

# The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 15

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, April 16, 2020



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**GRACE UNDER PRESSURE** - Members of the Uxbridge Legion Pipes and Drums joined other pipers from across Canada and around the world at noon on Easter Sunday to play "Amazing Grace" in solidarity with emergency, health care, and other essential workers, and to honour the victims of Covid-19. From left: Jacob Stewart, Jay Stewart, Nathan Stewart, Bill Richardson and John Lucarelli.

Photo by John Cavers

## Township is ready as virus creeps further in

by Roger Varley

Uxbridge's arena would be turned into an emergency field hospital to treat COVID-19 patients if the need arises, says Mayor Dave Barton.

The mayor said he has been conducting virtual meetings with township staff, medical personnel and business leaders over the last month to discuss options available should the number of COVID-19 cases overwhelm the capabilities of the Cottage Hospital. He said various sites were considered for the establishment of a field hospital, including schools and tents, and the group settled on the arena as the most suitable site.

Barton said the only work that has been done so far to ready the arena for its potential use as a hospital has been the establishment of a cell phone site and looking at installing Wi-Fi and examining the arena's electrical system to make

sure it could handle the increased demands that would come with setting up a medical facility.

"We want to make sure we're not caught off guard and we're prepared for anything," he said Tuesday.

He added, however, that "the numbers are looking promising. The sacrifices we've made have been effective. It looks like we won't have to use the arena."

At press time on Tuesday, official sources said the Township of Uxbridge has had 10 people test positive for the COVID-19 virus.

At least three of these cases are at Douglas Crossing retirement residence, where visitors are now prohibited from the building.

General manager Stacey Sellery said Douglas Crossing is working closely with Durham Region Public Health in establishing protocols for handling the pandemic. She said all staff members are screened as soon as they enter the building and continue to self-monitor during

their shifts. They are screened again at the end of their shifts.

Sellery said all residents are confined to their suites and all meals are now served room-service style, with the dining room closed.

Nevertheless, she said, three residents have tested positive for the coronavirus.

During the Easter weekend, the township posted a video on Facebook featuring all members of council offering words of encouragement and hope to local residents. It included a segment on Ward 2 councillor Gary Ruona being attacked by a Canada goose as he taped his message on the shore of a pond.

Meanwhile, a score of local seniors have been receiving phone calls from township staff to make sure they are well. Under the voluntary service, three permanent part-time library staffers have been calling those who signed up for the program once or twice a week.

...continued on page 3

### Inside Your Cosmos

Bingo on Facebook .....page 3  
COVID-news worn out .....page 5

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## Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for the Month  
of April, 2020

Monday, April 20, 10:00 a.m.

VIRTUAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
1:30 p.m.

~~COUNCIL INFORMATION SESSION~~  
(Closed to the Public) - CANCELLED

Monday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING

## From the Tax Department

The next tax installment is due on April 28, 2020.

To minimize the financial strain that COVID-19 may cause residents and businesses, the Township of Uxbridge will implement a two-month grace period, effective from the April 2020 installment date.

If you are unable to pay the full installment by the end of April 2020, no late penalties will be charged for the months of May and June. You will have until the end of June 2020 to pay the April installment.

## Craving Fresh Air and Exercise?

A selection of area trails remain open. Follow [uxbridge.ca/news\\_Trails\\_Remain\\_Open](http://uxbridge.ca/news_Trails_Remain_Open) to plan your next excursion, and remember to maintain proper social distancing from other visitors.

## Seniors Social Check-In Project

Are you a senior who would like to stay connected by receiving updates on Township and local resources and initiatives? Sign up for our Seniors Social Check-In Project by emailing [hjarvis@uxbridge.ca](mailto:hjarvis@uxbridge.ca) or calling 905-852-9747. Our telephone check-ins are intended to be a source of information to help guide you through these next few weeks and months, while also giving you an opportunity to chat with someone new.

**Open Air  
Fire Ban  
In Effect**

In the Township of Uxbridge

# Uxbridge at a Glance

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)



This community appreciates the dedication and hard work of all those who: Clean and disinfect, keep our drinking water safe, keep our roads maintained, keep the electricity flowing, provide emergency help, keep us safe, ensure we have access to food, and are involved in health care.

We are very grateful for all you are doing.  
Thank you, from all Township residents

## Updates, Closures & Cancellations

All Township of Uxbridge facilities are closed until further notice.

Visit [https://uxbridge.ca/news\\_uxbridge\\_township\\_closures\\_and\\_cancellations](https://uxbridge.ca/news_uxbridge_township_closures_and_cancellations) for updates; call our main line or email our general mailbox with inquiries.

- Indoor and outdoor recreational facilities including benches and picnic tables, playground equipment, off-leash dog park, lawn bowling, horseshoe pits, basketball courts, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, soccer fields, outdoor fitness equipment, the skate park and the pump park are closed.
- The Township of Uxbridge Municipal offices are closed to the public. Water and sewer bill payments, transit ticket/garbage tags/recycling bins/fire permit sales are suspended. Water Sample drop-offs no longer accepted in Uxbridge OR Port Perry. Water samples must be taken to 101 Consumers Dr. Whitby (east entrance). Call Durham Health Connection line at 905-668-2020 (option "3") for more information.
- Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter will answer calls from 10-5 for assistance with sick or injured wildlife and animals at large, at 905-985-9547.

## Local Resources to Assist - Do you need help, or can you help?

Check  
[uxbridge.ca/news\\_local\\_resources](http://uxbridge.ca/news_local_resources)  
for all links on:

- Local residents and organizations offering assistance
- Regional support links for local businesses
- Government support to residents for coping
- Remaining up to date with reliable sources on health

## Street Sweeping

Street sweeping will begin shortly - weather permitting - and will take 6 - 8 weeks to complete. Please try not to park on the streets during this time. Please leave the sand on the road as there will not be any special pick up of sand left in piles or in pails. It is acceptable to rake any sand that has accumulated on the boulevard into the curb and gutter prior to the sweeping of the street. Any areas that are missed due to parked cars will be redone after all sweeping is complete.

Below is the schedule for sweeping:

1. N/W corner of town
2. S/W corner of town
3. S/E corner of town
4. N/E corner of town
5. Rural subdivisions and hamlets
6. Town parking lots

(The town portion is divided into 4 areas with Brock & Main Streets as the centre point.)

## Township of Uxbridge 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)

Uxbridge Historical Society - EXHIBITION  
& BUILDINGS ASSISTANT  
Closing Date: May 15th, 2020

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

*We are 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.*

## Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to [Uxbridge.ca/bids\\_and\\_tenders](http://Uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders)

The Township continues to accept bids and tenders - all bids must be received at the Township by the deadline stated. Bids may be delivered in person or mailed to 51 Toronto St. S., Uxbridge or left in our 'Red Barn' drop box. Public tender openings will not be held until further notice.

## Concerned about COVID 19?

visit

[www.durham.ca](http://www.durham.ca)

Feeling symptoms?  
Call the Durham Health  
Connection Line  
1-800-841-2729

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Please call

Durham Regional Police Reporting Line  
**1-888-579-1520 ext 5802**  
[www.drps.ca/online\\_services](http://www.drps.ca/online_services) - community concerns

To report a gathering of 5+ people or a non-compliant business



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



# Isolation isn't stopping the fun for local musicians

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Stuck inside on a Thursday night and don't know what to do? Tune into Facebook and watch a concert of local musicians!

Geoff Holt, one of those local musicians, is hosting Self-Isolation Open Mic nights on his @geoffholt-music Facebook page, starting at 6:45 p.m. every Thursday.

"The goal of the Open Mic is to provide a platform for musicians to keep playing and sharing and to help maintain some sense of community through all of this," explains Holt. "I guide everyone to the different performers' Facebook pages, and we all enjoy 30 minutes from seven different acts each week. We've had performances from local acts like Robyn Ottolini, Matt Gunn and Carley Hope, as well as bands and artists from Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Lindsay and Oshawa!"

Carley Hope, a student in the independent songwriting and performance program at Seneca College who lives in Sunderland, took part in the Open Mic for two reasons.

"The open mic was just for fun but I did have to do a live as an assignment! It was really strange at first be-

cause I've never done a live before, but it ended up being really successful!"

Join the Facebook group to find out in advance who's in the weekly lineup.



Local musician Geoff Holt is running a 'Self-Isolation Open Mic on Thursday nights on Facebook so that he and other musicians can keep playing and sharing their music.

Facebook photo

When he's not hosting an Open Mic, Holt is also running a Live Music Bingo on his Facebook page, every Wednesday at 7 p.m. He sells Bingo cards for \$5/card, maximum four per person. He uses 75 per cent of the profits to buy the prizes, which are usually three gift cards from local businesses. These have included \$25 and \$50 gift cards to The Second Wedge Brewing Co., Wixan's

Bridge, Col. McGrady's, Blue Barn Creative and Woods Clothing.

"I send out the Bingo cards two or three hours before game time, then at 7 everyone watches my live stream. If someone gets a Bingo they type it in the comments as fast as possible, then send me a photo of their card for verification (oh, and I perform all of the music!)."

Holt is running the Bingo "as a way to help out local businesses in these tough times as they have always been so supportive of the local music scene. Also, I've obviously had everything cancelled, including weekly trivia and music bingo nights, so it's a way for me to make up for some of what I'm losing."



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## Social seniors, from page 1

Hunter Jarvis, co-ordinator of the program, said so far only about 20 seniors have requested the check-in calls, which provide updates on township and region policies regarding COVID-19 and community resources. But, she added, they also allow the seniors - 80 to 90 per cent of whom live alone - to have a casual conversation about how they are coping or anything else they want to talk about.

"It's a social outlet," she said. "The seniors appreciate the phone calls as it allows other concerns and anxieties to be expressed."

She said the calls also allow staff to

allay fears over misconceptions and misinformation about the coronavirus.

Ward 3 councillor Bruce Garrod said the program was noted by the North Durham Social Development Council. He added that he informed the mayors of Brock and Scugog of the initiative and offered to have Jarvis consult with them if they are interested in creating a similar program.

"My comment to them was imagine the good we could do if we triplicated it across all of North Durham," he said.

Any senior wishing to receive the check-in calls can register by calling 905-852-9747.



## Uxbridge at a Glance

**Notice of Road Closure**

Nelkydd Lane will be closed between Brock St. E. and Planks Lane for approx. 3 weeks beginning May 4th.

Crews are installing a traffic signal at the intersection of Nelkydd Lane and Brock St. E.

4th Ave. USS JGPS

The Township of Uxbridge Trail Capital of Canada

10th Annual

## Prayer Breakfast

Uxbridge

### SPECIAL MESSAGE TO ALL

In these unprecedented, difficult and uncertain days, the Uxbridge Prayer Breakfast Committee asks that, as a community, we join together to pray throughout these days. Please pray for our neighbours who have lost income, yet the demands of supporting their families remain. Pray that we all are helpful, selfless and compassionate. Please pray for our government leaders and our frontline warriors who continue to put themselves in harm's way for the health and care of all! The Thanksgiving List is endless! Here are some examples to inspire your prayers!

- Federal, provincial, regional & municipal government leaders
- Doctors, nurses, and all health care professionals
- Medical, fire and law enforcement first responders
- Farmers, food industry workers & truckers
- Service workers - garbage collection, utilities
- End-of-Life service workers

**The 10th Annual  
Uxbridge Prayer  
Breakfast has been  
POSTPONED  
until May 2021.**



## JEFFERSON, Bruce

Suddenly as the result of an accident on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, in Zephyr, Ontario. Bruce, at the age of 46, was the loving husband of Linda Jones. He was a very proud father of Alexa, Nycole (Guy) Bromberg, Scott Macham and Brent (Ann) Macham. Cherished Papa to Sophia and Mason. Bruce is survived by his parents Ken and Diane (née Gow) Jefferson, his sisters Lori (John) and Linda (Jeff), his in-laws Murray and Evelyn (née Dunkeld) Jones, and brothers-in-laws Brian (Diane), Dale (Melody) and Dave (Clare). He was adored by his many nieces and nephews Rebekah, Ethan, Meghan, Kayla, Emily (Dylan), Kristen, Lauren, Rebecca, Hannah, Ella and Ava. Bruce will be greatly missed by his aunts, uncles and so many cousins.



Bruce was an avid sports enthusiast, loved to cook, absolutely loved hosting gatherings and put his whole heart into anything he touched. Bruce had a kind soul and brightened up a room with his infectious smile and laugh. Bruce will be deeply missed by so many family and friends.

"Don't think about my passing, but instead remind yourself of the wonderful moments we spent together when I was with you. Keep Smiling. Love you forever, Bruce."

A private family service has taken place at this time, a Celebration of Life will take place later. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, PO Box 388, Uxbridge, Ontario (905-852-3073). In lieu of flowers, a donation in trust for his daughter Alexa would be appreciated by the family; please make cheques payable to Linda Jones, and mail them to the funeral home. Online condolences can be made at [www.lowandlow.ca](http://www.lowandlow.ca).



# Our two cents

## Don't ask when, ask how

We just listened to today's address to the nation by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and, although we don't like to disparage our fellow journalists, we have to ask: what the heck are they thinking when they ask some of their questions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic? "Prime Minister, when do you think Canada will be ready to restart its economy?" "Prime Minister, when do you think Canadians can come out of self-isolation and quarantine?" "Prime Minister, when do you think we can get haircuts again, yourself included?" (That last one wasn't actually asked. Not on the air, anyway.)

No matter what you think of our PM, you have to admit, his answers are always pleasant and placating. If we were in that position, we'd be inclined to say, "Well, just a moment - let me look into my crystal ball and, ah...I've got nothing. 'CUZ NO ONE B#%\*@Y WELL KNOWS!"

Why are people pressing to know when we can all resume life as it was? Do you really expect anyone to come out with an exact date and time? "Ah, I see life returning to normal on, let's see, September 14 at, say, 11:56 a.m."

Are we really that incapable of rolling with the punches? Oh, it's a difficult time, all right. We're all feeling the crunch in many, many different ways. But don't we realize that *we* are the ones who decide when we emerge from our houses, our faces to the sun, and go back to work/play/life? The more people who come back from being away and *don't* self-isolate, the longer the rest of us will be forced to stay in place. The more people who think that getting together for a small party, just this once, is actually okay, the longer the rest of us will be denied any kind of social get-together. The more people who bring their whole family to Zehrs to do a little grocery shopping, the longer the rest of us will have to wait for morning line-ups and masks in public to disappear.

This isn't easy for Any. Single. One of us. We cannot predict the future, but we can control the present. If we ALL do what is necessary now, we can make that teeny tiny little light at the end of the tunnel just a little bit bigger. And while we're doing our part, we need show those who are trying to do big things under huge stress (all the experts, all the various levels of government, all the health care and essential workers, etc.) a little respect. There are far fewer of them than there are of us, so be nice and stop complaining.

We'd like to think we're preaching to the choir, here, but we know we aren't. We've witnessed it first-hand, here in Uxbridge. Take it day by day, people. Stop asking "When will it end?" and start asking "How can I help it end?"

Stay healthy. Stay home.



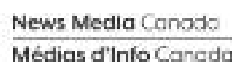
## The Uxbridge COSMOS

Publisher/Editor: Lisha Van Nieuwenhove 905-852-1900  
Advertising/Sales: 905-852-1900

38 Toronto Street North, Unit One, Uxbridge Ontario L9P 1E6  
E-mail: [Lvann@thecosmos.ca](mailto:Lvann@thecosmos.ca) Web site: [Thecosmos.ca](http://Thecosmos.ca)

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Friday to 4 p.m.

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## Letters to the Editor

I wanted to pass along some info to Roger Varley regarding his column on stupid Americans ["Am I Wrong?" April 9].

While I don't want to put all Americans in one basket of stupidity, their Republican "leadership" can be called all kinds of things - like corrupted and motivated solely by greed.

But I wanted to point out to that it wasn't the Wisconsin State Supreme Court that ordered the governor to force people to stand in line for hours, risking their lives in a pandemic in order to vote instead of using mail-in ballots. It was the SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES with a 5-4 vote that forced this in-person vote. A very scary prospect when the highest court in their land votes along partisan lines on such an important thing as an election.

There IS hope that, if there is an

election in November, many Republicans will be voted out of office in the House and the Senate, and Biden will be the president. But that is a big IF at this point. Trump and his ilk will do everything in their power to prevent the election and they have the Supreme Court on their side.

**Jayne Rees**  
**Uxbridge**

A unique global broadcast will occur this Sat., April 18 at 8 p.m., on television (CTV, CityTV, GlobalTV) and via the internet ([globalcitizen.org/en/ca/](http://globalcitizen.org/en/ca/) for details). Titled "One World: Together at Home", this event is in support of frontline healthcare workers and the World Health Organization (WHO). Organized by Lady Gaga, we will have the privilege of enjoying performances by over 100 international stars.

What an opportunity for *Cosmos* readers to donate to a local cause: the

Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Foundation at [msh.on.ca/foundations/](http://msh.on.ca/foundations/), and/or to the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank at [uxbridgefoodbank.com](http://uxbridgefoodbank.com)

**Don Mertens**  
**Uxbridge**

**Re: "Am I Wrong?" March 12**

I should like to tell Roger Varley that he answered the points mentioned very well. Certainly I sometimes worry that the chiefs are not using the money allocated to them well when there is such disparity from one tribe to another. Anyone who writes such a diatribe deserves to be outed!

As another point, the seniors and immigrants lose no more monies than the rest of the population.

**Cynthia Nidd**  
**Uxbridge**

## How well do you know Uxbridge?

Try to identify all five of these photos. The first person to email [photochallengeuxbridge@gmail.com](mailto:photochallengeuxbridge@gmail.com) wins a \$25 gift card to a local business!

- Week 1 Winner: Congratulations to the Webb Family.
- Contest to run weekly until quarantine is deemed over.
- All correct entries received weekly over the entirety of the Quarantainment Contest will be entered into a grand prize draw.

Last week's answers: Africycle container, Victoria St.; Brooks Farms train/wagons; Rexall sign, corner of Toronto St./Elgin Park Dr.; Goodwood shop (Bob's garage) - Schitts Creek; Birdhouse, Elgin Pond/Mill St.





## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Too much of a 'good' thing

In the world of newspapers, when a major story breaks - (think 9/11) - newsrooms go into overdrive, with just about every reporter available assigned to cover the event from every conceivable angle, and columnists and pundits asked to put the whole thing into perspective.

Regardless of the catastrophe, newspaper types relish the fact that they have a story they can get their teeth into, a story the public will eat up. It is why I often refer to myself self-deprecatingly as "a media jackal." (As an aside, many years ago there was a crusty old editor at the *Globe and Mail* of whom it was said his idea of a great story would be a family being evicted from their home on Christmas Eve.)

However, such major events do not come often and usually the overkill reporting only lasts a few days before the newspapers go back to normal and turn their attention to other stories.

But with the COVID-19 pandemic, it would appear to me that it's becoming a case of too much of a "good" thing. Just about the only news available these days is about the coronavirus, and very little else makes it onto the pages (the *Cosmos* not excluded). It has become a story that reporters and the public have had too much of. We're all tired of it, we all want some other kind of news.

The problem is, with most of the country in lock-down and no public gatherings allowed, there is little happening that warrants the term "news." There are no sports events to cover, no social events to report on, no political campaigns to follow. Nothing.

With most of us in voluntary isolation, we are all left with only one subject in the forefront: COVID-19. After a while, reporters get fed up chasing new angles and the public most assuredly has had enough of it. It's rather like going to a Luciano Pavarotti concert only to hear him sing *Nessun Dorma* over and over again for two hours. Great to start, but it would wear a bit thin after the first hour.

This is not intended to downplay the importance of the COVID-19 story or the

need to keep reporting on it. But after a while, news fatigue sets in and boredom starts to show. We at the *Cosmos* - (and I'm sure it's the same at other newspapers) - are constantly in discussion about what new approach we can take in telling the COVID-19 story as it relates to our community, but at times we wonder just what we can report that isn't just a regurgitation of things we have already said. Or that isn't already considered old news on social media.

And this fatigue, this boredom, creeps into our self-isolation. After a while, no matter how big a movie fan you are, it gets to the point where you don't want to watch another movie. Yes, I have books that I haven't read yet but, even so, sitting around for hours reading loses its appeal when you yearn to be out socializing with other people.

It creeps into other aspects of our lives as well. For example, I've spent much of the last two or three weeks in my pajamas and bathrobe because it seems pointless to get dressed. My beard has now grown in and my hair is beginning to resemble Doc Brown's in *Back To The Future*. Perhaps this is a sign of the depression the medical experts have been warning us about.

If it is, that depression wasn't helped Monday night when the power went out for two-and-a-half hours. The outage only affected about a dozen buildings and a few street lights on Brock and Church Streets but it made my isolation that much worse. Having only a land line, I couldn't phone anyone and I was left sitting in the dark with nothing but my dark thoughts.

I know I'm not alone in this time of tribulation: there are others worse off than I. But I also know this crisis will eventually pass and we all have to do our part to make that eventuality come about sooner rather than later. And when that time comes, it will be a joy to report about it.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Keeping our wits about us

I'd waited patiently - keeping my two metres of distance back. Then, I was next in line to cash out at Zehrs. I started placing groceries on the conveyor, and the young cashier began processing my purchases. Problem was, the sensor that stopped the conveyor automatically at the cash register, suddenly failed. My bananas, sour cream, chips and meats all tumbled together onto her code-reader. She couldn't scan the barcodes fast enough. We both shrugged and took advantage of the moment to smile at the jumble of food. And I couldn't resist.

"Have you ever heard of Lucille Ball?" I asked, thinking she was far too young to know.

She looked skyward for a second, "Oh, yeah. Sure," she said.

"Ever seen the *I Love Lucy* episode with her on the chocolate factory assembly line? You'll laugh yourself to death."

I stopped myself, and winced at having said the word "death" out loud. It's neither the time nor the place to make fun of death, I thought. And I apologized. But she didn't seem to mind. We commiserated that there wasn't much funny in these times when thousands have died of the COVID-19 virus. And we wished things could get back to normal as soon as possible. Quite correctly, we've been preoccupied with the life-and-death struggles of health-care workers for weeks now. Theirs is the tangible race to keep patients isolated, tested, quarantined and alive! It's quite accurate to describe this as war. But war leaves psychological wounds too. And not just in the front lines.

Over the past weeks, I've watched cracks beginning to appear in our mental health care system. A story in the *Star* the other day warned of the spike in cases that agencies such as Kids Help Phone are facing. Their youth officers have noted a 112 per cent increase in overall demand for their services, 24 per cent in just the past few weeks. A spokesperson for Children's Mental Health Ontario (servicing up to 130,000 children) said their professionals are "scrambling to provide more care through virtual platforms," in response to youth who are more suicidal or aggressive. The virus has changed our actions and our attitudes.

With the coronavirus story shifting every other minute, my wife and I have found ourselves glued to the radio or television for breaking news. This is either the best time ever to be a news junkie. Or the worst. But I think she and I have both realized - after watching

Trudeau repeatedly step out of his Rideau Cottage for prime ministerial updates, and witnessing yet another train-wreck press briefing at the White House, where Trump routinely rewrites the history of his disastrous presidency - it was time to find other things to do with our time at home. She's taken to decluttering. I've taken to Zoom (the brain child of Eric Yuan, the China-based software developer who's created this new form of video-conferencing). Among others, I've joined a group I call ZooMondays, a gathering of fellow educators and friends; we've initiated weekly virtual coffee breaks. Same time, same day, over coffee, but at a distance in our own kitchens or offices.

One of the things we've chatted about during our ZooMondays is the way the pandemic has re-invented our vocabulary. Where once we knew nothing about personal protective equipment, now we're suddenly experts in PPE, ventilators and N95 masks. And on the lighter side, our virtual kaffeeklatsch group all loved it, recently, when Nova Scotia premier Stephen McNeil lost his cool with fellow citizens ignoring his calls to self-isolate at home; so, to make the point, he peered into the camera and scolded, "Stay the blazes home!"

Which raises an interesting point. One outcome of all this staying home we're doing, hasn't been addressed at all in the news. I don't think I've heard any reporters or commentators looking any further ahead than a day or two or a week or two. I've been thinking about Christmas. Not for the distance it'll put between us and the virus, but for the distance it's removed between us. December is about nine months from now, you see. And I'd be willing to bet, given all this time people are spending at home with *nothing left to do...* I'm guessing that lots of folks will be back at hospitals - not in emergency wards, but in maternity wards. The corona-baby-boom. I mean people - of a certain age - can only tolerate social distancing between consenting adults so long, right? And perhaps their reaction may be the only positive joy to come out of all this.

The cashier had finished packing my groceries at Zehrs, the other day. I'd paid my tab and was heading for the door.

"Don't forget to watch that *Lucy* episode," I called back.

"I will," she said. "I might need the laugh."

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

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Classifieds are \$15/week up to 25 words; \$0.20 per additional word (plus HST). Payable in advance by cash, cheque, debit or credit card. Contact Lvann@thecosmos.ca or 905-852-1900 Deadline: Tuesday, 12 noon. Ask about online link possibilities, too.

### SERVICES

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4/16

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### EVENTS

**ROTARY SCRAP METAL DAY POSTPONED:** The annual Uxbridge Rotary Scrap Metal / E-waste Day has been postponed. Note also that Port Perry Salvage is temporary closed and not taking any scrap on behalf of Rotary at this time. For updates check www.uxbridgerotary.com

### LOST

**SUNGLASSES:** Black, lost in Adams Crt./Butternut Manor area on Sunday, April 12. If found, please call 905-862-2535.

### FOUND

**KEYS:** Found Monday, April 13, at Herrema Fields playground. Mazda key fob. Call 905-852-4102 for identification.

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