

# The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 17

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, April 30, 2020



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Patrick Bryant, Broker of Homes

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**LIKE A ROCK** - "I was strong as I could be." A cluster of brightly coloured rocks with funny faces and inspirational messages adorn a corner of the Cenotaph in downtown Uxbridge. Residents are leaving the cheery mementos everywhere, from outside long-term care homes and residences, to the hospital, to nooks and crannies in trees, all in support of the community as it navigates the COVID-19 crisis. (*Like a Rock*, Bob Seger, 1986).

Photo by John Cavers

## Inside Your Cosmos

Culvert still flowing along . . . . .page 3

Virtual physio . . . . .page 8

**PHARMASAVE**  
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& Home Health Care Centre

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## COVID-19 hasn't crushed the 2020 budget - so far

by Roger Varley

Council received an in-depth report from Treasurer Donna Condon on Monday, detailing how the COVID-19 crisis has affected township finances and will continue to impact future budgets.

The report said the township's financial position is significantly different from the 2020 budget adopted by council on January 27 as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Condon noted that even though faced with some budgetary challenges, public health is the first priority.

"Services should be adjusted to respond and support our community and employees' health as a first priority," her report stated. "Financial goals are secondary to following direction and advice from Public Health to protect the health of our citizens."

The main takeaway from the report is that, at

the moment, losses only slightly outweigh savings. Condon said the impact of COVID-19 on Uxbridge's 2020 operating budget is a projected loss and reduction of revenues of \$1.31 million. This is offset by projected savings and reductions of costs of \$1.24 million, resulting in a projected 2020 operating budget deficit of \$70,000. On top of that, the township might incur additional costs of \$795,000 in COVID-19-related expenditures.

She also related that any municipal deficit, by law, must be made up in future budgets, and since property taxes provided account for approximately 62 per cent of revenues in 2020 to pay for the township's operating and capital programs, any loss in property tax revenues will require a reduction in services or a disproportionate increases in taxes in future budgets.

Condon made clear, however, that the length of the COVID-19 crisis is unknown, making it difficult to accurately predict the financial

outcomes with any degree of accuracy. Nevertheless, for the purposes of the report, she used the assumption that township facilities, programs and services would remain closed until August 31, but would be open and operating September 1.

She said the loss of revenues so far come mainly because of lost income from the arena, Uxpool, the Music Hall, the community centres and other facilities. But a majority of that lost revenue was made back by savings on employee costs as a result of the temporary layoffs of approximately 95 part-time employees; reduced utility costs due to the closure of facilities; savings in programming costs, due to the closure of facilities and cancellation of programs; and savings in operating costs.

Condon's report also noted that when facilities do re-open, pre-COVID-19 activity and

...continued on page 3

**Catch the Ace**  
PROGRESSIVE WEEKLY LOTTERY

**PROJECTED JACKPOT FOR THE NEXT DRAW IS \$3,600**

**DUE TO PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS SURROUNDING COVID-19, 'CATCH THE ACE' TICKET SALES ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD. WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.**

Ontario Problem Gambling Hotline 1-888-230-3505.  
Lottery rules at [www.uxbridgerotary.com/catchtheace](http://www.uxbridgerotary.com/catchtheace).  
No one under 18 may purchase a ticket or win the lottery.

In support of

Rotary Club of Uxbridge Jumpstart

**Just Listed!**

**UXBRIDGE FAMILY HOME** - updated - 4 bed., 4baths - reno'd kitchen with backsplash - newer appliances - large centre island with dining area - quartz counters - finished basement/rec room +bedroom +3pc. bath - large covered deck plus gazebo and hottub - great for entertaining! Check it out!  
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MORE INFO  [www.uxbridge.ca](http://www.uxbridge.ca)

## Council & Committee Meetings

### Meeting Schedule for May, 2020

Monday, May 4, 10:00 a.m.  
VIRTUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 11, 10:00 a.m.  
VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Check the Municipal calendar  
<https://uxbridge.ca/event>  
for upcoming Virtual Advisory Committee meetings.

## From the Tax Department

The latest tax installment was due on April 28th, 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 were 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.



## 2020 Assessment Update

The Ontario government has announced that the 2020 Assessment Update has been postponed. They have indicated that property assessments for the 2021 property tax year will continue to be based on the fully phased-in January 1, 2016 current values. This means your property assessment for the 2021 property tax year will be the same as the 2020 tax year, unless there have been changes to your property. **Request for Reconsideration (RfR) Deadline Extension**

The RfR deadline is usually March 31 of the applicable taxation year. However, given the emergency declared by the Province of Ontario, pursuant to the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and regulations made thereunder, the RfR deadline for the 2020 taxation year will be 16 days after the emergency is lifted.

Contact MPAC at 1-866-296-6722 or visit [www.mpac.ca](http://www.mpac.ca) for more information

# 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)

## 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.

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

Visit

[https://uxbridge.ca/news\\_Local\\_Resources\\_to\\_Assist\\_Residents](https://uxbridge.ca/news_Local_Resources_to_Assist_Residents)  
for links related to support provided by local organizations, various levels of government, and reliable health sources.

## Craving Fresh Air and Exercise?

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

## Do Your Part to Keep Greenspace, Trails and Parks Litter Free

Residents are reminded to bag all dog waste and dispose of it properly. Dumping of household garbage in Township parks or garbage receptacles is also not permitted. Fines will be levied for non-compliance. To report littering or illegal dumping email [bylaw@uxbridge.ca](mailto:bylaw@uxbridge.ca) or call 905-852-9181. Durham Region has extended hours at Waste Management facilities and has increased the weekly bag-limit to 6 to make proper disposal of household waste easy for residents.

## 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.

## Street Sweeping

Street sweeping has begun and will take 6 – 8 weeks to complete. Please try not to park on the streets during this time. Sand may be raked into the curb/gutter but please do not leave sand in piles or in pails, as these will not be picked up. 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.)

**Open Air Fire Ban In Effect**  
in the Township of Uxbridge

## Township of Uxbridge Employment Opportunities

Full details on employment opportunities with the Township of Uxbridge can be found at [uxbridge.ca/employment\\_opportunities](http://uxbridge.ca/employment_opportunities)

Uxbridge Historical Centre -  
EXHIBITION & BUILDINGS  
ASSISTANT

Closing Date: May 15, 2020

Uxbridge Historical Centre -  
MUSEUM SERVICES  
ASSOCIATES (2)

Closing Date: May 15, 2020

## 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.

## 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

**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 doing infrastructure work at the intersection of Nelkydd Lane and Brock St. E.





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



# Culvert construction on schedule

by Roger Varley

Mayor Dave Barton says the construction of the Brock Street culvert is on schedule and, at this time, on budget.

In response to questions posed by the *Cosmos*, the mayor said Tuesday that Brennan Paving and Construction anticipate completing the project in the fall. Currently, 40 per cent of the culvert sections have been installed. The mayor said if the construction does fall behind schedule, Brennan will take steps to get it back on track.

Barton said the township is not

aware of any additional costs to the project other than the fact that Brennan has had a "slight" increase in its costs due to the COVID-19 situation. He added, however, that Brennan has not asked for a change order to cover the increase. The mayor did note that "it is difficult to predict the impact of COVID-19 as it continues to evolve."

As for closing Brock Street to allow for the installation of that part of the culvert, Barton said it is important to

undertake the closure as soon as possible while the downtown area is largely shut down.

He said Brennan's construction process needed to be reviewed after problems occurred to the floor of the adjacent Coffee Time store. He also said that engineers from Brennan and AECOM are applying knowledge they learned from that so that the next phase of construction does not cause similar damage to other properties.

## Town accounts in relatively good shape, from page 1

participation levels might be reached slowly "given the economic toll (loss of income) that some residents have experienced and the concern that some residents may have in returning to pre COVID-19 activity." As a result of COVID-19, she said, the overall impact on the 2020 Budget is projected to be a deficit of \$1,065,000.

On the subject of support for residents, Condon said that council should allow other governments time to fulfill their mandate, noting that

the federal and provincial governments have created multiple programs to assist citizens, businesses and community agencies in Ontario with lost revenues and wages and increased expenditures during the COVID-19 response.

"The township should only consider support in areas in which it has jurisdiction and which it can provide effectively," she said. "The Township should leave larger programs to those levels of government which have the financial capacity to undertake them and avoid the risk of duplicate programs with other levels of government."

## COVID-19 Uxbridge Update

As of press time on Tuesday, April 28, Uxbridge had 19 confirmed cases in the township. Seven of those are currently in home isolation (includes residents in long-term care homes and retirement homes); nine cases have been resolved; and one is currently hospitalized. Two residents have passed away.

The latest event to be cancelled due to COVID-19 is the annual Farm to Train event, which was to occur September 26. Organizers hope to have the event back in 2021 for its 5th anniversary.



**Budget Blinds**

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Toll-free  
888-982-8343

[budgetblinds.com](http://budgetblinds.com)

## NOTICE OF PESTICIDE USE

Between May and October 2020, the Regional Municipality of Durham and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation will be conducting larviciding programs, under the authority of Durham Region's Medical Officer of Health, to control larval mosquitoes in order to prevent the development of vectors of West Nile virus.

The pellet and/or briquette formulation of the larvicide methoprene (Allosid - Registration No. 21809 and No. 27694 under the *Pest Control Products Act, Canada*), or the water soluble pouch formulation of the larvicide *Bacillus sphaericus* (VectoLex WSP - Registration No. 28009 under the *Pest Control Products Act, Canada*), will be placed into catch basins of storm drains in areas across the Regional Municipality of Durham.

The granular formulation of the larvicide *Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies israelensis* (VectoBac 200G - Registration No. 18158 under the *Pest Control Products Act, Canada*) will be placed in temporary pools of standing water, ditches, and storm water retention ponds in areas throughout the Regional Municipality of Durham.

The granular formulation of the larvicide VectoBac 200G and/or the granular formulation of the larvicide *Bacillus sphaericus* (VectoLex CG - Registration No. 28008 under the *Pest Control Products Act, Canada*) might also be placed in sewage lagoons in areas across the Regional Municipality of Durham.

All larvicides will be applied by Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks licensed applicators or trained technicians.

For more information on the locations and dates of treatment on:

Regional and Municipal property - contact the Durham Region Health Department at 1-800-841-2729 or visit [durham.ca/WestNile](http://durham.ca/WestNile) for additional information about West Nile virus

Ontario Ministry of Transportation property - contact Ontario Ministry of Transportation at 1-416-235-5462 (collect calls accepted) additional information.



## Part-Time Journalist Required

The Uxbridge Cosmos is an independent weekly community newspaper that has served the Township of Uxbridge, just north of the Greater Toronto Area, since 2005.

We are seeking a part-time investigative reporter, whose primary responsibility will be coverage of local government and civic institutions, to join our editorial staff in Uxbridge.

The ideal candidate is:

- a graduate of a college or university journalism program and/or has professional experience working as a journalist
- an excellent communicator in English, having demonstrated the ability to write clean articles using CP style
- familiar with basic computer software
- a capable photographer who owns a digital camera
- keen to devote time to research, perform FOI requests, and conduct in-depth investigations on a variety of topics related to civic journalism
- a licensed driver, preferably with a car

The flexibility to work some evenings and weekends is essential (with time off provided as compensation).

Appreciation of community journalism, an interest in the role it plays in supporting public accountability of local government and familiarity with the Uxbridge area and Region of Durham are strong assets.

The position is supported for one year by a grant under the Local Journalism Initiative of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Applicants are invited to send a one-page covering letter and resumé by email to Lisha Van Nieuwenhove, Publisher, at [Lvann@thecosmos.ca](mailto:Lvann@thecosmos.ca)

The Uxbridge  
**COSMOS**

# What's open & closed in Uxbridge

continues to be updated daily online. Visit [thecosmos.ca](http://thecosmos.ca) for the latest.

This list is a free community service offered by The Cosmos.

The Cosmos is not responsible for any changes/alterations that may affect individual businesses.

The Uxbridge  
**COSMOS**

## BUSINESSES:

Do you have more  
to publicize?

Let The Cosmos help!

[Lvann@thecosmos.ca](mailto:Lvann@thecosmos.ca)

for details



# Our two cents

## A habit forming disease

Let's say that March 12 was Before Covid, or BC, and March 13, that Friday before March Break, was the day things started to hit the fan, the Day Covid Came, or DCC. What habits did you have BC that you have broken since DCC? What new habits do you think you've been working on since DCC? And how many of those habits do you think you'll hang onto in the PCW (Post-Covid World)?

As of today, April 30, we have been in the DCC era (using our start date exclusively for our purposes here) for 47 days. Now, "experts" say that "it can take anywhere from 18 to 254 days for a person to form a new habit and an average of 66 days for a new behavior to become automatic." Good news, then! Only 19 days to go and many of us will have successfully created the habit of having ice cream for breakfast and going several days in a row without changing socks! There could be worse habits to create, right?

What about the bigger habits, though? What about the more meaningful habits that we might be forming in our new routines, like perhaps having more conversation around dinner time, or planning meals out in advance because once-a-week grocery trips require it? Walking every afternoon just to escape the four walls that contain you and those with whom you're confined? The list is endless, and unique to every house, every apartment, every person.

Even bigger still, what about the habits the world might be forming? Like not being as focussed on money and economics, but rather on people and their health! Or re-learning to appreciate the smaller things that our natural world has to offer. Let's face it - *Tiger King* got old fast, and there's something about a full birdfeeder and hungry birds that is certainly quite entertaining...

What we're trying to say here is, this is a perfect opportunity for us all to learn new habits that can only better ourselves and our world. After all this, do we really *want* to maintain the status quo on things that are currently *not* working, either for us, as people, or for the planet? We've been griping for a long time that all sorts of things on our beloved Earth are going to hell in a handbasket - we should be accepting this episode in history as being given a giant wake-up call by the Universe - "Hey, you jerks, you've got a chance to clean up the disgusting mess you've made, don't screw it up!"

Good habits, bad habits - we know what we want to keep and what we want to let go. We'll be happy to let the DCC era go, and will welcome the PCW. Suggestion, though - air pollution levels have dropped since DCC, so make sure your socks are fresh. We won't want to blow it on the first day back.



## Letters to the Editor

Saturday, April 25: This should have been our Huck Finn fishing day at the [Elgin] pond for hundreds of kids. We were ready. Instead, most people are self imprisoned in their homes because our government had ask us to, and everyone went happily along.

I am totally blown away by the way a free society can be turned into a dictatorship by simply scaring the living daylights out of everyone. Without our mainstream media, absolutely nothing would have happened.

The mostly old people, in every country, who had underlying health problems for years, would have died of many different causes as always, and did, and the rest of us would have been doing what we always do, until our time comes to go. Now, everyone is only dying by the coronavirus - not old age, no heart attacks, no dementia or cancer, no, only the virus.

Apparently the virus affects our lungs, respiratory problems. Could that have anything to do with the aerosol spraying by high flying military aircraft for over 30 years? On Saturday, April 25, with a high pressure weather system above our area, the sky should have been a deep blue, no clouds. Instead when the sun came up, we had long spray trails everywhere.

Nano particles, yes, nano particles, only they stay up in the atmosphere for hours and days until they come down, to be inhaled by all of us. Later on, the sky turned milky white.

The aerosol ingredients being sprayed, as many people know by now, are aluminum, mostly, (causes dementia and autism) barium, strontium and other poisons. The aerosol trails that were sprayed over

us on Saturday slowly moved east with the light wind. They may have come down in Quebec or further east. The poisons that were sprayed a few days ago, way out west, are by now coming down on us to be inhaled. Ten masks on top of each other couldn't filter out the nano particles from being inhaled by us.

We were never asked by anyone to give permission for the spaying above us. Not a single cloud this Saturday was natural.

We at least should have been informed by our governments 30 years ago of the ingredients in the aerosol spray to give our consent.

Please remember: normal condensation trails by high-flying aircraft disappear within seconds and can never be turned on or off, as we see.

On Monday, April 27, we saw beautiful deep blue sky, only natural forming clouds. Why the spraying on Saturday?

Our government officials and the mainstream media are silent about it - why? Do not believe me, research on your own and look up to the sky.

A good place to start is: GeoengineeringWatch.org

**Regine Nitschke**  
**Uxbridge**

We are on our way to developing another Greenbank disaster but now here in the township. Trucks hauling fill from the city of Toronto (we are Toronto's dumping ground again) is dumping untested fill on Conc. 4.

The township's clerk, Debbie Leroux, has been fantastic in trying to get them [the trucks] to respect the township and its citizens, and to work within the boundaries the township has in place for testing fill,

and has found and licencing companies that are willing to work within the laws of the municipality.

But this company continues to snub its nose at the municipality and jeopardize our health without testing of the fill they are hauling into our township.

We have all witnessed the Greenbank disaster, with the mountains of soil that came (mostly) from Toronto, and the fact the fill was contaminated. It is up to Scugog Township to pay for the expensive cleanup, or go through a long expensive court case.

And remember, every expensive cleanup or court case is paid for by your tax dollar.

Please send a note to the newspaper and the township to let them know you support their efforts to stop this illegal action.

**Bev Northeast**  
**Goodwood**

A Lovely surprise for \*troubled Mill St.

On Saturday, ALL of the residents on Mill St. received a lovely gift - a pot of bright yellow daisy chrysanthemums, and a kind offer to pick up necessities, from a new neighbour whom most of us had never met. Generosity lives and isn't that nice to know.

\*Troubled because we have to put with over 4,000 vehicles per day and the threat of development. The former council approved the building of 29 townhouses on a historic site, the former home of Uxbridge founder Joseph Gould.

**Saundra Reiner**  
**Uxbridge**

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

**LOCAL ADVERTISERS**

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Support our local businesses so they can support The Cosmos.

Because without them, we can't continue to deliver the news you want and need.

**The Uxbridge COSMOS**

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**ocna** Ontario Community Newspaper Association

**CMCA** AUDITED

**News Media Canada** Médias d'Info Canada





## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Enough with the panic-mongering

Many years ago, during the telecast of a CFL game, sportscaster Tim Ryan announced late in the fourth quarter that the only thing sure about the game was that Ottawa, trailing badly at that point, was going to lose. I'll leave it to you to guess what happened.

Also many years ago, Milt Dunnell of the *Toronto Star*, considered by many at the time as the top sports writer in the country, wrote an article listing the reasons why Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) had no chance of defeating Sonny Liston. We *all* know what happened then.

Here were two so-called "experts," relying on years of experience, using that experience to predict the future and they both were totally wrong.

So why does the media continue to run stories of medical experts making various gloomy and sometimes frightening predictions about COVID-19? Because, no matter what their expertise, no one can predict the future. They can make guesses, even educated guesses, but that's all they are: guesses. All of these predictions come with the key word "if." If this happens, things will get worse. If that happens more people will die. If, if, if.

Where's that old British standby - well known by Uxbridge residents because many stores feature variations of it in their windows - "Keep Calm and Carry On."

During the Second World War, Britons were not bombarded with stories that were headlined "German air raids could get worse" or "Deaths from falling bombs could climb drastically." The people didn't need that kind of negativity. They could already see the destruction around them, the piles of rubble that used to be their neighbours' homes. They already knew how deadly those air raids could be and they took the precautions spelled out by their government to survive the aerial assaults.

It became almost routine for mothers to feed the kids their supper, get them ready for bed and then (in London, anyway) march them off to the nearest underground (subway) to take shelter for the night. And that wasn't the worst of it. There was rationing of food and other vital necessities, there was the ever-present danger of fires from the bombing - and there was the blackout.

The blackout saw entire cities go dark. Every home had blackout curtains to make sure not even a glimmer of light escaped to the outside. And since most bombing raids took place on moonless nights, you can imagine how black it was. My mother told us of the time an air raid took her by surprise. She quickly bundled her two young sons into a wicker laundry basket and headed for the bomb shelter at the bottom of our garden. But even though it was her garden, she found herself crawling on her hands and knees, dragging the basket behind her, searching for the shelter in the dark.

For the most part, our Canadian politicians and health experts have relied on the facts and information at hand to get their messages out. But I do wonder if there really is a need for a daily "body count." Do we really have to be updated on the number of new cases or the number of deaths? If there's anyone out there who doesn't yet know about the devastating effects of this horrible disease, I don't think it will help them to keep a score sheet.

What I think would help us all a lot more is a few more tidbits of positive news. There's probably not much of that to go around on COVID-19, but even faint hope is better than no hope at all. As Regional Councillor Gord Higher said during Monday's council meeting: "We're looking positive. As long as we know what we're up against, I think we can tackle it." Not a statement that will go down in the Book of Quotes, but at least it displays the optimism we could all use these days.

So my advice to you is this: if you see a COVID-19 story headline that contains the words "could" or "might", don't bother reading it. It more than likely is about someone's prediction. If we listen to our government leaders during this crisis, we should get through this okay. If those leaders make mistakes, they can and will be held to account when this is all over. But the prognosticators? No one will be holding them to account no matter how wrong their predictions are.

It seems to me the most obvious quote to end this column with is: We have nothing to fear but fear itself."

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Tell me, Prime Minister

On Sunday, April 19, after an excruciating night of pursuit as any known to her force, I'm sure, RCMP Const. Heidi Stevenson made the toughest decision of her life. She'd heard radio calls from a fellow constable nearby that he'd been shot by a murder suspect looking like an RCMP officer, driving what looked like an RCMP cruiser in Nova Scotia. She must have recognized the object of the all-night manhunt was taking deadly advantage of RCMP insignia to approach innocents and shoot them. She must have decided to at least try to take away that advantage. She spotted the impersonator and took drastic action.

"She rammed him," Brian Sauvé of the National Police Federation told the *Toronto Star*, "and probably saved countless lives."

Not, however, her own. In the head-on collision that Const. Stevenson forced, the assailant then shot and killed her, stole her weapons, and was then forced to flee not as a constable, but as a civilian. Says Sauvé, "She was a hero."

Information released by RCMP later indicated that the assailant likely shot Const. Stevenson with a pistol or a long-barrelled gun - one of them acquired in Canada, the others from the U.S. Given that this assailant managed to kill 21 others similarly - masquerading in a trusted uniform and in cold blood... Given that we have now witnessed Canada's worst mass shooting in an otherwise peaceful, law-abiding corner of the country... And given that for weeks the country has lived in nearly 100-per-cent compliance with the "state of emergency" laws of the land - all of us feeling victimized by these killings - I feel compelled to ask an obvious question:

**"Tell me, Public Safety Minister Bill Blair, isn't now the time for a ban on handguns?"**

And if my rationale is deemed by some an over-reaction, consider the plight of Clinton Ellison, who spoke to CBC News, after the murders. He explained that he and his brother Corrie had travelled to visit their father in Portapique, N.S., for the weekend and heard the gunshots up the road and then spotted the fires the murderer set to destroy evidence of his rampage. When Corrie failed to return from his reflex action to investigate and offer help, brother Clinton explored too and found his brother's lifeless body.

"I could see blood, and he wasn't moving," Clinton Ellison told CBC. "I shut my flashlight off. I turned around and I ran for my life." In nearby woods he shivered from fear and shock as the gunman apparently poked around in search of him. The killer gave up and moved

on leaving Ellison feeling, "I'll be traumatized for the rest of my life."

As I watched footage of this young man remembering the selflessness of his brother and the horror of his night shivering alone in the dark, I multiplied his shock times the shock for all family members of those killed. It's hundreds. And I thought of the thousands of other Canadians victimized by the shootings at École Polytechnique in Montreal, Danzig Street in Toronto, the mosque in Quebec City, the other police shootings in Mayerthorpe, Alta., and Fredericton, N.B., and the shootings in La Loche, Sask., that included the murder of teacher Adam Wood, from here in Uxbridge. And I try to speak for all that "collateral" trauma when I ask:

**"Tell me, Pickering-Uxbridge MP Jennifer O'Connell, shouldn't federal laws now reflect the views of the majority of your constituents against private ownership and operation of military assault weapons?"**

If the impact on civilians fails to move our politicians to legislative action, consider the mental blow countless police forces have endured shift after shift, investigation after investigation, funeral after funeral. Like the thousands of wartime veterans, I've interviewed, who were forced by duty to push on after losing a brother, sister, platoon mate, squadron member, or shipmate in combat, I consider the sense of loss felt by Const. Heidi Stevenson's force members, friends, husband Dean and children Connor and Ava.

Of her comrades' reactions to the paralyzing events around Portapique last weekend, however, and the thought that must have crossed Const. Stevenson's mind too as she came to that fateful decision to ram the murderer's bogus police cruiser, I am haunted most by a press-conference comment from RCMP Supt. Darren Campbell:

"I can't imagine any more horrific set of circumstances (than) when you're trying to search for someone (who) looks like you," he said, thinking of the assailant in an RCMP uniform and cruiser. "The dangers that causes..."

If for no other reason than as a plea for those Canadians sent out there to protect us, I pose this basic question to Justin Trudeau:

**"Tell me, Prime Minister, isn't it time to show the kind of leadership we've witnessed from New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and legislate stronger gun control - not to restrict lives, but to save them?"**

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

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# When you can't go to a UMST concert - let the concert come to you

Spring is always a busy time for concerts - the nice weather entices people to leave their winter-weary homes and head out to listen to

music that can lift the heart and soul. The Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust had such a concert planned for Sunday, May 3 - a solo

piano recital featuring 2019 scholarship winner Annika Fabbi. Unfortunately, public recitals are a casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic, but Fabbi still wanted to present all she had worked on over the past year to the Uxbridge community. To this end, Fabbi recorded her full recital program this past weekend, on April 25, and has made the performance avail-

able on YouTube. It can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vY5MF7Mf1f8> or by searching on YouTube for "Annika Fabbi."

Her recital program covers a wide range of piano styles and repertoire, from Baroque to the 20th century masterpiece *Danzas Argentinas* by South American composer Alberto Ginastera. Beethoven also takes centre stage, as 2020 celebrates the 250th anniversary of his birth. Fabbi performs the "Pathétique" sonata and a set of 4-hand variations.

Fabbi is well-known in Uxbridge musical circles. She performed regularly at the Sunderland Lions Music Festival and is a three time winner of the Ross Piano Award, given to the advanced piano student showing the 'greatest potential for further piano study.' She began her piano studies in Uxbridge with Susan Hall, and also studied with Reg Miller of Markham and Clayton Scott of Toronto.

Fabbi was also a leader in the Uxbridge Secondary School music department, and, in addition to her solo pursuits, regularly performs four-hand piano repertoire, is a soprano with the University of Ottawa Choral Ensemble, and is a first clarinet with the Uxbridge Community Concert Band.

Last year, Fabbi received an ARCT diploma in Piano Performance from Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music.

Fabbi is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance at the University of Ottawa and is one of only two first-year students accepted into the studio of David Jalbert, a prominent Canadian piano soloist.



Pianist Annika Fabbi recorded what was to be a live spring concert fundraiser for the Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust and put it on YouTube at [youtube.com/watch?v=vY5MF7Mf1f8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vY5MF7Mf1f8)

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Kim Nicholls, Uxbridge resident



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

Durham Region has come together in such an amazing way to help flatten the curve. It's inspiring to see how we have all worked together; supporting one another during this unprecedented time.

Whether it's sharing your good news stories and inspiration on social media, helping others in need, or simply saying thank you, we are showing what it means to be #DurhamStrong.

In this fight against COVID-19, we are making a difference. But the fight is far from over. We need to keep practising physical distancing, self-isolating and just staying home. It's the only way we will flatten the curve as a community.

Stay home, stay safe, and follow the advice of our public health professionals. Wash your hands often, avoid touching your face, and practise physical distancing. If we each do our part, we can help keep our entire community safe.

#### Let's all do our part.

The Regional Municipality of Durham is doing its part to help flatten the curve. Our essential staff are working around the clock, to deliver the important public services that we need. And, our Durham Economic Task Force is connecting businesses to resources for themselves, their workers and affected families during this challenging time. All in an effort to protect our local economy and help us recover when this is all over.

For more ways to help the community, there's a list of local resources for our vulnerable population at [durham.ca/CommunityResources](http://durham.ca/CommunityResources).

For resources and information to help you with staying home, visit [durham.ca/StayHome](http://durham.ca/StayHome). To our residents, stay healthy, stay safe, and take care of one another. Keep up to date by visiting [durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus](http://durham.ca/NovelCoronavirus). For the most recent case information, visit [durham.ca/COVIDCases](http://durham.ca/COVIDCases).

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# Hands-on treatment done in a hands-off way

Many of the aches and pains that people feel on a daily basis didn't go away at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. But with most businesses having to temporarily close their doors, those who were seeking physiotherapy treatment to help with their aches and pains had to find a different way to work on getting relief. Enter modern technology.

Uxbridge Physiotherapy, located in downtown Uxbridge, is temporarily providing its services via telerehabilitation, which is carried out by either videoconference or phone. Jodi Bussiere, a registered physiotherapist and owner of Uxbridge Physiotherapy, explains how exactly telerehabilitation works. "Even though physiotherapy is on

the list of essential services, our College [of Physiotherapists of Ontario] has made it very clear to us that only emergency cases should be treated in person," she says. "We have not been able to find very many situations where it is worth the risk of our clients, as well as our staff, to open up our doors." Bussiere says telerehab is an effective option or alternative to delivering clients their assessments, communication and treatment.

By using a secure, encrypted platform, telerehabilitation maintains the same patient confidentiality as if clients were in the clinic. People simply need an iPad, laptop or desktop computer, or a smart phone, with a camera and microphone, to carry out the appointments. Clients are advised to find a private space in their home, free of distractions and enough room to move around. Follow-up instructions and exercise programs can be emailed to clients after the appointment, and billing is carried out electronically. Clients are finding the sessions very effective and helpful when in-person visits are not possible.

When asked how her team is able to deliver treatment when they cannot feel signs such as muscle tightness, Bussiere says, "It is amazing how much can be observed and determined on camera by our experienced physiotherapists - posture is examined from various angles, movement is observed, muscle patterning is noted, and the patient history gives us so much information."



Physiotherapist Nicole Igel, of Uxbridge Physiotherapy, works with a client online doing telerehabilitation. Photo by Bella Igel

Virtual treatment includes exercise prescription, self-treatment techniques, posture advice and important education about the patient's injury and its management. People find their initial sessions so helpful that they book several follow-ups, and previous clients are happy to have a way to continue working on their health goals.

Telerehabilitation has created an opportunity for Uxbridge Physiotherapy to provide its services in the future to clients who cannot easily attend an in-person visit.

"We have some clients who live an hour or more away, or perhaps are in a wheelchair and unable to attend the clinic in person temporarily, so we are now able to offer this service

to them." Bussiere and her team are planning for the eventual safe re-opening of the clinic. Various professional associations give them constant updates on current health guidelines and recommendations, which will help direct future practices. In the coming weeks, the clinic will determine what changes will need to be made for safe delivery of care once they re-open. Contact Uxbridge Physiotherapy at 905-862-3870 or admin@uxbridge-physiotherapy.com to inquire about its telerehabilitation services.

*This article is the second in a series of features that focus on how local bricks-and-mortar operations are changing how they do business during the COVID-19 pandemic.*



*How well do you know Uxbridge?*

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



Week 3 prize still up for grabs! Check the photos out online at thecosmos.ca and email in your guesses! 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.

# Thank You!



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## A note from the Uxbridge Fall Fair

**Sadly, the 2020 Fair has been cancelled.**  
**Look forward to a bigger and better fair in 2021!**

Thank you for your continuing support.

Funds have been allocated for a donation to the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank.

**The Fair Board challenges YOU to make a donation in kind or in cash. [uxbridgefoodbank.com](http://uxbridgefoodbank.com)**

Stay safe and stay well.



# Focus on Finance

with Tammy Scuralli, Edward Jones

## Don't Let Fears Drive Your Investments

First, the coronavirus rocked the financial markets. Then, oil prices dropped more than 20 per cent after a breakdown in OPEC production discussions. Not surprisingly, the markets took another nosedive. Yet, despite these events, this recent market volatility may well be attributed more to fear than the forces that usually drive the markets. Ultimately, in the investment arena, as in all walks of life, facts matter. And right now, if you look beyond the headlines, the facts that matter to investors may be far less gloomy than you might have imagined.

Here are some things to keep in mind over the next several weeks:

This isn't 2008. If you were an investor in 2008, you well remember the market crash that resulted from the bursting of the housing bubble, which had severe ripple effects throughout the economy. The situation is different now. This is primarily a health crisis, not a loss of confidence in the financial system. While it's quite likely that the Canadian economy will take a meaningful hit in the short term, the overall economic fundamentals were in solid shape before the coronavirus came along. Specifically, banks were well-capitalized, the labour market conditions were the best in decades, housing activity was improving, and interest rates remained near historic lows.

We've been here before. From the time the markets bottomed out in early 2009 until just a few weeks ago, Canadian stock prices climbed about 110 per cent. Yet, during that time, we also saw two separate market drops of more than 20 per cent, similar to what we're seeing now. These market corrections always feel unsettling, but it's important to recognize that they are actually a normal part of the long-term investing process.

So, given these factors, how should you respond to the current situation? Instead of simply selling your stocks in an attempt to cut your losses, review your portfolio to see if it is properly balanced between stocks, bonds and other investments in a way that reflects your goals, time horizon and risk tolerance. Those investors with properly balanced portfolios are not seeing the same level of decline as those whose

holdings are almost entirely in stocks. And while diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses, it can help reduce the impact of volatility.

Here's another suggestion: Look for good buying opportunities, because they are certainly out there. A well-managed company with a solid business plan that produces quality products and services is going to be that same company after the coronavirus and oil price panics subside – and right now, that company's stock shares may literally be "on sale."

While it's not easy for you to

look at your investment statements today, remember that you're investing for goals that may be decades away. By keeping your eyes on this distant horizon, so to speak, you'll be less likely to over-react to the news of the day – and more likely to follow a long-term strategy that can work for you.

*This column, written and published by Edward Jones, Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund, presents general information only. For more information, please contact Tammy E. Scuralli, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones, at 905-852-1244.*

### WANTED

Folks who live in these here parts - Zephyr, Leaskdale, Sandford, Claremont and Udora, to be precise - who know a lot about their neighbours and a little about writin' a thing or two.

The Uxbridge Cosmos is lookin' to have just one person from each of these hamlets to send in news, information and little tidbits that'll go in the newspaper and online.

If you're fixin' to be one of these folks, send in all the info we need, along with a samplin' of what you can do (no more than 300 words in length) to the attention of the Editor at [Lvann@thecosmos.ca](mailto:Lvann@thecosmos.ca)

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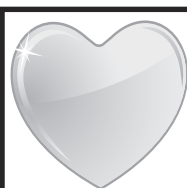
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Rev. Karen Hammond Croxall, left, lights a candle during a small service held outside Trinity United Church last Friday afternoon, honouring the victims of the tragedy which occurred in Nova Scotia. Below, a Canadian flag in Elgin Park stands at half mast, as did flags throughout the township.



A parade of vehicles (two pictured, left) wound its way past Reachview, Butternut Manor, Douglas Crossing and the hospital on the weekend, celebrating healthcare workers. The route was dotted with signs similar to the one pictured above.  
*All photos by John Covers*

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Broker  
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# REAL ESTATE QUESTIONS? WE HAVE ANSWERS.

## Current Real Estate Market

- **Average Selling Price - April 1-17**  
GTA - down 1.5%  
Uxbridge - **up 44.25%\***  
\*due to sales going over asking price.
- **Total Residential Transactions - April 1-17**  
GTA - down 69%  
Uxbridge - down 67%
- **Total New Listings - April 1-17**  
GTA - down 63.7%  
Uxbridge - down 77.6%

Information is believed accurate at time of posting but is not guaranteed to be correct. Statistics provided by: The Toronto Regional Real Estate Board.



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## COVID-19 Financial Support and Programming for Durham Businesses

[InvestDurham.ca/CovidResponse](https://InvestDurham.ca/CovidResponse)

COVID-19 is significantly impacting your business.  
The Durham Economic Task Force is here to help  
you navigate this crisis.

### Economic Development Organizations



### Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade



### Business Improvement Areas

