

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 14

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, April 9, 2020



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AN EASTER MESSAGE FOR THE TIMES - The front lawn at 63 Campbell Dr. displays inspirational artwork and messages, hoping to give a smile and some positivity to passersby. Several makeshift notice boards and displays are popping up in windows and on lawns around the township as residents practice physical distancing and self-isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Submitted photo

Zero tolerance on open fires too late for Preserve

by Roger Varley

Despite a ban on all outdoor fires in the township, Uxbridge firefighters were called out to two fires last week resulting from unlawful fires.

Fire Chief Phil Alexander said about 20 acres of the Countryside Preserve were burned last Thursday and there was a second grass fire the same day on Ravenshoe Road.

He said the Countryside Preserve fire happened when a resident was burning waste in a barrel. Sparks from the barrel ignited the Preserve's grassland. In the Ravenshoe Road incident, a resident was burning yard waste after cleaning up the garden and the fire went out of control.

On Monday, Mayor Dave Barton reiterated the ban at council and noted there would be "zero tolerance" for open fires. Alexander said that means anyone breaking the ban can either be charged with a provincial offence or, more

likely, fined for the cost of the fire department's presence, which amounts to \$450 per truck per hour.



Although the township currently has a complete fire ban in effect, a large swath of land was razed by a grass fire last week on the Countryside Preserve, reportedly started by sparks from a residential burn barrel.

Photo courtesy of Steve Snoddon

The chief said the fire department is approaching the COVID-19 pandemic the same as everyone, which means reducing the time firefighters spend together fighting fires as much as possible. He said seven members of the department had been in isolation but that number has now been reduced to one.

Colleen Baskin, the township's communications director, pointed out that firefighters often arrive at a medical emergency before EMS, which means that, while providing medical services, they have to interact with the sick person on the call, "so it is very probable that our first responders will be exposed to illness. We are working hard to protect them from unnecessary exposure."

Baskin also said that banning fires frees up the firefighters to handle other emergencies.

"The department can't handle calls for medical emergencies if they are out responding to nuisance fire calls," she said.

More online @ thecosmos.ca

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for the Month of April, 2020

Monday, April 13
NO MEETING - EASTER MONDAY

Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.
~~COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
MEETING - CANCELLED~~

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

Tender U20-06

Propane Furnace

Zephyr Community Centre

Sealed Tenders will be received until **2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2020** by:
Debbie Leroux, Clerk
Township of Uxbridge
51 Toronto Street South
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 https://uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders under Current Bid Opportunities.

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 do remain open. Follow

uxbridge.ca/news_Trails_Remain_Open to plan your next excursion, and remember to maintain proper social distancing from other visitors.



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



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 www.uxbridge.ca for updates; call our main line or email our general mailbox with inquiries.

- All 'Fridays at the Foster' events for May and June, USHS Horseshoe Club, Huck Finn Fishing Derby and Scot Pine Thinning at Countryside Preserve are cancelled.
- Fire Ban in full effect throughout the Township - no open-air burning of any kind permitted.
- 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 - residents may visit 181 Perry Street, Port Perry or call 905-985-4889.
- Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter answers calls 10-5 for assistance with sick or injured wildlife and animals at large, at 905-985-9547.

Report a gathering of more than 5 people or a non-compliant business on www.drps.ca under Online Services - Community Concerns, or leave a message at DRPS non-emergency line 1-888-579-1520, ext. 5802.

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

Check uxbridge.ca/news_Local_Resources for updates

Local residents and organizations offering assistance:

- Visit thecosmos.ca/index.php/7190-2/ or uxbridgedaily.com/businessdirectory for listings of local businesses providing modified services.
- Walmart Uxbridge and Zehrs Uxbridge provide health-vulnerable and seniors-only shopping hours from 7-8 a.m. daily.
- Vince's Uxbridge provides order picking, delivery to car or home-delivery service.
- Several pharmacies offer home delivery of prescriptions and medical aides.
- Durham Region Transit is temporarily not requiring fares.
- Uxbridge Helping Hand uxbridgehelpinghand@gmail.com
- Community Care Uxbridge 905-852-7445.

Remain up to date with reliable sources on health:

- Uxbridge Health Clinic - Dr. Carlye Jensen and Dr. Jennifer Wilson uxbridgehealth.ca/covid-19
- Durham Region Local Health durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus
- Government of Ontario public health covid-19.ontario.ca/
- Government of Canada public health canada.ca/en/public-health

Regional support links for Local Businesses:

- Updated list of Essential Workplaces ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces
- Tourism-related Resources www.tiaontario.ca/cpages/covid19
- Durham Region Resources for Businesses investdurham.ca/covidresponse
- Federal Government Support for Businesses canada.ca/economic-response-plan

Government Support for Coping:

- Emergency childcare for healthcare and frontline workers ontario.ca/childcare
- Mental health online support ontario.ca/mental_health
- Price-gouging Reported ontario.ca/form/report-price-gouging
- Employment Insurance canada.ca/benefits/ei
- Provincial Government Social Assistance gov.on.ca/social/apply_online
- Durham Region Support for Vulnerable Residents durham.ca/covid-19-community-resources
- Assistance for Unsheltered Residents durham.ca/EmergencyShelters

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



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 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.



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

email: accessibility@uxbridge.ca
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209



A message from John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for your strong response, over the past month, to overcome the COVID-19 global pandemic. Our community has come together to do what is needed, and to help those who are more vulnerable, during this emergency.

We applaud the work of those who are providing vital services. This includes health-care, seniors care and social services workers; agriculture and food production; food services and accommodation; and manufacturing and production. You are #DurhamStrong.

We've been working together to slow the transmission of COVID-19. This is helping to buy us time; reduce pressure on our health-care systems; and flatten the curve.

We need you to keep up the momentum! It's the only way to beat this. Please remember to:

- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Stay home, stay safe; only go out when needed.
- Self quarantine for 14 days if you travelled—it's the law.
- Practise physical distancing by staying six feet apart.
- If you are ill, stay home and keep yourself away from others.
- Keep children out of group settings.
- No social gatherings of five or more people. It's illegal.

The Regional Municipality of Durham is doing its part to help flatten the curve. We are working remotely, hosting virtual meetings, have screening measures in place, and our buildings are closed to the public. Employees are working around the clock to continue essential programs and services.

This pandemic is serious. On March 24, I declared an emergency to enable the Region to respond more quickly to the present challenges; working in partnership with all levels of government. I am proud of the work provided by our Regional employees.

Our Regional Emergency Operations Centre is operating. We are focusing our resources on health and safety. We're maintaining the essential social services, public works and health-care services that our community needs.

We've created a web page for community resources (such as income, shelter, food security, mental health, and transportation) for our vulnerable population. Visit durham.ca/CommunityResources to learn more.

The Durham Economic Task Force has also created a page with resources for businesses (for themselves, their workers and affected families) during this challenging time. Visit investdurham.ca/COVIDResponse to learn more.

The Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) has set up a reporting process for citizens who want to report a non-compliant business or a large gathering of over five people. To do so, visit www.drps.ca > [Online Services](#) > [Community Concerns](#). As a secondary option, citizens can leave a message on the DRPS non-emergency line at 1-888-579-1520 extension 5802.

To our residents, stay healthy, stay safe, and take care of one another. Keep up to date by visiting durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus.

Together we will stay #DurhamStrong



#DurhamStrong

Parade to remain in council hands

by Roger Varley

Following a deputation by the BIA and receipt of a lengthy and pointed letter from Santa Claus parade organizers Chris and Bernice Brown, Uxbridge council decided Monday to keep the annual Santa Claus parade in the hands of a committee of council.

Christina Curry, chair of the BIA, told the virtual meeting that, in her capacity as BIA chair, she had learned that the business community felt it had noticed a decline in the parade over the past couple of years, both in quality and in attendance. She also told council it was difficult to find information about the parade online and that "relying solely on social media doesn't work for everyone."

Curry said the parade was once viewed as one of the top 10 in the GTA, and submitted that the BIA recommends it's organization remain under the direction of a committee of council.

"The BIA has no intention of being malicious in its intentions towards the parade," said Curry. "Why aren't we all just working together as a community? Let's stick together, let's support one another and make it a really cool event for the 60th anniversary of the parade this year."

However, in their letter, the Browns, who recently took over running the parade from the Scott family, who had run it for decades, blamed "township representatives" for creating "havoc and chaos" with the 2019 parade. The letter also claimed the township used "obstacles and difficulties" it created to make the case for the parade to be given over to a committee. The Browns then requested that the next parade be run solely by their family to show it can be run without chaos and confusion.

In her deputation, Curry also said the BIA would like to see the timing of the parade considered, offering that it could be held at night or closer to Christmas Day.

When posed with the decision of whether to maintain parade organization within a committee of council or hand it entirely over to the Browns, regional councillor Gord Hight said if it continues as a committee of council, the Browns should be included. Councillor Todd Snooks said having one family run the parade does not make sense for a community-based, community-driven event.

Council agreed unanimously that the parade be handled by committee of council.

'Our two cents' will take a break this week, as the Cosmos makes way for other news and information.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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Letters to the Editor

My wife and I have recently been walking the trails running behind Barton Farms. While it's been very nice getting out and taking advantage of the warmer weather and the trails we've heard so much about, we can't help but notice the amount of dog poop on the trails. We find we're spending almost as

much time looking down at the ground in order to avoid stepping in poop as we do looking around enjoying the scenery. We haven't ventured beyond our local trails yet, but I'd be surprised if our experience is limited to only the Barton Farms trails. It would be nice if those out with

their dogs would be a little more diligent in cleaning up after them so that we all might get the same enjoyment when out walking. If not, Uxbridge may soon become the "Dog Poop Capital of Canada."

Bill Street
Uxbridge

The Uxbridge COSMOS

Quarantainment Contest

How well do you know Uxbridge?

Try to identify all five of these photos. The first person to email snooksward5@gmail.com wins a \$25 iTunes gift card!

- Contest to run weekly until quarantine is deemed over.
- Weekly prize provided by Ward 5 Councillor Todd Snooks.
- All correct entries received weekly over the entirety of the Quarantainment Contest will be entered into a grand prize draw.



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Stupidity - a bigger threat than COVID-19?

Warning: the following is not flattering to our neighbours to the south.

Someone living in the sparse reaches of the Kalahari Desert could be excused for not knowing about COVID-19 and its devastating effects around the world. They certainly wouldn't be expected to know how to handle it.

But the same cannot be said about the vast majority of Americans. It is almost impossible these days to turn on your radio, television or computer - or even talk with someone on the telephone - without hearing about the global pandemic and what steps the health experts tell us we need to take to reduce the risk of contracting or spreading the novel coronavirus, including social distancing. Yet, there is something else that has to be addressed, as it poses a danger to millions and risks extending this crisis even longer than it needs: American stupidity.

In Wisconsin, the governor put out an executive order delaying Tuesday's primary election. However, the state supreme court, in its wisdom (read stupidity), ordered the election to proceed on schedule. What a great idea! Bringing thousands of people together to vote. The mind reels.

Then there is Florida, where even neighbouring communities can't agree on what to do. There was an aerial photograph circulating recently showing a Florida beach at spring break. The beach runs through different counties. The photo showed an empty beach in one county and a large crowd on the other side of the county line.

Then there's the governor of Georgia who said last week he had "only just learned" COVID-19 could be spread by people who don't show signs of infection. That little bit of information has been known to the rest of the world for months.

Then there are the religious leaders, primarily in the southern states, who insist on holding church services, coronavirus be damned.

And finally, a poll this week showed Americans are more concerned about loss of wages than they are about catching the disease. I assume those lost wages would pay for a really good funeral service.

But for absolutely utter stupidity, there is President Donald Trump. He regularly makes completely false claims and statements about

the pandemic, which his chief medical adviser, Dr. Anthony Fauci, then has to correct while at the same time - given Trump's thin skin - appearing not to.

However, it is Trump's vindictiveness, combined with his stupidity, that is putting millions at risk. He tried to stop medical personal protection equipment, especially masks, being sent to Canada. This despite the fact that thousands of Canadian medical personnel cross into Detroit to help with that city's coronavirus situation. He demanded state governors voice their approval of him, otherwise they would be way down the list when it came to receiving federal assistance. He ridiculed a U.S. Navy officer who complained about the Navy's response to a COVID-19 outbreak on his ship.

When this crisis is over - or nearly over - how are America's allies likely to respond to Trump's attempts to block much needed supplies from reaching their countries? In terms of state responses, diplomacy will rule the day and any criticisms will be couched in the subtlest ways. But what of the residents of those countries? Will they be less likely to lend a hand when America is in trouble. Consider the way Canadians responded to the 9/11 attack. Newfoundlanders opened their homes to complete strangers stranded for days by a shutdown of the airlines. Hundreds of emergency workers rushed to New York to provide what help they could. Hundreds of volunteers rushed to the States to help with the wildfires that ravaged that country last year. And, of course, there was that little incident in Iran years ago.

Having mentioned just a few of those times when Canadians rushed to help their American neighbours, I am at a loss to think of even one instance where Canada received similar help from down south. I'm not saying Canada should be as vindictive as Trump, but it's hard to imagine Canadians rushing to help again when Trump treats us in such a cavalier manner, including threatening to send U.S. troops to the Canadian border (to what avail, I'm not sure).

Americans always like to talk about their "exceptionalism." It seems to me the only thing that's exceptional about the U.S. these days is their exceptional stupidity.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Leadership in our darkest hour

It's come back to me often the past few weeks. It's the last scene from the movie *Darkest Hour*. Winston Churchill, just a few weeks into his wartime administration in May 1940, watches across the English Channel as Belgium falls to the Nazis. Then, France falls. Desperately, he entreats thousands of private boat owners in England to retrieve retreating British Army troops - 300,000 of them - from the beaches of Dunkirk. And he contemplates Hitler's invasion of Britain, delivering in the House of Commons one of many momentous wartime speeches:

"We shall fight on the beaches..." he proclaims. "We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be."

As author Simon Montefiore wrote in *Speeches that Changed the World*, Churchill had taken the events of the Second World War, as dispiriting as they were, and turned them "from potential doom and despondency into self-belief, defiance and purposefulness." By exaggerating what was at stake, he cast his beloved fellow citizens into a global drama about saving civilization. In other words, Churchill had stepped up and exhibited what the times demanded: inspiring leadership. And while that war against fascism differs vastly from our current war against the COVID-19 virus, in 2020 our belief in surviving this pandemic may well depend equally on the inspiration of those around us.

I think all of us - no matter what political stripe - watched with great anticipation that first day (March 13) when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau emerged from Rideau Cottage - he and his children in isolation, his wife in quarantine. He'd cancelled a meeting with the premiers the night before. Parliament would be recessed. All Canadians wondered what next? And into the microphones at the foot of the cottage steps, Trudeau announced, "We will help Canadians financially." Granted, those words were hardly Churchillian. But clearly, Trudeau (and his advisors) chose to address immediately what everybody in the nation was suddenly fearing: How do I replace that next paycheck? What about next month's rent, groceries, care for our elders?

Meantime, some of those same premiers put partisan politics aside - Francois Legault was first to ban gatherings in Quebec, Jason Kenney offered to pay industry levies for the already battered oil patch in Alberta, and Stephen McNeil outed those carrying on their group walks and St. Patrick's Day parties in Nova Scotia.

"This is a wake-up call," McNeil declared.

"When we say stop gathering and stay at home, we mean it!"

The actions and remarks of Premier Doug Ford have proven equally compelling, in recent days. This past week, sensing that the vast majority of Ontarians have trusted their governments putting a virtual freeze on all public life, the premier responded in kind. Ford promised to square with the province, to tell citizens, "You deserve to know what I know." He and his health-care specialists then revealed that virus models project between 3,000 and 15,000 Ontarians could die from the virus over the next 18 months to two years, even if current physical-distancing measures remain as strict. Some (myself admittedly) wondered what political objective the premier had in mind. But all that evaporated on Sunday when Premier Ford openly criticized the U.S. president for slapping an embargo on U.S. shipments of personal protective equipment to Canada.

"In a major crisis, they want to cut everyone else off?" he told reporters on Saturday. "We're at war and they want to shut things down with their closest ally in the world? That's totally unacceptable!"

Speaking of leadership, I wouldn't have expected the Queen's message to offer much more than her typical Christmas goodwill greeting. But was I wrong. It was only the fifth time during her 67-year reign that Elizabeth II delivered such a powerful public rallying cry. In barely four minutes, she recognized the heroism of health workers, the resolve of Britons and the pride of their history. Finally, in what had to be, if not a Churchillian moment then one echoing the chin-up sentiment of Britons during the Second World War, she delivered her sign-off, *a la* Vera Lynn.

"We will be with our friends again," the Queen promised. "We will be with our families again. We will meet again."

And I remembered again, that final scene of *Darkest Hour*, when actor Gary Oldman, as Churchill, reaches the climax of his "We shall fight on the beaches" speech, empowering his listeners in the House and across his beleaguered nation, claiming finally, "We shall never surrender."

His chief rival in cabinet, Viscount Halifax, portrayed by actor Stephen Dillane, listens and assesses what Churchill has just done for the nation. "He (has) mobilized the English language and sent it into battle."

May our leaders all find such inspiration and cause.

For more Barris Beat columns, go to www.tedbarris.com



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Virus makes its way to North Durham

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

The novel coronavirus has arrived in the Township of Uxbridge – as of press time, there were seven confirmed cases in the township.

Last Thursday afternoon, the Durham Region COVID-19 Data Tracker update announced that the township had two confirmed cases, and one fatality was also announced on social media.

A member of the Douglas Crossing retirement community, whose name was not released, had been in isolation for reasons unrelated to COVID-19. Following the resi-

dent's passing, a test was conducted for the virus that has caused a global pandemic and found positive. According to Stacey Sellery, general manager at Douglas Crossing, two more residents and a staff member have also tested positive for COVID-19. They are all reportedly in isolation.

Two or more cases of COVID-19 in an institution is considered an outbreak in Ontario, and Sellery assures that Douglas Crossing is monitoring the situation closely.

"Douglas Crossing has a comprehensive infection, prevention and control program and we have en-

hanced it further since learning of the threat of the novel coronavirus in late January. We are working closely with Durham Public Health and we are following their directives to help keep our residents and team members safe," she says.

Scugog Township has reported four confirmed cases, and Brock Township maintains zero cases.

Meanwhile, more event organizers are announcing either the postponement or cancellation of events. The Foster Memorial has cancelled its "Fridays at the Foster" series for May and June; the Trinity United Church Women's Group June

House Tour has been put off until 2021; and the Springtide Music Festival, which was to occur May 8 and 9, is now scheduled to take place on October 16 and 17 of this year.

The Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter said on Friday that it had no dogs in its care and only "a handful" of cats. Animals are being cared for by staff.

For the Durham Region COVID-19 Data Tracker, go to www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/novel-coronavirus-update.aspx#Status-of-cases-in-Durham-Region

Police find remains of missing man in Uxbridge

Police announced Monday that they had found the remains of Benjamin Everson, who had been missing since July of last year.

Everson, 31, had been missing since July 11, 2019, and was last seen when he left the residence of a family member in Uxbridge.

Durham Regional Police Services located human remains near Davis Dr. and Reg. Rd. 1. Testing done by the Centre of Forensic Sciences confirmed that it was the missing male. According to a DRPS press release, there were no signs of foul play.

On Saturday, Everson's mother, Kim, relayed on Facebook that a Celebration of Life for Ben, as he was known, will occur at a later date.

"I thank everyone for all your help and support through this nightmare. Your kindness meant the world to me and my family. Ben is at peace."

Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact D/Cst. Burns of North Division at ext. 2676. Anonymous information can be sent to Durham Regional Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.durhamregional-crimestoppers.ca and tipsters may be eligible for a \$2,000 cash reward.

In loving memory of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

Gwen Breckon
April 9, 2015

Gone are the days we used to share,
But in our hearts you are always there.
Never more than a thought away,
Loved and remembered every day.

Doug, Doris and Family

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But don't worry, many of our stores are taking orders by phone and you can always get what you need with our new curbside pick-up and ship to home options.



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Together, we can make shopping safer for everyone in our community.

deRUITER, Gerda

May 30, 1923 ~ April 3, 2020

Gerda passed away peacefully at home. Predeceased by her husband, Adriaan de Ruiter.

She will be missed by her daughters Yvonne de Ruiter and Christiana Carter, all her relatives in Germany and the Netherlands and all her friends.

Gerda will also be missed by the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Auxiliary, as she was a great knitter. She was very proud to be able to contribute.

A special thanks to Dr. Dar. Doobay, the caring nurses Asvini, Natasha and Hannah, and PSWs Tammy and Bill.

A celebration of her life will take place at a future date at the Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Uxbridge (905-852-3073), when it is safe for family and friends to gather together again.

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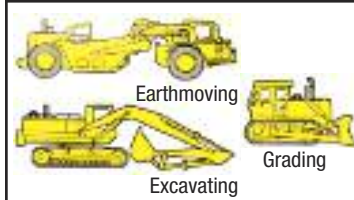
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