and are now available to the public on the Township's website, [www.uxbridge.ca/treasury](http://www.uxbridge.ca/treasury), under the 'Financial Information' section. A copy of the 2018 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Township of Uxbridge is available for pick up (at no cost) upon request, at the Tax Department in the Municipal Building, located at 51 Toronto St., South in the Township of Uxbridge.

## Play Horseshoes Men & Women of Uxbridge



Tuesday evenings at 6 pm  
at the Uxbridge Museum.

Cost to play is a membership in the  
Uxbridge - Scott Historical Society.  
\$15 single & \$25 Family.

Call Bob Kirvan at 905-852-9176  
for information.

## If you love them, licence them!

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email: [accessibility@uxbridge.ca](mailto:accessibility@uxbridge.ca)  
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209



## Four at once - we're not 'kid'ding!

Late last Thursday evening, Forsythe Family Farms (located just west of Greenbank) experienced an anomaly in the animal world - the birth of quadruplet kids.

Goats often give birth to twins, but the odds of a goat giving birth to quadruplets is about one in 10,000.

According to a birth announcement from Forsythe Family Farms, the kids, who have yet to be named, are healthy and feeding well. The mother goat - Nanny - is reportedly receiving some help from the farm crew, who is taking turns to bottle feed the new arrivals.

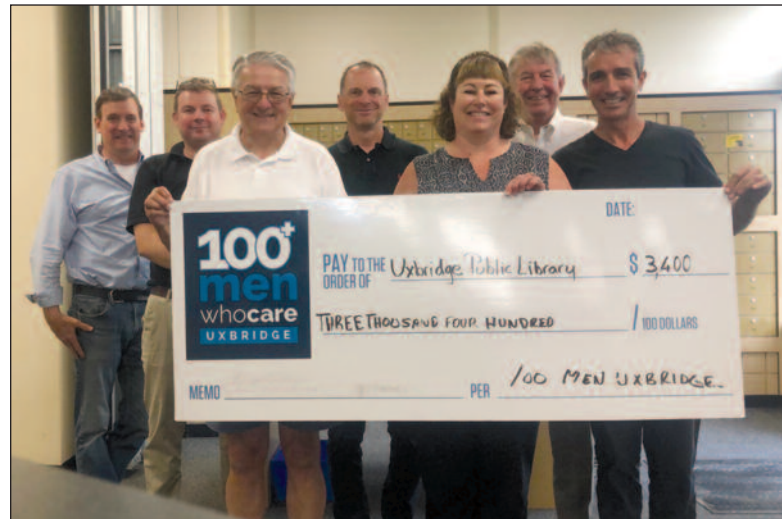
The farm is open daily from 9:30

a.m. to 5 p.m., and the public is welcome to come and visit the four kids, along with other farm animals and their young.

Forsythe Family Farm 2009 Inc. has been growing since 1972, with a goal to being sustainable in all aspects - in the community, environmentally and economically. They are known for encouraging community members to support one other through the Giving Garden, which is a one and a half acre plot of land that people can help cultivate, grow and harvest vegetables to give to those needing a hand up.



**YOU'RE SEEING QUADRUPLE** - Four baby goats, or kids, were born to one mother last week at Forsythe Family Farms, located outside of Greenbank. The odds of a goat having quadruplets are approximately one in 10,000. *Submitted photo*



**100 MEN WHO CARE UXBRIDGE** recently donated \$3,400 to the Memorial Sculpture Project at the Uxbridge Public Library. According to Corrinne Morrison, program and outreach coordinator at the Library, this donation, when combined with many individual donations that the Project has received, puts the Library "very close" to its fundraising goal for the sculpture.

From left: 100 Men members Mike Kilty, Darren Gilroy, and Chuck Heroux; Willie Popp, Library Board member; Corrinne Morrison; Gary Ruona, Library Board member; and 100 Men member Francois Bessay.

The Memorial Sculpture Project was launched with the commission of a piece that would reinforce the role of libraries in our communities and also act as a remembrance of Alexandra Hartmann, Uxbridge Public Library CEO from 2003 to 2018. Local sculptor Wynn Walters is creating the piece, which will hopefully be unveiled in September. *Submitted photo*

## TOWN HALL

by Roger Varley

Notes from the July 15

Council Meeting

*Don't count your chickens yet:* Chief By-law Officer Kristina Bergeron submitted a report to council suggesting that township residents should be surveyed to obtain their views on chickens in residential areas. Currently, Uxbridge allows chickens to be kept only on farms or other rural properties.

Bergeron said public input is important on "a proposal of this magnitude."

Her report said no other municipalities in Durham Region allow chickens in residential areas, but noted they are allowed in several Ontario com-

munities, including Toronto and Newmarket.

The last time council addressed the subject was in June 2014, when it decided to maintain the restriction.

*Get pumped up:* The Uxbridge Optimists pushed the pump park proposed for the Fields of Uxbridge further ahead Monday with the presentation to council of a cheque for \$50,000. The payment was two-thirds of the \$75,000 the club has committed to the project.

Meanwhile, the pump park committee will hold an open house at the seniors' centre from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday to show the design plans for the new facility. The open house will include the installation of a portable mini pump

track on the baseball field next to Uxpool, with the public encouraged to try it out.



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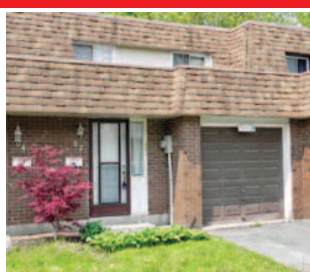


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# Our two cents

## Enjoy the cicadas

We heard the true sound of summer this morning as we arrived at the *Cosmos* office - a lone cicada calling out for a mate amidst the stifling summer heat. Yes, that is a sound that means summer. But, as our cartoon suggests, one would have to live in a bubble that offers select sounds only if one is to keep out all the news of doom and gloom that is about. Fortunately for Uxbridge, aside from questions and concerns over culvert construction delays, there isn't really much going on. There's stuff going *on*, but nothing earth-shatteringly newsworthy. So, we strongly advise you sit back, listen to the cicadas and enjoy the peace and quiet while it lasts. There's an election this fall...

\*\*\*\*\*

We stopped by the Trillium College Uxbridge Craft Beer HitsFest on Saturday afternoon (hereafter referred to as simply "HitsFest"), just in time to hear Sunderland gal Carley Hope crooning out her set (and Taylor B. doing a fabulous rap!). The set-up was great - so many craft beer and cider vendors to try, and tree roots painted fluorescent orange to prevent tripping - organizers thought of everything! Too bad they didn't think of poncho or umbrella sales, though. Not long after Carley's set, just as the Beresfords were taking the stage, the skies opened. And to their credit, the brother and sister duo (Brendan and Shannon Beresford) played bravely through the downpour. They seemed to be tucked up nicely under the Rotary Bandshell's sheltering roof, and their set finished up just as it really started to come down. It was a shame that they, and Carley Hope, had to compete with the rain - people were leaving in droves when the wet really amped up, which meant those of us still watching and listening really had to yell and scream in appreciation, in order to make up for the crowd that went home.


We, too, eventually had to go home and change into dry clothes, but understand that the later afternoon/night time performances were outstanding, and that overall, Uxbridge's first craft beer festival was worth getting a little wet for.

\*\*\*\*\*

We're feeling pretty proud of the Uxbridge Optimist Club - good on them for coming up with \$50,000 to put towards the Uxbridge Pump Park (this year. Another \$25,000 will be given next year.), to be installed at the Fields of Uxbridge, construction starting soon. The Optimists are few in number, at the moment (less than 15 members), but they do mighty work - the Fantasy of Lights is *all* them, and all the money they raise over the year is put back into community projects, namely for youth. The Optimist Club is a club that helps other service clubs and groups, and it doesn't often get a lot of visibility or recognition in town, so it's fabulous that their full partnership with the Rotary Club and the Pump Park people and other groups means that the pump park will be known as the Optimist Pump Park. Rotary Skate Park, Optimist Pump Park - what a way to show people that volunteering with a service organization is still one of the very best ways to ensure that the things a community wants or desires are the things it gets when people give of their time and work together.

The pump park is still looking for partners to help with the building of other aspects of the park, such as pavillions, rest rooms, etc. There's an open-house workshop this Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Seniors' Centre, which will feature design options and a mini-version of the fun about to be built.

## The Uxbridge COSMOS




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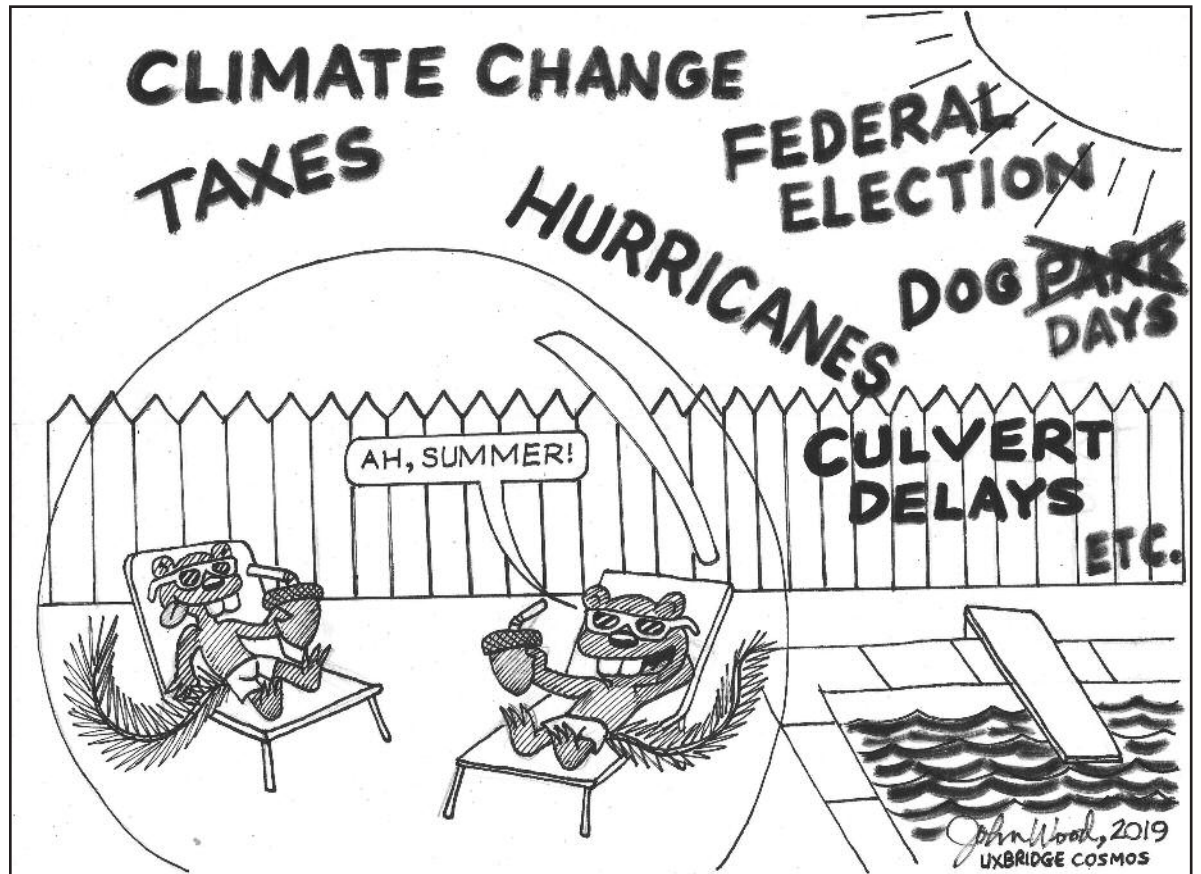
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## Letters to the Editor

Thank you for calling out the cruelty of dropping off guinea pigs (or any animal) - especially a domestic animal - in the woods. ("Our two cents," July 11 edition)

As you point out, there are plenty of options available to responsibly re-home animals. Friends, family, veterinarians may all be able to help find a new home simply by passing on the need, along with your local animal shelter.

There are a number of animal rescues who may take your pet (some charge a small surrender fee, as they are all funded through kindness). The rescues are skilled at assessing a good match for a pet. Their goal is to find a loving and permanent home for pets in need.

It's important to be very cautious when using social media and sites like Kijiji to find pet homes, especially if offering "free to a good home." As we all know by now, the Internet is inhabited by all kinds of people and not all have good intentions. Small animals like guinea pigs, hamsters and rabbits can end up in the hands of snake and reptile owners who will feed them to their "pets."

Dogs and cats can be used as training or warmup for fighting dog rings. Some animals can be taken for research labs - there are some municipalities that sell their dogs and cats to such facilities. And tragically, there are evil and sadistic people in the world.

I'm so glad kind people found these two guinea pigs and made an effort to get them a good home.

**Terri Daniels**  
**Uxbridge**

I just don't understand why there are at least five lawn signs on the vacant lot and on the creek bed on Toronto St. between Elgin Park Dr. and Campbell Dr. I know the wind likely blew them there, but why were they

not picked up?

You're hosting an event in town so you put up those metal-pronged signs. Why not make a notation of where you put up the sign, and after your event follow your note and pick them ALL up? They are recyclable at the Recycling Depot for FREE.

It's not rocket science, people! Sadly, the forgotten signs are all from very reputable organizations/events within town. Members of the town would be shocked if I took pictures of the signs and posted them here. There were even one or two from people running for the last election! I even dragged one home with me a few weeks ago to save it from ending up in the creek bed. They don't decompose well.

This seems like such a simple thing, like throwing your garbage in the nearest garbage can, or saving the non-winning coffee cup until you get to work or home, or stacking your recycling boxes so that your papers don't blow down the street, or gift wrapping your cardboard boxes in twine instead of stuffing them in a blue box that a strong wind will tip over and scatter.

Anyone and everyone is capable of keeping litter off of our roads, sidewalks, trails, creek beds, and ponds. Please do your part and act responsibly to keep our environment clean and our animals safe. I know you can.

**J. Gold**  
**Uxbridge**

I faithfully read our community newspaper, but never have I ever felt so compelled to write in to share my thoughts as I have following the ongoing saga of the rainbow crosswalk. It has taken up the majority of space in the editorial section and in Roger Varley's column, and the more I read, the more frustrated I feel.

Let me start by saying that I have

family members and friends that are part of the LGBTQ+ community. I love them and they love me, so haters, please don't waste time hating.

I know there has been a lot of hurt for people who are part of this community and that saddens me greatly. However, I cannot comprehend how painting a rainbow at a crosswalk is going to help change that. This simply does not make sense. I think our little town is very supportive of every person, regardless of attraction, because they are part of our community. It's not perfect, and every community has the haters, but I think council and the general population have shown a lot of support to the LGBTQ+ community. How is the painting of a rainbow at a crosswalk going to show that more?

Let me be clear - I don't think we need an "Inclusion Pathway" either, but I think the heart behind that was good.

So much time and energy has gone into this request, and I think it has caused an unnecessary rift between those who seem on opposite sides of this issue, but are truly on the same side.

Invest time into people - the impact will be much greater. Instead of spending time arguing in council chambers or writing any more about it, go and spend time with someone who might be going through something hard and just needs a friend, or someone to listen without judgement.

Instead of creating something that is going to need continuous upkeep and has the potential of causing more hurt (as seen in other places that have provided the rainbow canvas for haters to deface), let's be the community that values people because they are *people*, and show other communities that we don't need to paint a

...continued on page 6





## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Of nickels, dimes and dollars

On Monday, council received a letter from the Uxbridge Creative Connections Support Program asking that the group be allowed to use the community hall at the arena and the schoolhouse at the museum grounds free of charge.

The letter pointed out that the not-for-profit UCC provides free programming for adults with intellectual disabilities. Among the programs offered is one dedicated to dancing. UCC says people of all disabilities have dropped in to discover their "inner dancer" and noted some of them had been included in the most recent edition of the 'uxperience' variety show. The schoolhouse, the letter said, would be used to give their clients art lessons. UCC said their programming would be at hours that would not interfere with other potential users of the two sites.

Council's reaction? Mayor Dave Barton opined that if the request was granted, UCC would have to agree to being booted out if a paying customer was found for the locations. Councillor Bruce Garrod offered that it is time for council to come up with a set of rules governing such requests for free space.

Hardly the enthusiastic response one would have expected for a group that serves the needs of our community's most vulnerable. But perhaps Garrod was concerned because a little earlier in the session Sunrise Pregnancy and Family Support Centre had appeared before council to ask that they be allowed use the Barton Trails and the picnic shelter at Herrema Fields "at no charge" for a group walk in September. I'm forced to ask: We charge people to use the trails and picnic shelters?

And what was council actually discussing? In the grand scheme of things, the UCC and Sunrise requests amount to nickels and dimes.

But when it comes to dollars - tens of thousands of dollars - requested by a business to enhance its look, council's attitude is vastly different. When York Durham Heritage Railway asked council to put up \$70,000 for a paved parking lot, council had no trouble saying okay to \$35,000 if YDHR paid the other half. When YDHR said they would repay the money at the end of the year by instituting a five-per-cent levy on all seat sales, council had no trouble with that. Indeed,

they are even thinking about passing a by-law to bring the levy - (something YDHR grandly calls the Train Station Improvement Levy) - into effect. If it takes a municipal by-law to enact the levy, what it means in effect is that Uxbridge has okayed a tax to help a business. Why should the township do that? If YDHR wants to increase its ticket prices by five per cent, let it go ahead: don't involve the township for it.

It all sounds wonderful. The levy will pay for a parking lot, a work building, lighting and any number of other things. And what is the purpose of all these projects? It's to improve the bottom line of a business known as York Durham Heritage Railway.

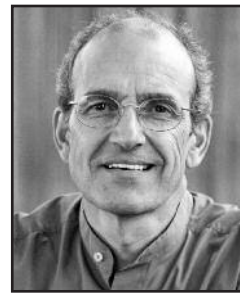
In a report on the subject, treasurer Donna Condon noted a wide range of protocols that YDHR would have to follow when the various improvement projects are undertaken, but that doesn't alter the fact that council is giving financial aid to a business that happens to operate out of municipally owned property.

I asked the mayor whether council would agree to help another business in town in a similar fashion if said business wanted to pave a parking lot to improve its customers' experience. His argument was that YDHR is on publicly owned land. Period.

YDHR already operates with township help. For example, what other business in town would receive permission to close off municipal streets for two weeks in a row as YDHR does when Thomas comes to town? Condon said YDHR has also asked that it no longer be required to pay rent on the station, nor the utilities, nor provide the general upkeep of the property.

YDHR seems to have changed a lot since the days it first started offering rides to the public. From an amiable group of guys and gals who were pursuing their hobby and taking the public for pleasant leisurely train rides, it has morphed into a full-blown business searching for bigger and better events to bring in more customers and ultimately, increase its bottom line. Even as a non-business man, I can see how that may drive the operation - quite often it seems to be the only thing that drives business. But it seems to me that if a business can't succeed without council's help, maybe it's time to close up shop.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### A walk with the environment

It seemed an unspoken rule by the time I got there. Every step was deliberate, unobtrusive and (I hoped) non-destructive in this place of nature. I made my way through sage and other prairie grasses, closer to a mound where a couple of prairie dogs were playing. I didn't want to scare them down their hole; I just wanted to get close enough to take a clear photograph. Then, I looked down and suddenly there it was.

A prairie dog emerged from a hole in the ground right at my feet. And he, or she, chirped at me, as much surprised to see me lording overtop, as I was to see an animal nearly under foot.

I aimed and fired my camera and got the picture.

Speaking of chirping, everybody's been chirping about the environment lately - whether the politicians fighting over pipelines, carbon tax or the seemingly relentless march of climate change. And I'm as concerned as anyone about keeping air, water and land pristine for our children and grandkids. But sometimes the debates and Armageddon feel so out of my hands.

This week, I travelled into a Canadian environmental gem where the rules of saving nature are obvious and the means of preserving it very much in human hands. Grasslands National Park, created in 1981, occupies about a thousand square kilometres of hills and valleys, in the Frenchman River Valley, in the far southwest corner of Saskatchewan; in fact, if I'd driven about 10 minutes south of the park, I'd have crossed the international border and entered the state of Montana.

At the Grasslands visitors' centre, the Parks Canada official said: "If you take the self-guided eco-tour, the rule is, 'Watch your step!'" I cocked my head as if to say, "For what?"

She reminded me this was "Grasslands Park," and that "70 per cent of the park's area is covered in indigenous and rare grasses." She showed me pictures of wheatgrass, needle-and-thread grass, June grass, blue grama grass, cone-flower, gaillardia, blazing star, and prairie clover, and said, "So, stick to the pathways." She also told us to drive slowly through areas populated by black-tailed prairie dogs, since the worldwide population of the species sits at about three per cent of its original size.

"Let's not squish any of them unnecessarily on the park roads," she said. My experience with the gopher at my feet made that clear.

But it's not as if the only thing to dodge in Grasslands National Park are prairie dogs and

blades of prairie grass. No. We were also warned about the scores of bison that roam the park. "If you see them," the park official said, "don't consider them tame and get out of your car to get nifty close-up pictures of them. It's calving season and the cows are particularly protective of their young," she said.

We were also informed about the important First Nations content of the park. Over centuries of pre-history, indigenous members of the Gros Ventre, Assiniboine, Cree, Blackfoot and Sioux had hunted, fought and settled on these lands.

I remembered research I'd done on one First Nations group in particular that had traversed this land - members of Sitting Bull's Lakota Sioux, who'd fought the U.S. Cavalry at the Little Big Horn in June 1876 - and then sought sanctuary here after the battle - crossing what the natives called "the Medicine Line" (the international border). However, they were persuaded by newly arrived North West Mounted Police Insp. James Walsh to return to the U.S. peaceably. They did, and not a drop of blood was spilled on the hills and valleys of what is now Grasslands Park.

But there was also some mystery to this place, mystery associated with latecomers (after the First Nations) who ranched here. Again, walking carefully through grass near the Frenchman River, I learned about the legend of Will James, who'd homesteaded and raised livestock here about 1911. Apparently, James was not his real name; he'd left Montreal as 15-year-old Ernest Dufault, had worked on the fabled 76 Ranch in the area, and went on to become famous in Hollywood as a cowboy writer and illustrator - not as Dufault, but as James. So, I walked carefully around the former dug-out barn and home where James had lived, as not to disturb any ghosts.

Oh yes, and there was one other life form the Grasslands Park officials warned us about. "There are rattlesnakes in the park," she said. And I waited for the other shoe to drop. "They're not interested in you unless you disturb them. So, give them the right of way."

I kept that top of mind too, as I dodged rare grass specimens, prairie dogs, bison and snakes this week at Grasslands. Maybe coping with the global environmental crisis is not dissimilar. Walk carefully among fragile sage and angry rattlers and everything will be just fine.

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# COMING UP

## THIS WEEKEND

### Fri., July 19: Artists on the Hill.

Uxbridge Historical Centre, 1 - 3 p.m. A drop-in studio session for artists practicing in all media. Gather on Quaker Hill for a chance to chat, share tips and tricks, work on projects, and refresh your creativity. Artists are also invited to set up inside in an air-conditioned studio space, or outside on the museum grounds. Both new and experienced artists welcome. Tables, chairs, coffee, tea provided. Artists to bring own supplies. Admission by donation. For more information, contact 905-852-5854 or email museum@uxbridge.ca

**Sat., July 20: Yoga in the Park for Charity.** 10:30 - 11:30 am. Elgin Park, Main St. entrance. \$10 each/ \$5

for kids. Hosted by NRG4Life instructors Mo and Mary. All ages & skill levels welcome. Bring your own mat and water bottle (extra mats are 1st come 1st serve). Proceeds benefit Jennifer Ashleigh Children's Charity.

**Sat., July 20: Pump Park Design Workshop.** Uxbridge Seniors' Centre, 1 to 4 p.m. Display boards about the design with an opportunity to offer comments, and the contractor is bringing a portable pump park to set up in the ball diamond beside the seniors' centre. Everyone welcome to attend.

**Sun., July 21: The Table,** 9:30 a.m. A casual, comfortable new communion service with engaging music. Open to everyone. Come as you are!! St Paul's Anglican Church. Info: 905-852-7016, www.stpauls-uxbridge.ca

## LETTERS, from page 4

rainbow or anything else to be inclusive.

*Name withheld upon request*

Why doesn't the mayor paint a crosswalk with the slogan "Unborn Lives Matter"? That group easily constitutes Canada's greatest tragedy, with five million victims and counting. Just because their screams are silent doesn't mean they don't suffer.

*Blaise Thompson  
Uxbridge*

I somehow agree with our Uxbridge mayor and the two councillors about a rainbow crosswalk or bridge. What

is needed is the right education at home mostly, and in schools. A person of right mind would never be offended by a gay man or a lesbian woman since nature simply made them that way. None of us had a say before we were born. We simply have to accept who and what we are. What we need is to have a wide open mind and show more respect and much more understanding for each other. I can't see how a rainbow painted on a crosswalk will achieve that? To many people it may look good, but that's all. It doesn't do a thing for understanding the difference of others; that has to come from within each individual.

I've seen fathers and mothers with little children on their hands swear-

**Sun., July 21: Foster Memorial Cemetery Annual Decoration Service.** 2:30 p.m., Thomas Foster Memorial. Speaker: Pastor Christopher Rosevear, Music: Don & Kathleen Kennedy. Everyone welcome.

**Sun., July 21: Glen Major Church 1873 Summer Sunday Sunset Services at 7!** Rev. John McNeill (from Toronto) & music. Everyone welcome! 7 p.m.

## UPCOMING

**Fri., Sept. 6: Blood Donor Clinic.** Uxbridge Seniors' Centre, 1:30 - 7:30 p.m. Refreshments provided by the Uxbridge Rotary Club.

**COMING UP** is a free community bulletin board. If you have a community event for a charity or non-profit organization that you'd like us to mention (AS SPACE PERMITS), email lvann@thecosmos.ca or call 905-852-1900.

ing at others about a parking spot, etc. How will those kids act in later life? I haven't given up hope though. We've come a long way, and humanity has to come to its senses sometime, not only respecting other human beings but also respecting all living things in nature. No matter if it's a snake, a spider, a mouse or wasps, they all have a right to be here.

By the way, the LGBT rainbow flag is very similar to the official flag of the Incas in Peru. Has been for hundreds of years, nothing to do with LGBT.

*Heinz Nitschke  
Uxbridge*

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## The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

### Masters of flight

What is the world's tiniest warm-blooded animal? How much does it weigh? How much can it eat in one day? What is the longest non-stop journey it takes?

If you answered "hummingbirds" to the first question you'd be right. Ruby-throated hummingbirds are the only species of these tiny birds to live in Ontario, but there are over a dozen different "hummers" in the southwestern USA and Mexico!

They weigh less than a nickel (3.95 g), are about 9 cm long (the length of my longest finger), with a wingspan of 11 cm (two could fit in my outstretched hand). Those tiny wings beat 75 times a second, making the humming sound that gives the birds their name. They can hover in one place, fly backwards or upside down briefly, and reach speeds over 40 kilometers per hour!

Their hearts beat over four times per second, about 250 beats per minute. They breathe at the same rate. Their metabolism is 100 times faster than an elephant's. Hummingbirds are tiny creatures but they have BIG appetites! They'll eat from one and a half to three times their body weight every day, so must visit hundreds of flowers to drink enough nectar. They also drink sap from sapsucker holes and eat small insects.

To prepare for migration they'll double their body weight. "Our" birds will migrate to Central America, anywhere from Panama to Mexico. They'll head first to Florida, which takes about five days. Then they go non-stop across the Gulf of Mexico, flying 800 km over the open ocean in 18 to 24 hours! It takes them a few more days after that marathon to reach their wintering

grounds.

They bulk up again in the spring for the return journey, arriving when their preferred flowers are in bloom. They are especially attracted to the colour red.

The female makes her nest on a small branch. It's about the size of a walnut shell, and is made of spider web and leafy material including lichen. She lays two white eggs, each about the size of a coffee bean. Newly hatched hummers are fed small insects and spiders: nectar is added once they have grown. They can fly at 21 days, and may live for six or seven years.

The length of daylight triggers them to migrate, so keeping feeders out will not make them stay here longer. They'll need to fatten up for their long migration. Keep your feeders up, clean and filled with ¼ sugar to 1 cup water, for at least two weeks after the local birds depart to help stragglers from the north on their journey. Enjoy their brilliant iridescent plumage for a few more days, until they return next spring.



Female ruby-throated hummingbird at feeder.

*Photo by Nancy Melcher*

Nancy Melcher is The Nature Nut. Send details of your sightings or questions about the natural world to: [general@melcher.cx](mailto:general@melcher.cx)

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## CLASSIC CAR CRUISE-IN



Last Thursday was Ladies Night, and 70 cars came out!

The Car of the Week, driven by a lady, was a 1969 Z28 Camaro, driven by Tonia Feguson from Uxbridge.

The 50/50 was \$135, and since the rain kept a lot of the cars away because of the rain, it will be Ladies Night again on July 25. Tonight (Thurs., July 18) features 'Elvis' at the car show!

See you if it isn't raining.

The Cruise-in is every Thursday night from 5 p.m. till dusk at Elgin Park.



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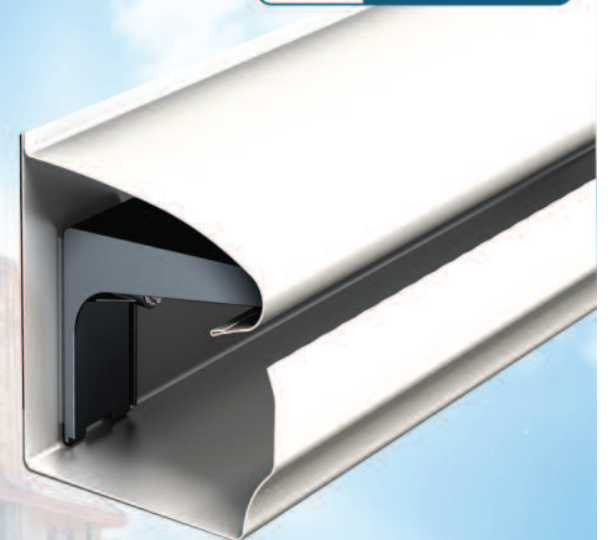
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