

# The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 20

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, May 21, 2020



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**ON WITH THE SHOW** - Cathy Carr-Newton, left, sheds tears of joy as she watches a "Chemo-Complete" drive-by parade outside the Uxbridge home she shares with husband, Gary. The parade, comprised of over 50 vehicles, was coordinated by members of the local variety show 'uxperience,' for which Carr-Newton is a producer.

*Photo by Cyndie Jacobs*

## Uxbridge cautiously opens up businesses - and Brock St.

by Roger Varley

Uxbridge received good news and good news on the weekend. Then it got not good news.

The first good news was that the COVID-19 outbreak at Uxbridge Cottage Hospital is now considered over. Markham Stouffville Hospital announced just over two weeks ago that five cases had been discovered amongst the in-patients, enough cases to declare an outbreak. On Sunday, MSH, in consultation with Durham Region Health, declared the outbreak over, as there have been no new cases in the last 14 days. However, MSH spokesperson Rebecca MacKenzie said Tuesday that patient privacy prevented her from speaking about the five cases that were discovered, even to the extent of saying whether or not the patients had recovered.

In other good news, Uxbridge opened up slightly at the beginning of the week - although it will close up again slightly next week.

Following new guidelines set by the province, several stores in the downtown area opened to customers on a limited basis for the first time in weeks. However, it's not such great news that, beginning next Monday, May 25, Brock Street West will be closed to traffic from Toronto St. to Bascom St. to allow construction of the culvert under the roadway. The road is expected to be closed to through traffic for about four months, depending on the weather, said township communications director Colleen Baskin.

Mayor Dave Barton said although the township wanted Brock St. closed while most of the stores were closed due to restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, engineers with AECOM and Brennan Construction were unable to make it happen in time. While Brock St. is closed, motorists can detour along Centennial Dr. to Baskin St. to Brock.

As well as some stores re-opening, a few township facilities also opened. The pump park and

the off-leash dog park opened on Tuesday, but users were reminded to observe social distancing rules. Two women at the dog park were glad to be able to run their huge dogs - three Leonburgers and a Bernese - although one admitted she had a large enough property to give her dogs lots of exercise. But several others also took advantage of the re-opening. At the pump park Tuesday, there were a number of youngsters testing their skills for the first time in weeks.

The township also opened its parks for public use, although facilities such as playgrounds and the fitness equipment in Elgin Park are still off limits. Barton said the re-openings were not announced publicly because the township didn't want people jumping the gun - and jumping fences.

As for the library, he said the library board held a meeting last Friday and decided it was not yet ready to allow on-site traffic and it is

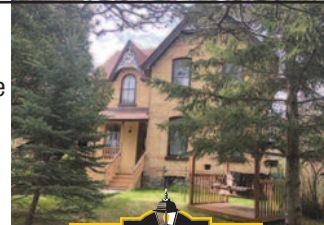
...continued on page 3

### Inside Your Cosmos

Be a backyardian .....page 5

Nods to nature .....page 6

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# Uxbridge at a Glance

The Township of  
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## Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for May, 2020

Monday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.

New Time: 10:00 a.m.

VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Check the Calendar of Events at [Uxbridge.ca](http://Uxbridge.ca) for upcoming Virtual Advisory Committee meetings.

## 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 - COMPLETED
2. S/W corner of town - UNDERWAY
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.)

## Craving Fresh Air and Exercise?

Area trails remain open.

Follow

[uxbridge.ca/en/news/walking-trails-open.aspx](http://uxbridge.ca/en/news/walking-trails-open.aspx)

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.



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)

## Notice of Road Closure

Brock St. W. will be closed for approx. 4 months between Toronto St. and Bascom St. beginning

**May 25**

Detours in place.

Parking and pedestrian access available

Please continue to support downtown businesses.



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



## Updates - Reopenings/Closures

The following Township of Uxbridge facilities have re-opened – all other facilities remain closed. Physical distancing requirements remain in place as are bans on groups of more than 5 people (not from the same household).

- The Fire Ban has been lifted – fire permits are available for sale at the Fire Hall, Monday through Friday between 8:30am – 4:30pm. Please note social distancing measures are in place and exact cash payment or cheques are preferred - no debit sales.
- The skate park, pump park and off-leash dog park are all open as of Tuesday, May 19.
- Soccer pitches and baseball diamonds are open for use, however bans on groups of more than 5 (not from the same household) are still in effect.

Visit [www.uxbridge.ca/en/news/select-township-facilities-reopen-for-use.aspx](http://www.uxbridge.ca/en/news/select-township-facilities-reopen-for-use.aspx) for updates.

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

Visit

[uxbridge.ca/en/news/resources-to-assist-businesses-and-residents.aspx](http://uxbridge.ca/en/news/resources-to-assist-businesses-and-residents.aspx)

for links related to support provided by local organizations, various levels of government, and reliable health sources.

## Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to [uxbridge.ca/tenders](http://uxbridge.ca/tenders)

The Township continues to accept bids and tenders – all bids must be received by the Township, by the deadline stated. Bids may be delivered electronically or mailed to P.O. Box 190, 51 Toronto St. S., Uxbridge or left in our 'Red Barn' drop box located at 51 Toronto Street South. In person submission of bids and tenders are not being accepted at this time due to the Township office closure. Public tender openings will not be held until further notice.



## We're looking for you!

The Uxbridge BIA (Business Improvement Area) Board of Directors is seeking a dynamic and experienced professional to join our team as a part-time Administrative & Membership Services Coordinator (12-month contract).

Supporting the efforts of the BIA, this person will act as the key contact for all Uxbridge BIA inquiries and will aid in developing and strengthening new and ongoing relationships with both businesses and customers, fostering community engagement in the spirit of "Think Uxbridge First." Reporting to the Township Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and BIA Chair and Board of Directors (approximately 20-30 hours per week), your duties and responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, administration, membership engagement, communications and special events coordination. Applications must be received no later than **May 25, 2020**.

Applicants may submit a detailed cover letter and resumé to [dlaroux@uxbridge.ca](mailto:dlaroux@uxbridge.ca) with 'Uxbridge BIA Administrative Coordinator Application' as subject line. Alternatively, please mail your submission in a sealed envelope identifying the position being applied for and marked "Confidential" to the attention of:

Debbie Leroux,  
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
Township of Uxbridge  
51 Toronto Street South,  
P.O. Box 190 Uxbridge ON L9P 1T1

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

## Temporary Road Closures

- Victoria Street from Brock Street West to King Street West, on Sunday, May 24 from 7am – 3pm.
- Closure of Nelkydd Lane due to construction has extended to the 1st week of June.

## Uxbridge Music Hall Board Advisory Meeting

May 29 at 9 am.

This meeting will be held virtually. Anyone wanting to take part can do so by pre-registering with Karen Ryl at [kryl@uxbridge.ca](mailto:kryl@uxbridge.ca) by 4pm May 28.

## Public Participation

The Township of Uxbridge is committed to facilitating public participation, especially while our meetings are taking place electronically. You can now submit your questions and comments related to items on the agenda in real time during Council and Committee meetings. Check out our Public Comments feature through our website at [Uxbridge.ca/agendas](http://Uxbridge.ca/agendas) by selecting the meeting from the calendar and viewing the HTML agenda. If you have any questions about how to participate in our electronic Council and Committee meetings, please contact Josh Machesney, Deputy Clerk, at [jmachesney@uxbridge.ca](mailto:jmachesney@uxbridge.ca)

## Thank You

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!

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

*What's opened up in Uxbridge, from page 1*

working on a curb-side model.

Foxbridge Golf Course was also busy Tuesday, as it had been all weekend. Course attendant Quentin Hudgis said the course was fully booked on Saturday and was "super busy" all Victoria Day weekend. He said golfers are assigned individual carts unless they are members of the same domicile, and carts are sanitized after every use. He said golfers are urged to observe distance rules while on the course, but admitted there is little staff can do to enforce it. Leagues such as the Tuesday Ladies League are still on hold for the time being.

In the stores that welcomed back customers, precautions are still being taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. At Lows Furniture, Ashley Low said the store has hand sanitizer at its entrances and only 10 people are allowed in the store's 10,000 square feet at any one time. The store was also in the process of having a shield put in place at the cash counter.

For Ashley, who has been working from home, the opening is therapeutic. "It's so nice to see people again," she said.

At Woods clothing store, Kathy Bridgeman said it had been quiet on Tuesday. When customers do come in, only two are allowed in the store at one time, with hand sanitizer stationed near the door. The fitting rooms are sani-

tized after every use and any clothing tried on but not purchased is steamed and put in "isolation" for 36 hours. The Passionate Cook has been open to customers during the shutdown because it sells food, an essential service, but a large number of its staff remain laid off until such time as a full re-opening is allowed.

Blue Heron Books will not be open to walk-in customers until Saturday as staff get the store ready after serving as a distribution centre for books for the last several weeks.



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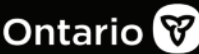
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# Our two cents

## COVID is here to stay - WE need to change

Perhaps you've seen the image. It's circulating various social media platforms at the moment - a house fully ablaze sits in the centre of the photo, with the words below reading "The fire has reached its peak. You can go back in now!"

The intent of this meme is to mock what many view as the premature re-opening of several sectors of society and the economy. The world, more specifically the province, has of course been virtually shut down since on or around March 15. But this past weekend, golf courses reopened, construction started back up, and now even shops can open their doors to foot traffic again, provided they have a street entrance. Business owners may be rejoicing at this, but armchair epidemiologists are pointing to still rising numbers (the number of cases in Uxbridge has increased by at least 10 since last week) and saying it's all too soon, that we're moving too quickly.

It's worth a reminder of the following. Social/physical distancing was *not* implemented to *stop* the spread of the novel coronavirus. It was implemented to get us all out of the way of one another while the medical system put much-needed infrastructure in place. And it would appear that, luckily for us, that stall tactic *worked*. Our health care system has not been overwhelmed like it could have been if life had continued on as normal (read: Italy).

If you're chomping at the bit to get back to life as it was pre-COVID-19, good on you. If you're wary of what is occurring now and fear that it's all happening too soon, good on you, too. Because physical distancing was never intended to keep us all inside until the deadly virus just ran out of people to infect. It's never going to go away, be non-existent. Vaccines may be invented, treatment drugs may come along, but many in the medical and scientific worlds say COVID-19 is just as likely to stick around as, say, the chicken pox.

If that's the case, we all need to decide how we ourselves are going to deal with it. Fingers crossed, we've come through the worst. We've done what we were told would help "flatten the curve." Now, if the curve doesn't stay flat, and we enter a second, or even third and fourth wave of new cases occurring, we'll be that much better prepared to take it on. Health care facilities will have what they need for afflicted patients. We'll have the resources and knowledge to either continue safely going about our lives, or to revert to what we've been living the past couple of months. We did it once, we can do it again.

There will be no going back to the way things were before. There will only be learning, listening, and the opportunity to be open-minded and compassionate while the world opens its doors and peeks out its frightened head.



## Letters to the Editor

We are sad to announce that this year's Uxbridge Lions Art In The Park event is cancelled.

Due to the current and future state of COVID 19 projections from the medical community, and the requirements our government and our local municipalities have established, in order to deal with this world wide emergency, we have decided to offi-

cially postpone this event until 2021.

This was not an easy decision, but a necessary one. As a club that prides itself in raising funds for charitable work in your community, it is very distressing to have to take these actions.

The Art In The Park Silent Auction event alone has raised over \$50,000 for Guide Dogs over the past 25

years.

Please join us in supporting the Pet Valu Virtual Walk for Guide Dogs on May 31 at <https://www.walkfordogguides.com/locations/walk.cfm>

We look forward to seeing everyone next year.

**Robert Armitage**  
Uxbridge Lions Club

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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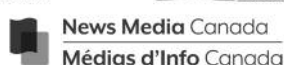
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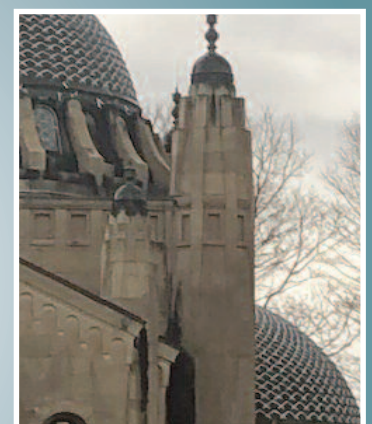
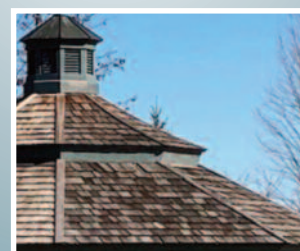


9,500 copies of The Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge: 8,800 delivered by mail, 700 available in stores and boxes.



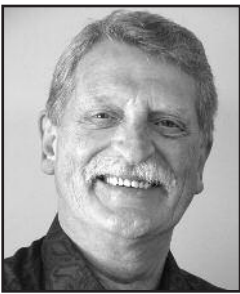
*How well do you know Uxbridge?*

Try to identify all five of these photos. The first person to email [snookward5@gmail.com](mailto:snookward5@gmail.com) wins a \$25 iTunes gift card!



- Week 6 Winner: Congratulations to Petra Bolle
- 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: Uxbridge Baptist Church; The Flooring Barn; Masonic Hall Train Mural; Leaskdale Roosters Fries; Stone sculpture at Uxbridge Town Hall



## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Who decides what and when?

It's an old axiom that knowledge is power.

At its most basic, it means those who have needed information can act on it, while those who don't have the information can not. So who decides who receives information?

A couple of cases in point. Just over two weeks ago, Markham Stouffville Hospital put out a statement that there was an outbreak of COVID-19 at Uxbridge Cottage Hospital. At the same time, MSH refused to answer any questions about the outbreak and decided that any future information about the Uxbridge Hospital must come only from MSH. So it took another two weeks before MSH decided to share any more information with the residents of Uxbridge. Admittedly, the news was good: the outbreak was declared to be over. But good news or bad, who gave MSH the power to determine what local COVID-19 information to share with the Uxbridge residents and when?

To say the Uxbridge Hospital is near and dear to the hearts of Uxbridge residents is to put it mildly. The residents of Uxbridge helped build the hospital many years ago and various charities and service clubs around town have made significant contributions to the facility. The Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Auxiliary, which runs Chances Are among other things, has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the hospital over the years. For MSH to say, in effect, that they will tell us what they think we need to know about the hospital is to dismiss residents' concerns over something they consider their own.

Second case in point: the opening of township facilities. The pump park, the off-leash dog park and other parks were opened on Tuesday and they were being used. But the township didn't put out any press releases or social media posts (that we could find) to inform residents of the openings. They just left people to find out on their own. Now, in a town like Uxbridge, news has a way of travelling fast and those facilities were being well attended. Nevertheless, while the township made sure everyone knew when these facilities were being closed, it was a different story when they were re-opened. Mayor Dave Barton offered the excuse that they kept the openings quiet because they didn't want people jumping the gun and descending upon the facilities *en masse*. But that just doesn't

cut it for me. It is not for the township to decide how people will react to official news: it's the township's duty to keep its residents informed about things that affect them. And, in many instances, they pay for.

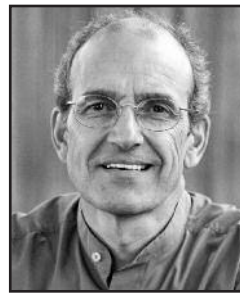
Which brings us back to the question, who decides who receives what information and when? It's a question that faces the news media every day. What stories should we put before the public and what stories should be left untold? It usually comes down to an editor deciding that one story is more newsworthy and of interest to more people than another. Sometimes the decision is dictated by space available, sometimes it is because the information received on a particular issue is not sufficient to put together a worthwhile, readable item. But, whatever the reason, the media decides what you will know and what you will not. It's a heavy responsibility and one that we (I use the term globally) do not take lightly.

But that's the media. What about governments and institutions at all levels? Who gave them the right to decide what to tell the public and what to keep secret? Again, take the hospital as an example. We know there were at least five cases of COVID-19 there, but we are not allowed to know if they recovered, if they are still in quarantine or, heaven forbid, if any of them died. How, in the name of Jack McCuddy, would that information infringe on patient privacy? Such information would not tell us the patients' names, addresses or any other pertinent information about them. We only wanted health status, nothing more.

As I've said in the past, those with power - any kind of power - are more likely to use it than not. And since these governments and institutions have somehow come by this power to control the flow of information, you can bet they will exert that control. It matters not what you or I or anybody else thinks: they will either enlighten you or keep you in the dark, depending on what serves their purposes best.

It seems to me that when any body, governmental or institutional, affects the general population with its decisions and policies, that population has the right to know how those decisions and policies were reached and why.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### 'Backyarding' - the new normal

I needed the contact, the conversation. Anything. So, I stopped at his front walk, so that a friend and I could talk - keeping physical distance - about how each other's family was faring. We moaned about the weather and the isolation. We tried to stretch the human connection as long as possible. But all too soon, we had to bring our chat to an end. I wished him well.

"It's back to the garden," he said.

I smiled and nodded as I left, because he, like I, has found himself spending a lot of this spring's lockdown time in his backyard. Indeed, after my wife and I had read as many books, newspapers and magazine back-issues - collecting at our bedsides, strewn across the dining-room table and gathering dust in the bathroom periodical stand - we turned to our next favourite pastime, Scrabble. But after that daily novelty wore off, we began gazing out our rear window at a yard full of challenge, potential accomplishment, and yes, even escape. The backyard beckoned.

First, I cleaned it up. The first snowfall back in November had hidden my dirty little secret, but about the time the hint of lockdown was broadcast in mid-March, I braved those cold days to rake, collect and bag all the debris I'd neglected last fall. Hell, I filled more than 30 big refuse bags a good three weeks before the municipality had scheduled yard-waste collection. I was really proud of myself. One of my neighbours even helped me knock down a dead tree along our property line. But that's what sparked our next backyard activity - wildlife watch.

"Look at that!" my neighbour called out having felled a dead poplar perfectly between two other living ones. "They're flying squirrels." We hadn't spotted a hollowed-out section of the dead poplar, and it had been the home of two bug-eyed rodents (with tell-tale skin stretched between front legs and back) now clinging to one of the remaining live trees. But almost as suddenly as we'd evicted the squirrels, my neighbour had taken the portion of the hollowed-out trunk that had been the squirrel's lair and strapped it to the living adjacent tree. Periodically ever since, we've peered into the night to see if the squirrels ever returned to their jerry-built tree-hole apartment.

It turns out that was just the start of our wildlife gazing - especially skyward. For years, we've haphazardly filled feeders with seeds for returning songbirds. We've even marked on the fridge calendar each year when we've heard

wrens and seen hummingbirds in our backyard. But with more time and more frequent gazing this year, we've upped our game. Early on in the pandemic, we invited the grandkids - appropriately distanced - to toss peanuts across the still boring, brown lawn. Then, my wife began placing fresh fruit on strings and platforms in plain view. As a result, aside from the usual blue jays, flickers and chickadees, we've enjoyed a rainbow of colour in the yard, thanks to mating pairs of goldfinches, orioles and cardinals chowing down on the smorgasbord of seeds and fruits. I even set up a tripod to photograph the feathered air show.

Biggest of our "backyarding" projects, however, came when our daughter (the jazz singer turned green thumb) told us about her latest backyard pandemic project - a couple of four-by-eight-foot raised garden beds she'd built. Well, didn't we have to build some too. Keep in mind, I have no handyman skills whatsoever. Nevertheless, we waited in line at one of the curb-side pickup hardware stores, brought home the lumber, engaged family assistance to cut it, and then I managed to piece together a pair of raised garden boxes for our backyard. Then, the topsoil arrived.

"Where do you want it?" the dump-truck driver asked.

"Right here in the driveway, I guess," I said. Do you know how many wheelbarrows full of topsoil it takes to fill two four-by-eight-foot raised garden beds? I didn't either. But, over the next few days, I (and my back) learned what building Hadrian's Wall or the CPR must have taken. Never mind. Now, the real work begins - organizing, planting and tending the vegetables that we hope to plant in those beds.

My wife and I have weathered the 2020 lockdown reasonably well; after all we've been married for nearly 45 years. And since both of us have survived as freelancers - working mostly from home - we've learned to live and work in close quarters, 'round-the-clock. However, I think she and I would both admit that the hours we've invested in our backyard this spring - wildlife gazing, yard cleaning and gardening - have surprised us. It's given us satisfaction when we needed it. It's provided simpler forms of enjoyment. And it's probably helped us keep our sanity.

"Backyarding" may bore some people to death, but maybe it's better than the risk of dying from COVID-19.

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

 <p>4 Banff Rd., Uxbridge 905-852-8889</p> <p><b>Current hours:</b></p> <table> <tr><td>Monday</td><td>3-7 pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Tuesday</td><td>3-7 pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>3-7 pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday</td><td>2-7 pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday</td><td>11-8 pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday</td><td>2-7 pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday</td><td>11-7 pm</td></tr> </table> <p>*Checkout our full menu at <a href="http://www.halibuthouse.ca/menu">www.halibuthouse.ca/menu</a></p>	Monday	3-7 pm	Tuesday	3-7 pm	Wednesday	3-7 pm	Thursday	2-7 pm	Friday	11-8 pm	Saturday	2-7 pm	Sunday	11-7 pm	<p><b>Saturday Take-out Special</b> Offer expires June 30/20</p> <p><b>Family House Meal Special for 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Battered Halibut</li> <li>8 Battered Shrimps</li> <li>8 Breaded Mushrooms OR Fried Dill Pickle</li> <li>2 Orders Chips</li> <li>1 Order Onion Rings</li> <li>Large Garden Salad OR Coleslaw</li> </ul> <p><b>Only \$69.99</b> <b>\$99.00 value</b></p> <p>*Substitute garden salad for Greek or Caesar - add \$3 *Substitute chips or onion rings for rice - add \$3 *Add any pop for \$1 *No additional substitutes allowed</p>	<p><b>Sun./Mon. Special</b> <b>Haddock Fish and Chips</b></p> <p><b>Only \$8.00</b></p> <p>* No Substitutes allowed</p> <p><b>Tuesday Special</b> (Offer expires June 30/20. Take-out Special) <b>Sole Fish and Chips</b></p> <p><b>Only \$7.00</b></p> <p>* Add 2nd piece of Fish for \$2 Only * No Substitutes allowed</p>	<p><b>Wednesday Special</b> <b>King Cod and Chips</b></p> <p><b>Only \$9.00</b></p> <p>* No Substitutes allowed</p> <p><b>Thursday Special</b> (Offer expires June 30/20. Take-out Special) <b>Chicken Souvlaki/Gyros Wrap with Chips</b></p> <p><b>Only \$9.00</b></p> <p>* No Substitutes allowed</p>
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## The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

### What's that buzz?

Spring, my friends, has finally taken hold. Warmer sunny days are bringing forth wondrous rebirth and we are enjoying the fresh breezes of spring. Flowers are blooming, trees are budding, and bees are buzzing.

Honeybees depend on those blooming spring flowers. They've been dormant inside their hives since last autumn's leaves fell. Spring is when the colonies multiply and take advantage of the abundance our growing season provides. To do that, they need food, and the nectar and pollen from flowers are what they eat.

Honey is classified by the main source of nectar, such as alfalfa, buckwheat, clover, or lavender. If there are several varieties of flower nectar in the honey then it's usually light in colour with a mild, sweet taste. Farmers need bees to pollenate many different crops, such as fruit and nut trees, berries, vegetables, and even some kinds of coffee!

When you notice bees in your spring garden, be happy! They're just out for a quick bite to eat. Do you like almonds? Thank a honeybee. Do you like apples, cherries, or blueberries? Honeybees are essential for

these sweet treats. How about broccoli, cauliflower, squash, peppers, or cucumber? Thank a honeybee! They're responsible for one out of every three bites you eat!

Honeybee Fun Facts:

1. Only female bees gather nectar for the colony.
2. It takes one colony of bees (30,000 bees) to pollinate an acre of fruit trees.
3. One worker bee gathers enough nectar in her whole life to make 0.8g of honey.
4. It takes 567 bees to make a pound (454g) of honey.
5. Altogether, those bees fly once around the world to make that pound of honey.
6. They must visit over 2 million flowers to collect the nectar for that honey.
7. During a collection trip a bee will visit 50 – 100 flowers before returning to the hive.
8. A bee will collect pollen from only one type of flower at a time.
9. Honeybees fly about 24 km/hr.

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

## Nature club keeps busy during quarantine

by Brenda Near

While the human world is in chaos, the natural world carries on, as does the North Durham Nature Club. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, NDN has started a Facebook group called Wildflowers of North Durham. Anyone who is a resident of the North Durham area can request to join to post photos, ask questions and see photos of native plants blooming in the area - a great way to learn some of the native flora.

During a "normal" spring, NDN would also have some birding outings on its agenda, but since that has been curtailed we are running a "Covid 19- Backyard Birding Challenge." Each month, club members can participate by counting the number of bird species seen or heard, on or from, their property. The club had an amazing April, with member Geoff Carpentier recording a whopping 66 species! Carol Apperson sighted 52 species, and Brenda Near, 45. Some of the top seen bird species were Blue Jay, American Crow, Black Capped Chickadee, American Robin and American Goldfinch. On the more 'exotic' side, three owls were recorded by members: Eastern Screech, Barred and Great Horned.

There is also a Backyard Bird photography contest being held. Lists and photos for May should be exciting since the majority of spring migrants arrive in this month!

There are many bird boxes erected in the Countryside Preserve in Uxbridge and NDN is always looking for help with monitoring and maintaining them. This is a great way to connect with nature. If interested please contact Derek Connelly via email at [ndnature7@gmail.com](mailto:ndnature7@gmail.com)

For links to all that NDN has to offer with regards to the natural world found in the Township of Uxbridge, visit their website at [northdurhamnature.com](http://northdurhamnature.com)

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*Stay healthy, positive and calm*

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Kim Nicholls, Uxbridge resident

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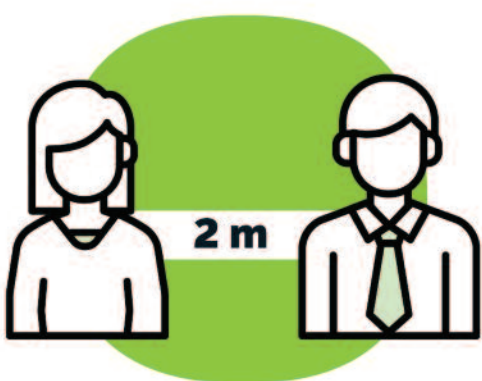


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