

# The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 11

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, March 19, 2020



**KICKING UP WAVES** - Members of the Uxbridge Swim Club had their last swim session Saturday morning, before Uxpool was closed down for three weeks due to the COVID-19 situation. Three members of the team were to represent USC at the 2020 Swimming Canada Olympic & Paralympic Trials in Scarborough at the end of this month; those trials have been postponed. For more on USC's recent activity, see page 6.

*Photo submitted by Ann Santaguida*

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## Inside Your Cosmos

What's open, what's closed .....page 2

Bridging the gap .....page 4

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## Township hunkers down amid new COVID-19 directives

by Roger Varley

*The Cosmos has made every effort to ensure that, as of press time on Tuesday night, all the information contained in this article was current and accurate. Due to the rapidly changing discourse on COVID-19, some information contained here may have changed since going to print. Any changes will be updated on thecosmos.ca*

At a special emergency meeting of council last Friday, Mayor Dave Barton announced that most of the township's public facilities will be closed for at least three weeks.

The action was taken following a report by clerk Debbie Leroux recommending that the Uxpool, the Arena, the Music Hall, the seniors' centre and all community halls be closed for three weeks, beginning last Sunday (March 15), to help slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). As well, public access to the

Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter will be restricted for an indefinite period. The report also recommended that the library board and the youth centre board contemplate closing those facilities also. At the time, Barton stressed that, as of Friday afternoon, only two cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in Durham, both of them in Ajax.

He also noted that "things are changing by the minute and by the hour," which was borne out over the weekend as both the library and the youth centre announced they would be closing. Both the Uxbridge Library and the Zephyr Library are closed until further notice; the drop boxes at both locations are still available for returns. The youth centre is closed at least until April 3.

On the animal shelter, Leroux explained that restricting public access was aimed at reducing the number of people who visit to donate supplies. She said adoptions will continue. How-

ever, if the shelter approaches maximum capacity, arrangements would have to be made with other shelters to prevent overcrowding.

Council also accepted the recommendations in Leroux's second report concerning the delegation of powers at the township offices during the COVID-19. Among the recommendations was an amendment to a township bylaw which would provide the mayor and Chief Administrative Office Kristi Honey with enhanced delegated authority during emergencies. They would be able to temporarily change or suspend township bylaws or policies and cancel or reschedule council, committee and board meetings.

Barton said he had no desire to use the authority given him but said it was necessary in order to make quick decisions in an emergency. He also said he didn't want to be "a council of one" should a quorum not be possible due to

*...continued on page 3*

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# Uxbridge at a Glance

## The Township of Uxbridge

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## Council & Committee Meetings

### Meeting Schedule for the Month of March, 2020

Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 p.m.  
**COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING CANCELLED**

Monday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.  
**COUNCIL MEETING**

### Proclamations for the Month of March

- Purple Day to Promote Epilepsy - March 26, 2020
- Pi Day of Giving to Ontario Tech University - March 14
- March is Epilepsy Awareness Month

## Tender U20-02

### APPLICATION OF DRIVEWAY PAVING AND PATHWAYS

**UXBRIDGE HISTORICAL CENTRE, 7239 CONCESSION ROAD 6, UXBRIDGE ON**

#### MANDATORY SITE MEETING:

A site meeting will be held at 10am on March 11th, 2020 at 7239 Concession Rd. 6 Uxbridge ON. Acceptance of bids will be dependent on proponent's attendance at this meeting.

Sealed Quotes will be received until **2:00 p.m. on March 25, 2020** by:

Debbie Leroux, Clerk  
Township of Uxbridge, 51 Toronto Street S., P.O. Box 190, Uxbridge, Ontario, L9P 1T1  
Lowest or any bid not necessarily accepted.  
This Bid Document is posted on the Township of Uxbridge's website at

[http://www.uxbridge.ca/bids\\_and\\_tenders](http://www.uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders)  
**under Current Bid Opportunities**



- All Advisory Committees are suspended until further notice.
- All March Break programs at the Library, Uxpool and Arena are cancelled.
- The Arena is closed until April 6. Call 905-852-3081 for more information.
- Uxpool is closed until April 6. Call 905-852-7831 for more information.
- All Community Halls are closed and bookings cancelled. Call 905-852-6761 for more information.
- The Music Hall is closed until April 6.
- Seniors Programming is cancelled at the Seniors Centre, most permits cancelled.
- Communi-Teas are postponed until further notice.
- The Library is closed until further notice.
- Town Hall is staffed Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.. Staff are pleased to process telephone or e-mail requests. Please phone 905-852-9181 for an appointment if you require face-to-face service.
- Parks and playgrounds are open. Please "play and ride responsibly" and maintain a distance of 1 meter to reduce the spread of illness.

## Board & Committee Appointments

### Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge invites applications from residents who wish to be considered for the Accessibility Advisory Committee. The Committee provides advice to Council on the elimination of barriers faced by people with disabilities and ensures the Township's compliance with provincial accessibility standards.

The Committee meets Mondays from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm, bi-monthly. Any person interested in offering their services, and would accept an appointment, are invited to submit a Committee Member Application Form along with a resume and letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience to the undersigned by **March 20, 2020**.

Committee Member Application Forms and the Committee's Terms of Reference is available on the Township's Website [www.uxbridge.ca](http://www.uxbridge.ca). Please note

that this is a volunteer position. The majority of members of the Committee will be persons with disabilities, as defined by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Any questions regarding the Accessibility Advisory Committee or these appointments may be directed to the Deputy Clerk.

Josh Machesney  
Deputy Clerk/ Accessibility Coordinator  
P.O. Box 190  
51 Toronto Street South  
Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1  
Telephone: 905-852-9181  
Fax: 905-852-9674  
email: [jmachesney@uxbridge.ca](mailto:jmachesney@uxbridge.ca)

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge  
51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190  
Uxbridge L9P 1T1  
905-852-9181 [info@uxbridge.ca](mailto:info@uxbridge.ca)

## The Township of Uxbridge Fire Department - Volunteer (Part-Time) Firefighters

Candidates must be 18 years of age or older. An Information Session will be held at 7:00 pm March 11, 2020 at 301 Brock Street West (Uxbridge Fire Hall). Applications may be picked up from and returned to The Township of Uxbridge Municipal Offices, or to the Uxbridge Fire Hall. Deadline for applications is **4:30 pm, March 31, 2020**.

Complete details and requirements for these positions are available at

[uxbridge.ca/employment\\_opportunities](http://uxbridge.ca/employment_opportunities)

*The Township of Uxbridge is an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The Township of Uxbridge will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process to applicants with disabilities and/or needs related to the OHRC. Personal information provided is collected under the authority of The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*

## Township Municipal Offices Open to the Public but with Restricted Access

The Township of Uxbridge is open, but are limiting access by the public to our facility. We strongly prefer to assist you over the phone or by email.

You may reach us by email at [info@uxbridge.ca](mailto:info@uxbridge.ca). Our staff are working and will respond to your inquiries. If this situation is urgent or an in-person visit is required please call ahead (905-852-9181) to be screened and to learn how we can best serve you.

Our offices are open Monday to Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm.

Please do not come into the Town Hall offices if you meet any of the following criteria:

- If you are feeling unwell.
- If someone you have had close contact with is feeling unwell.
- If you have travelled within the last 14 days or have had close contact with a person who has travelled within the past 14 days.
- Please visit [www.uxbridge.ca](http://www.uxbridge.ca) for a current list of closures and updates.

Continue to check our website at [www.uxbridge.ca](http://www.uxbridge.ca) for updates as to the status of the Township office hours.

## Township of Uxbridge Summer Employment Opportunities

Full details on employment opportunities for students and adults looking for summer employment within the Township of Uxbridge can be found at [uxbridge.ca/employment\\_opportunities](http://uxbridge.ca/employment_opportunities)

Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario  
PROJECT ASSISTANT,  
LEASKDALE MANSE  
**Closing Date: March 20, 2020**

Uxbridge Public Library  
CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR  
**Closing Date: March 27, 2020**

Uxpool – LIFEGUARDS &  
INSTRUCTORS (FULL & PART-TIME)  
SUMMER SESSION  
**Closing Date: March 31, 2020 at 9:30 pm**

Uxbridge Historical Society  
COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATE  
**Closing Date: April 13, 2020**

Uxbridge Historical Society  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT &  
PROGRAMMING ASSOCIATE  
**Closing Date: April 13, 2020**

Aquatics & Recreation  
ASSISTANT CAMP COUNSELLORS  
(15+ YRS.)  
**Closing Date: April 14, 2020**

Aquatics & Recreation  
CAMP COUNSELLORS  
(16+ YRS.)  
**Closing Date: April 14, 2020**

Uxbridge Historical Society  
EXHIBITIONS & BUILDINGS  
ASSISTANT  
**Closing Date: May 15, 2020**

Uxbridge Historical Society  
MUSEUM SERVICES  
ASSOCIATES (2)  
**Closing Date: May 15, 2020**

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**Feeling symptoms?**  
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**1-800-841-2729**



Township of Uxbridge documents are available in alternate formats upon request.  
Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at [uxbridge.ca/accessibility](http://uxbridge.ca/accessibility)

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

## COVID-19: what's affected in Uxbridge? From page 1

councillors being in quarantine.

"I want them to be able to have a voice," he said.

When Regional Councillor Gord Highet asked who would declare a COVID-19 emergency, Honey replied: "I don't think it needs to be declared."

When asked how the public would be notified of changes to bylaws or policies, Leroux said information would be circulated much as township notices are handled already, via social media, the local media and township web sites.

Various department heads were asked what steps they were taking in face of the pandemic: Leroux said the township's day-to-day operations will continue, but encouraged residents to do as much business as possible with the township by telephone. Facilities manager Bob Ferguson noted that Hockey Canada has suspended all hockey programs and so closing the arena would make sense. Over the weekend, Pickering-Uxbridge MP Jennifer O'Connell announced her free public skate at the arena was cancelled. The arena has already started taking out the ice pads. Recreation manager Amanda Ferraro said stopping the spread of the coronavirus was more important than keeping programs running. However, in answer to Councillor Todd Snooks, she said the pump park and other parks will remain open.

"Keeping our open spaces available makes common sense," she said.

Honey told the council meeting that the steps taken are the best way to protect township staff and residents. Barton said all councillors and staff had been consulted on the provisions and "every voice was heard."

On Tuesday, staff at the township offices had been greatly reduced. Communications manager Colleen Baskin said many staffers were working from home and where staff has been cross-trained to do another per-

son's job, the people involved in the cross-training are never in the building at the same time. She said each department has a representative on site to service residents.

Baskin said next Monday's scheduled council meeting is still planned to go ahead, but noted that council will encourage deputations to be made virtually and deputations that are not of a critical or urgent nature will be postponed.

Also on Tuesday, Premier Doug Ford announced a state of emergency in the province and ordered all restaurants, bars, places of entertainment and public facilities to be closed. But several Uxbridge venues had already taken steps over the weekend. The Roxy Theatres have closed until further notice, and the experience Butter Tart Festival planned for last Saturday was cancelled.

OnStage Uxbridge has had to cancel all nine performances of *The Mikado*, which was to open next Thursday at the Uxbridge Music Hall. Those who purchased tickets will be presented with options at a later date. Visit on-stageuxbridge.com for more information.

Premier Ford also announced a prohibition on gatherings of more than 50 people, including in places of worship.

Around the region, closures have affected most early child care programs, and restrictions have been put in place on visitors to long-term health care facilities. Most, if not all, schools already are closed for at least three weeks.



Almost all of the township's facilities are barren of activity, like the Uxbridge Arena, above. Fears over the spread of COVID-19 have forced the closure of schools, businesses, restaurants and many stores.

Photo by John Cavers

A full list of closures is available online at [durham.ca/closures](http://durham.ca/closures). Other COVID-19 information can be found at [durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus](http://durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus).

Panic buying occurred in Uxbridge

on the weekend, as the vegetable produce section at Zehrs was left almost empty and several shelves in the rest of the store were virtually naked.

For the general public, announcements from government sources such as health departments and the Durham Regional Police Service came thick and fast during the weekend, and by Monday several local restaurants had already restricted their service to take-out. With Tuesday's announcement by the premier, all restaurants were compelled to comply. On Tuesday, the downtown retail section of Uxbridge was almost deserted, with a plethora of on-street parking spaces sitting empty.

Community Care Uxbridge said they have seen an increase in the number of people wanting frozen Meals on Wheels deliveries, which occur every two weeks, but not much of an uptick in the daily hot Meals on Wheels service. Hillary Griffin said Community Care's transportation service, which takes seniors to medical appointments and to shop for groceries, has been impacted negatively by the loss of a lot of volunteer drivers.

"The drivers are mostly retirees and seniors," she said.

For the latest on COVID-19 in Uxbridge, go to the Cosmos' Facebook page, listen to 105.5HitsFM, or visit their Facebook page.



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[uxbridgeportperrybhl@gmail.com](mailto:uxbridgeportperrybhl@gmail.com)  
Uxbridge Port Perry Minor Ball Hockey

# Our two cents

## A time to dream new images

Where to begin? We feel that ‘Our two cents’ this week should be grand and posturing, and relay to the reading masses all the wisdom and knowledge that can be imparted at a time like this. “Keep calm and carry on.” “This too shall pass.” Any number of saccharine quotes and sweeping proverbs come to mind that could easily lead into a cry to rally the troops, as it were, inspiring hope and stoicism in all who listen. But let’s face it - most of us have already listened to/watched mainstream news until our ears are bleeding. We’ve seen the Facebook posts featuring store shelves bare of goods. We’ve also seen the posts reprimanding those who raped those very shelves. We’re nothing if not well-informed of COVID-19 and the impact it’s having on our daily lives.

Rather than focus on what’s going on now, however, we’re drawn to thinking about what might change when all this blows over. Will we as a society have learned anything from this ever-evolving process?

Will more people decide that they actually *are* capable of homeschooling their children? If they did, it could lead to less children in the public school system, which would render some of the issues that are currently facing the teachers around the province (ah, remember the halcyon days when the *strikes* were the big news?) moot points. Why worry about class size when there just aren’t as many students?

Will more people decide to work from home? Or one step more, will more companies decide that they can reduce overhead costs by having more people work from home? There could be advantages to this - less overhead = more for salaries (this is our Utopia, work with us, here). Less vehicles on the road - a definite plus, because climate change *is* still a concern. The list is endless!

Will people realize that going out, working full tilt, and living full tilt, really *isn’t* the be-all and end-all. Will they enjoy the quiet family time that this calamity is perhaps affording? Will they learn something about themselves, or about someone else, that is life-changing?

We could create scenes and situations all day long, asking “will...?” almost endlessly. And in the few examples we’ve cited here, we are not trying to be glib or make light of other very real situations in the news that have been shunted to the back burner for the time being. It’s all very real, and there could be very dire consequences for many, many people. But right now, nothing is carved in stone. And we firmly believe that, along with injecting a healthy dose of humour into the mix every day (there are any number of memes that can help with that), a little positivity and hope can go a long way. Speaking of memes, here’s one we’ve seen that we like best of all.

*“And the people stayed home... And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.*

*And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.” - Author unknown*

Stay well and look after one another. We’ll get through this.

The Uxbridge

COSMOS

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## Letters to the Editor

Maybe it is time we and our mayor and council came to our senses! HOW MUCH MORE IS THIS STUPID TUNNEL GOING TO COST?

I am concerned that the engineers missed something...what if the whole of downtown is sitting on a shifting bed of quicksand?

Has anyone noticed that sidewalks (some brand new) are cracking and shifting? Even some buildings have developed huge cracks, whole facings have fallen off, others report sunken floors and other evidence of underground shifting and movement.

How much more will move as the construction moves across the street? How much will the cost increase? If further damages are encountered, who will pay?

Maybe we should change the plan and leave the stream open and put a bridge over it. I would suggest a bridge with a 20 tonne limit. No more triple axle trucks in the downtown would be the welcome outcome and no more shifting sands under the town because of the creation of a tunnel.

Uxbridge could have a downtown worth visiting.

**Doug Moffatt**  
**Uxbridge**

**Re: ‘Am I Wrong?’, March 12 edition**

Sometimes opportunity knocks, and an opportunity has pounded loudly in our consciousness, to say “Roger,

you are RIGHT!”

To the Uxbridge resident who sent a personal email to Roger, rather than write to him as a journalist, we offer this to you: please know that *we* are settlers. Some of us have learned about the Original Peoples of what is now Canada through the KIROS Blanket Exercise. The exercise presents to participants a factual account, in a workshop-style format, of many of Canada’s federal policies that were a part of their agenda of genocide, including but not limited to residential schools. You should know there were other policies that forcibly moved the Original Peoples to reserves with inadequate water or game to hunt, or the ability to contribute to the economy. Thousand of men, women, and children starved to death. Many reserves today still do not have running water.

Canada’s relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples is well documented. The final report from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will provide you with thousands of pages of facts about what the Original Peoples have endured. Searching archives and websites, it is very easy to find confirmation that over 2,800 children died in residential schools and another 1,800-plus Indigenous women and children have died or gone missing since 1980.

**Barbara Blower, Coordinator, & Kaitlyn Watson, Indigenous/Settler Relations**  
**Maamawi Collective**

*Nya:wen, Chi Miigwetch* for standing up and being an ally! Warmed my heart!

There is still much for society to learn about the Original People of this Land. One further point, the government pays First People from the treaty "held in trust" money. Money does not come out of the taxes or any money the government takes from you.

Do you think Original People would live in such poverty and have lost so much hope if they had the money to make things better? I don't this so! If you think they misuse the money...look at your own governments before pointing fingers.


In most cases, there is not enough money to properly run a community and this is not a North problem. Reserves in our backyard do not have clean drinking water. Sit with that for a bit, eh.

Roger, and everyone else, please continue to stand up for all who are marginalized, but especially the People whose Land this is. There is no where to go home to. This is it and NO, you are not wrong on this one!


**Mim H.**  
**Uxbridge**

I love Roger, I love dialogue. Just wanted to suggest that we stop saying “our” natives ... Please, they really don’t like it.


**Frank Mroz**  
**Uxbridge**



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## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Get a grip (but not the grippe)

Many of you are worried, concerned, afraid - and yes, even panicking - about the coronavirus pandemic. That is understandable, given the avalanche of news bulletins, official updates, emergency proclamations and advisories being sent out almost hourly by politicians, health officials and government agencies, an avalanche that even the major media outlets are hard-pressed to sift through.

But, for me, the main result of all this COVID-19 information is, quite frankly, confusion. As a life-long newsman, I have been watching as many news reports and reading as many bulletins as possible, but it would be a Herculean labour to see, let alone digest, it all. And the more I see and read, the more confused I become.

For example, almost since Day One, officials of all sorts have been telling the populace not to panic. But the subsequent advice given out and actions taken by various governments to contain the COVID-19 contamination seem to be doing a lot to cause panic. The wholesale closure of schools and universities, sporting events, places of entertainment, restaurants and bars and public facilities only sends out one message: "Danger, danger, danger." No wonder panicky shoppers descended on Zehrs on the weekend and left little in the way of produce - or toilet paper. Observing the complete absence of things like potatoes, Brussels sprouts and such - and, of course, toilet paper - it became apparent to me that many of our neighbours quickly adopted the attitude of "screw everyone else, I'm looking out for myself." So much for the mantra that we're all in this together.

Stay at home, they tell us, unless you have to go to work. Don't travel, they tell us, unless you have to. And how do they reinforce that particular message? By having buses and subways cleaned and disinfected more often and more thoroughly for the safety of passengers. Don't stand closer to anyone than six feet, they tell us, and don't shake hands or hug or have any physical contact with others. But what if I do? Am I subject to penalties?

Various governments around the world are doing some confusing things. Premier Doug Ford says gatherings of more than 50 people are banned. Who came up with that magic

number? Vancouver ordered all bars in the downtown to close. So, presumably, bars not in the downtown can remain open. That's either discriminatory or stupid. In France, the government actually banned all family gatherings or social gatherings. Just how would they enforce such an edict?

On YouTube recently, there was a video of a health official in the U.S. telling a news conference that people should not touch their faces, especially their eyes, nose or mouth. She then licked her finger to turn the page on her notes.

In the San Francisco area, the eight million or so residents have been told they must stay in their homes until April 7, unless they have to go out for food at supermarkets, pick up prescriptions at the pharmacy, buy gas, go to the bank and check up on relatives. And people can still go for a walk with their dog or even another person as long as they keep six feet between them. In other words, a directive with absolutely no meaning and no way of enforcing it.

Just about every government edict restricting movement and gatherings comes with a long list of exemptions. So what is the point?

The most basic precautionary actions, we are told, are to wash one's hands frequently and cover one's mouth when coughing. I don't know about you, but I learned about that in Kindergarten.

We are being told that the deserted streets downtown are part of what is being called "the new normal." But if we accept all these restrictions as normal, new or otherwise, it seems to me we are headed on a dangerous course for society. At what point will we stop answering our front doors or talking with our neighbours? At what point do we start shaming people merely because they coughed? At what point does the "screw everyone else" attitude begin to make the vulnerable even more vulnerable? And while you are cooped in your home with your family, at what point do you tell your children they are not allowed to play with their friends?

It seems to me that all this caution needs to be mixed with a good dose of common sense before we watch society turn into the real-life version of zombie apocalypse.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Bridging social distance

We hadn't seen each other or talked for a while. I had gone outside Sunday afternoon, partly to get some air, but also to escape the assault of bad news about the coronavirus pandemic. But suddenly this friend dropped by for a visit in my backyard. The conversation was really welcome, but of course it was mostly about things closing, Canadians trying to get home or when this all might end. Eventually I asked how he and his family were doing.

"OK, mostly," he said, and he then gingerly explained a member of his family had been diagnosed with cancer and was undergoing treatment.

"I'm sorry," I said. But what I meant was, "Sorry that I let all this global chaos get in the way of caring about you and your family first." Clearly, I had expressed more worry about things over which I have no control, instead of caring about friends and neighbours whom I might actually be able to help. My myopia was a classic case of not seeing the forest for the trees.

So might that be said for a lot of us.

All week long, we've watched and listened on mainstream media and read in newspapers and online about the seemingly relentless march of the COVID-19 virus cases across Asia, Europe and North America - China counting thousands dead, Italian cities transformed to virtual ghost towns, stock markets spiralling to historic lows - all while we've watched medical scientists pleading with the public and politicians to pay attention to this unheard-of contagion, anti-virus hygiene, insufficient testing capability and the latest addition to our medical vocabulary: "social distancing."

"Stay two metres apart from others in public," the scientists told us weeks ago. "Wash your hands frequently. Avoid handshakes, hugging and kissing."

And equally painfully, we've watched politicians - presidents, prime ministers and premiers - weeks after they should have, finally line up at microphones in Washington, Ottawa and Toronto to announce states of emergency, money for equipment upgrades and funding for workers and businesses hit hard by the closing of bars, lounges, restaurants, schools (public and private), libraries, places of worship, cinemas, concert venues and other arts facilities ... wherever people might potentially spread the virus.

Lost in much of the posturing and scrambling where big decisions are made, I think, was the impact on local communities. The other night, I walked around downtown. The electric sign

in front of the church at the corner, where scripture usually invited parishioners in, simply said "services cancelled." The library, where many might find books and DVDs to fill self-isolation time at home, had only a small window for drop-off as a service. The Roxy had posted a "temporarily" closed sign. And while I spotted a few clusters of folks in downtown restaurants, most eateries were dark and empty. I wondered whether any part of the belated grand plans of relief announced from the Prime Minister's residence or from Queen's Park will ever trickle down to our main street and its shuttered businesses and shutout staff.

What strikes me is that we saw this coming. Many of us went through the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) epidemic 17 years ago. This virulent viral respiratory outbreak (between November 2002 and July 2004) infected more than 8,000 people worldwide and killed 774 - 43 in Canada. And, despite equally uninspired political leadership then, public health scientists and medical staff managed to prevent even more catastrophic results.

My father, hospitalized in Scarborough Grace Hospital where the Canadian outbreak began, survived - not because of any bold steps from the provincial health minister - but thanks to public service workers such as Dr. Sheela Basrur. While most ran off panicking in all directions (including then Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman, who said to CNN, "Who is the WHO? They don't know what they're talking about,") Dr. Basrur, as Toronto's first medical officer of health, appeared in the media repeatedly guiding the GTA through closures of public places, recommended public hygienic actions and gave Grace Hospital staff the means to contain the virus. My father was on the very floor of the outbreak and did not catch the virus! It's sad that Dr. Basrur, who died of cancer in 2008, could not give us solace today.

I'm sure that - weeks ago - she'd have recommended that Ontarians stay calm, pay attention to public health directives about social distancing and avoid larger gatherings. Certainly, the gentle doctor would have told us to remain close to family and to look out for those vulnerable to respiratory illness. Most important, I think she'd have told us to care for family members and to be the faithful friend and neighbour who stops, listens and offers help where possible - fighting the virus or just a sense of hopelessness, maybe the most debilitating side effect of all.

**For more Barris Beat columns, go to [www.tedbarris.com](http://www.tedbarris.com)**



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## COMING UP

**Many events previously listed in "Coming Up" are now cancelled or postponed due to the current situation with COVID-19. Those listed here have been confirmed as going ahead.**

### THIS WEEKEND

**Sat., March 21: Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike**, 7 a.m. Al Shaw. 1 hr., 4 km moderate pace hike. No dogs please. Meet at roadside parking on the west side of Conc. 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. Contact: Russ Burton 905-830-2862.

### NEXT WEEK

**Sat., March 28: Oak Ridges Trail Association Hike**, 7 a.m. Al Shaw. 1

hr., 5+ km moderate pace hike. You might need icers. Meet at the roadside parking on the west side of Conc. 6, 1.5 km south of Durham Rd. 21. Contact: Joan Taylor, 905-477-2161.

### ONGOING

Due to the coronavirus, worship services and parish activities at **St. Paul's Anglican Church** are suspended until further notice. Pastoral care is available if needed. Call 905-852-7016 or email revmk.stpauls.uxbridge@gmail.com www.stpauls-uxbridge.ca

**COMING UP** is a free community bulletin board for community events organized by a charity or non-profit organization only. Events are published as space permits. Email lvann@thecosmos.ca or call 905-852-1900.

# Thank You

The family of the late Grant Hill wish to express our sincere thanks for the many acts of kindness shown during this difficult time. Special thanks to the Mable Oldham Family.

We are so fortunate to have such kind and caring family and friends.

Nan, Gary, Janice, Doug & Families

## Uxbridge Swim Club swimming strong through winter championship meets

submitted by Carol Vadeika

Uxbridge Swim Club (USC) has been to several championship meets over the past month, putting in lots of time in the water before Uxpool, where the team practices, was forced to close its doors due to the COVID-19 situation.

February started off with Central Region B Championships. USC had 20 swimmers in attendance at this meet in Markham. Medals from the meet were won by the following swimmers: Ellie Harding (Gold 100 Freestyle, Bronze 200 Breaststroke); Molly Priestman (Gold 100 Backstroke); Graeme McDougall (Silvers in 400-800 Freestyle & 200 Breaststroke); Maryn Wray (Silver 100 Backstroke, Bronze 200-400 Freestyle); Lukas Vadeika (Silver 1500 Freestyle, Bronze 200 Backstroke); and Rachel Wang (Silver 200 Breaststroke).

USC then headed to Windsor for the Swim Ontario Winter Festivals Championships. This is a provincial level meet for swimmers who are 13 years of age and younger. The team had four qualifiers represent it at this meet - Rachel Wang, Maryn Wray, Molly Priestman and Mackenzie Punchard.

Next on the schedule was a local invitational meet in Oshawa called the

Durham Cup. Over 40 USC team members were in attendance at this meet. Many best times were achieved and a very large numbers of medals were won!

Wrapping up the championship season was the Swim Ontario Swimming Championships (OSC) and the Swim Ontario Youth Junior Championships (OYJ). Nine swimmers went to these meets. At the OSCs, Hannah Cornish secured several top 10 finishes, including two Bronze medals (50 Freestyle & 200 Individual Medley), fifth for 100-200 Freestyle, and tenth for 200 Backstroke & 100 Fly Butterfly.

Kate Tuck also landed top 10 placement, earning two Bronze medals (100-200 Breaststroke), and sixth place for 200 Individual Medley.

Robin Vadeika earned fourth in 1500 Freestyle, sixth in 800 Freestyle, seventh for 400 Individual Medley, and ninth in 400 Freestyle.

At the OYJs, Ellie Harding sported a Silver medal after the 200 Backstroke, a Bronze medal in 200 Individual Medley, earned fifth in 100 Backstroke, and took eighth spot in 100-200 Freestyle.

Graeme McDougall took fifth spot in 200 Butterfly, seventh in both 100 Butterfly and 400 Individual Medley.

Rachel Wang swam to fifth place in 100 Backstroke, and sixth place in

200 Backstroke; teammate Molly Priestman was just a few lengths behind, coming in eighth in 200 Backstroke.

As mentioned on page one, the 2020 Swimming Canada Olympic and Paralympic Trials were planned for March 30-April 5 in Scarborough. USC had three swimmers qualified for and planning to represent USC at this meet, but it was announced on March 13 that the meet would be postponed due to the COVID-19 issue. These swimmers are Hannah Cornish, Kate Tuck and Shannon Meadway (currently studying at Penn State).

"This is a fantastic opportunity and accomplishment for these swimmers and we have our fingers crossed that they will get their chance to swim at this meet when it is re-scheduled," said parent involved with the team.

Also cancelled are the Swimming Canada Eastern Championships in April in Windsor. USC had four swimmers qualify for this event - Hannah Cornish, Kate Tuck, Robin Vadeika and Rachel Wang.

For more information on the swim club, please go to the team unify web page by searching uxbridgeswimclub, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @uxbridgeswimclub.

## Goodwood News with Bev Northeast

It's going to be one heck of a March Break! The kids will be home for three weeks; any ideas to keep them busy? Please, send them to me by

email and I will pass them on.

Some ideas: dollar stores have children's gardening kits - the kids could decorate a flower pot with stickers or paint, or decorate a drawing using paint or washable markers. And there's always homemade play dough...

Another idea - the Salvation Army has a back pack program it runs in August for the kids, and it would be nice if we had decorated lunch bags, or drawings, or decorated pencils, etc., to put in these back packs from other local children. Give me a call or drop your art work through the door mail slot at 35 Toronto St. N., and we will make sure each child receives a gift in their back pack! 905-640-3966 or bnortheast@powergate.ca

The Goodwood Baptist Church has announced that, due to the COVID-19 precautions, all church services and programs are cancelled until fur-

ther notice. More info on the Church Website [www.goodwood-baptistchurch.com](http://www.goodwood-baptistchurch.com)

Vacation Bible Camp is just around the corner (and hopefully things will be back in full swing by then), and registration is open so please register early as it fills up rapidly - only 30 spots are available. Call the church at 905-640-3111 or go to the website.

Please note that, if you go to Annina's Bakeshop & Café for your morning coffee, it is closing it's dining room space until further notice. Annina's will still be offering take-out meals, call-ahead meals, and will be maintaining a frozen meal section, as well. It is currently working on putting together a delivery service as well.

Finally, thank you to those who respect the speed limit in the hamlet which keeps our children and pets safe.

# Chances Are

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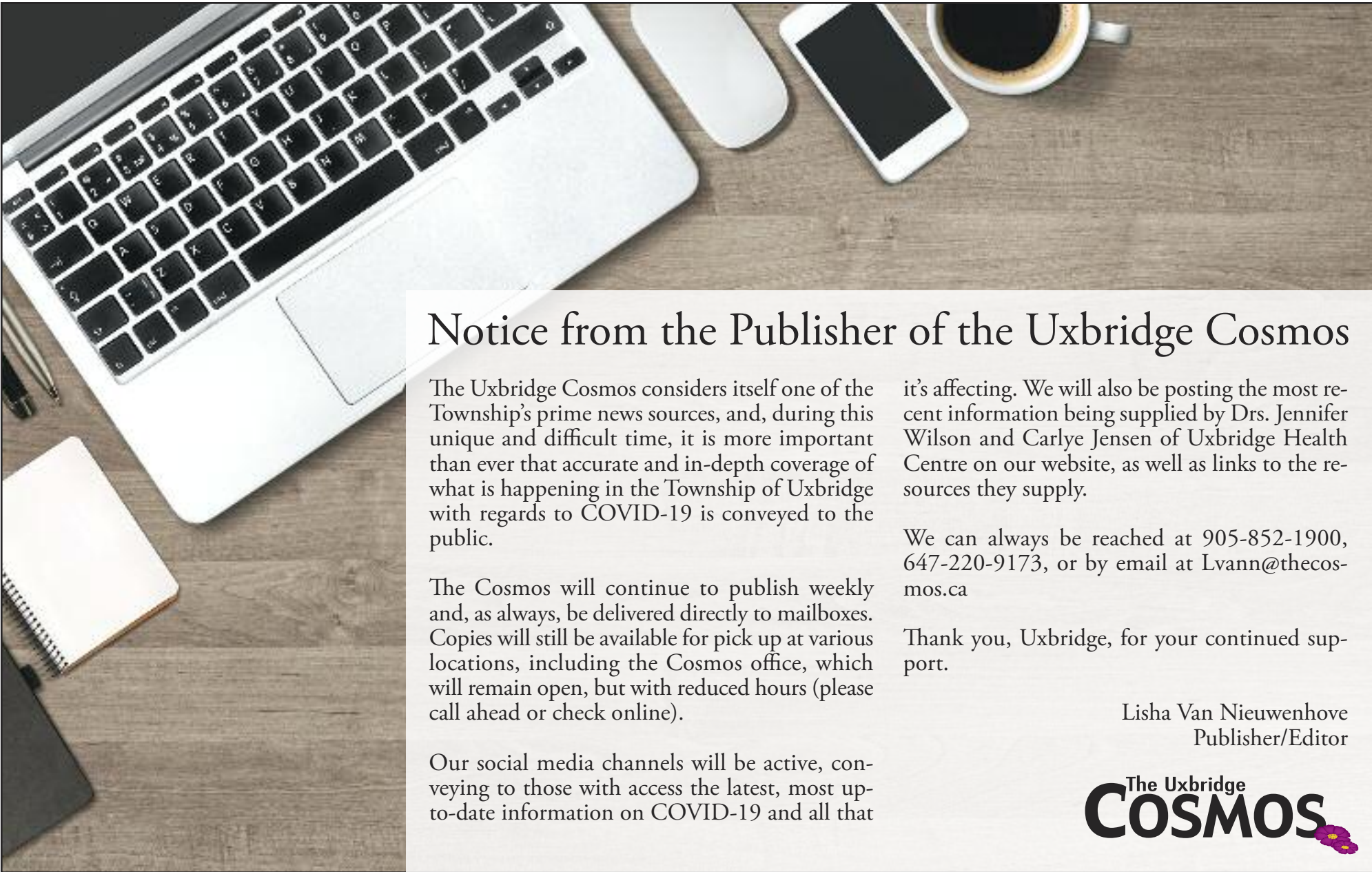
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## Notice from the Publisher of the Uxbridge Cosmos

The Uxbridge Cosmos considers itself one of the Township's prime news sources, and, during this unique and difficult time, it is more important than ever that accurate and in-depth coverage of what is happening in the Township of Uxbridge with regards to COVID-19 is conveyed to the public.

The Cosmos will continue to publish weekly and, as always, be delivered directly to mailboxes. Copies will still be available for pick up at various locations, including the Cosmos office, which will remain open, but with reduced hours (please call ahead or check online).

Our social media channels will be active, conveying to those with access the latest, most up-to-date information on COVID-19 and all that it's affecting. We will also be posting the most recent information being supplied by Drs. Jennifer Wilson and Carlye Jensen of Uxbridge Health Centre on our website, as well as links to the resources they supply.

We can always be reached at 905-852-1900, 647-220-9173, or by email at Lvann@thecosmos.ca

Thank you, Uxbridge, for your continued support.

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove  
Publisher/Editor

