

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 18

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, May 7, 2020



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A FRONT LINE THANK YOU - A vintage truck cruises by the Uxbridge Hospital on Friday morning as a sign of support and thanks to all staff working through the COVID-19 pandemic. Hours later, the hospital announced that it had at least five cases of the novel coronavirus amongst its inpatients. For more on the outbreak, see story on page 3.

Photo by John Cavers

Pavilion to get head start while pump park closed

by Roger Varley

While public spaces are closed because of the coronavirus pandemic, facilities manager Bob Ferguson told council during a virtual meeting on Monday morning that now would be a good time to proceed with the construction of a shelter pavilion at the new pump park.

He said about 800 cubic metres of "engineered" fill would need to be brought in to provide a foundation on which the pavilion would sit. Ferguson said the Acton Group is willing to donate the fill. In addition, the Acton Group has provided a quote of \$11,200 to complete all the pavilion work once the fill is in place. Ferguson sought council's permission to sole source the work to Acton instead of offering it for tender.

Ferguson pointed out that the lack of public traffic at the pump park and adjacent skate park means now would be the ideal time to

start the construction. When asked about the province's ban on non-essential construction, Ferguson said this type of municipal construction had been given approval by the province earlier Monday morning.

He said the pavilion, which would measure 40 feet by 20 feet, would be similar to the one erected by the Bonner Boys at the splash pad.

When discussing the eventual reopening of the various parks and recreation facilities in the township, Ferguson told councillors that he, along with other township staff, are already looking at different ways the township may go about reopening Uxbridge's public parks.

Regional Councillor Gord Hightet commented that there is growing pressure to reopen the public spaces.

"The damn is about to burst," he said.

During the same meeting, Mayor Dave Barton took an opportunity to respond to several complaints from residents regarding the filling

at a gravel pit on Conc. 4, pointedly saying that there is no illegal dumping of fill taking place at a Beamish gravel pit.

Barton said the fill comes from the Hwy. 404 widening project in Markham, with every truck load tracked electronically. He said every load is tested at the originating site and again when it reaches the pit. He said he and Councillor Willie Popp were at the receiving site recently to observe the operation.

As the last item on the agenda of Monday's meeting, Regional Councillor Hightet submitted a report to council Monday asking for its support for a "yellow ribbon campaign" to show solidarity for the community's front-line and essential services workers.

Hightet said he was making the proposal in conjunction with the *Uxbridge Cosmos*.

Noting that his report was short on specifics,

...continued on page 3

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190
Uxbridge L9P 1T1
905-852-9181 info@uxbridge.ca

Updates, Closures & Cancellations

All Township of Uxbridge facilities are closed **until further notice**. Visit uxbridge.ca/en/news/facility-closure-notice.aspx for updates. Call our main line or email our general mailbox with inquiries.

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MORE INFO  www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for May, 2020

Monday, May 11, 10:00 a.m.
VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 18
NO MEETING – VICTORIA DAY
Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL COMMITTEE OF
ADJUSTMENT
Wednesday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Check the Calendar of Events at Uxbridge.ca for upcoming Virtual Advisory Committee meetings.

Township of Uxbridge Employment Opportunities

Full details on employment opportunities with the Township of Uxbridge can be found at Uxbridge.ca/careers

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

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



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 for more information

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

Visit

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.

Craving Fresh Air and Exercise?

Area trails remain open.

Follow

uxbridge.ca/en/news/walking-trails-open.aspx

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

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.)

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to uxbridge.ca/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.

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 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

Uxbridge Township Board & Committee Appointments 2018-2022

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge invites applications from members of the public who are qualified electors of the Township of Uxbridge who wish to have their names considered for appointment for the remaining term of Council (expiring Nov.30, 2022) to the Santa Claus Parade Committee. The Township is searching for dedicated, results-oriented volunteers for this committee with varying skills/backgrounds specifically in the areas of:

- event management/marketing/planning
- volunteer management
- parade planning
- design & creative capabilities
- strong communication skills

Special consideration will be given to:

- owners of commercial buildings/business in Uxbridge
- representatives from local service groups
- representatives from the agriculture sector

The Township will be looking to this team of 7-9 individuals to plan and implement the 2020-2022 Santa Claus Parade. The Township

is recognizing 2020 as the 60th Anniversary of the Uxbridge Santa Claus Parade.

Anyone interested in offering their services, and would accept an appointment is invited to submit a Volunteer-Committee Member Application Form available on the Township's website

uxbridge.ca/en/your-local-government/boards-committees-and-initiatives.aspx

along with a letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience/background to the undersigned by **4:30 pm on Wednesday, May 20, 2020.**

Any questions regarding these appointments may be directed to the undersigned:

Debbie Leroux, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

P.O. Box 190, 51 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1

Telephone: 905-852-9181

Fax: 905-852-9674

e-mail: dleroux@uxbridge.ca



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

COVID-19 strikes Uxbridge Hospital

by Roger Varley

Late Friday evening brought unfortunate news to the township - COVID-19 has made its way into the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital.

According to a release from the communications department at the Markham Stouffville Hospital, "five patients on the inpatient unit at the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital have tested positive for COVID-19 and an outbreak has been declared."

A patient outbreak is declared when a unit has two or more patients who test positive for a communicable disease, such as the flu or COVID-19.

The statement went on to state that the hospital is working closely with Durham Region Health Department, and took immediate precautions to protect patients and staff.

Under the guidance of the hospital's Infection Prevention and Control department, the unit was reportedly placed on appropriate precautionary measures, and all steps have been taken to quickly manage and identify any individuals with potential exposure to the virus. All other patients

on the unit are being actively monitored for symptoms associated with COVID-19.

"Our top priority is the safety of patients, our health care workers and the community. As we continue to see spread of COVID-19, Markham Stouffville Hospital Corporation remains vigilant and is actively preparing measures to respond to additional cases and outbreaks at the Uxbridge Hospital," said the release.

As of Tuesday, the department was refusing to add anything to the statement or to answer any questions arising from it. They would not say what "immediate precautions" had been taken at the hospital nor would they say what measures they are "actively" preparing.

The communications department would say only that if updates are needed, new statements will be released.

Mayor Dave Barton said the announcement of the outbreak at the hospital "doesn't change a thing" with regards to how the township is dealing and coping with the novel coronavirus pandemic, adding "our

thoughts are with the patients and staff."

"We must continue to assume everyone has COVID-19 and create that social distance," he said. "COVID-19 is slippery. Testing isn't 100 per cent."

He said he was concerned that he is seeing more groups of people "that appear to be from different households" gathering without social distancing.

"All the sacrifices we all have made will be in vain if we're not careful," he said.

At the time of this writing, the Township of Uxbridge has 28 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Ten of those have been resolved, 12 are in isolation, two are in a hospital (none in intensive care), and four have succumbed to the virus.

For current updates on the status of COVID-19 cases in Durham Region, visit the COVID-19 Data Tracker at durham.ca/covidcases

*Tie a yellow ribbon,
from page 1*

including how any contributions for the ribbons would be spent, he said he had introduced the idea "just to get the ball rolling with council behind it."

"The *Cosmos* has kindly offered to help coordinate some of the logistics and we hope to have a full celebration in Uxbridge once Public Health provides us with safe approval to host an event," the report said.

Hight said yellow was chosen because it reflects a joyous spring, is a bright and noticeable colour and represents happiness and hope.

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove, editor and publisher of the newspaper, told council she was looking into the possibility of inserting lengths of yellow ribbon into a future edition of the publication and offered to have ribbons at the *Cosmos* office for contact-free pickup.

Hight said people could tie the ribbons to gate posts, balconies, trees, car aerals or anywhere they would be

prominent.

Council agreed to support the project in principle, but said it would need more details further down the road.





*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 4 Winner: Congratulations to the Flear Family! Contest to run weekly until quarantine is deemed over. All correct entries received weekly over the entirety of the Quarantainment Contest will be entered into a grand prize draw. Last week's answers: St. Paul's Leaskdale; Sculpture outside Cobra Metal on Hwy 47; Premium Car Wash on corner of Main Street and Young Street; Uxbridge Township office mailbox; Uxbridge Hospital bridge/path.



COMMUNITY NOTICE

Annual Vegetation Management Program

Every year, CN is required to clear its right-of-way from any vegetation that may pose a safety hazard. Vegetation on railway right-of-way, if left uncontrolled, can contribute to trackside fires and impair proper inspection of track infrastructure.

As such, for safe railway operations, the annual vegetation control program will be carried out on CN rail lines in the province of Ontario. A certified applicator will be applying herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 16-foot gravelled area). All product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be fulfilled.

At this time, we expect that the program will take place from May to October 2020.

Visit cn.ca/vegetation to consult the list of cities as well as the updated schedule.

Safety is a core value at CN and in the actual context of the COVID-19 pandemic, our employees and contractors are taking all measures to stay healthy and to protect the communities in which we operate. For more information, please visit cn.ca/covid-19-update.

For more information, please contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.

cn.ca




What's open & closed in Uxbridge

continues to be updated daily online. Visit 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.



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for details

Our two cents

Get back on that bicycle

As we sit here nursing the remains of the sunburn we obtained on Sunday while enjoying the glorious weather, we think it's safe to say that Spring is here. That said, we know that you may well be reading this as a thin dusting of snow lays over the green grass, Mother Nature giving us the proverbial middle finger just one last time, as she is so often wont to do.

We want to beg for just one moment, however, to everyone to please, *please*, PLEASE not start getting lax or complacent about social distancing and masks (if worn) and all the other rules and guidelines that we have bravely and successfully implemented over the past two months. Yes, governments have started announcing plans to "reopen," but they do this to give us all something to look forward to - note how no one has (wisely) set a date, at least not in Ontario. That's because no one knows *when* it might be a good time to let patios and parks, those places we love to go to so that we can raise our faces to the sun, open up again.

We can only know that we have been doing the right thing, the best thing, for ourselves, our families, and the population in general. Is it the best thing for our businesses and our bank accounts? No, it most certainly isn't. No matter what you think of the federal and provincial governments, though, we can likely all agree that we are darned lucky that both have been quick to try and do what they feel they can to alleviate any hardships we may experience due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This whole episode has played out a bit like a child getting a new bicycle for Christmas. It was all strange and exciting at first, and we were eager but scared to try it all out. We got used to how it felt, and, despite our fear, kept working at it, learning what to do and how to do it successfully so that no one got hurt. But now, it seems, we're getting bored, and we're ready to go back to playing the way we were before we got our "gift."

We implore you - get back on the bike. Keep riding, keep practicing. Don't focus on how hard it is to pedal up the hill - think instead about reaching the top of the hill, and the view you'll see when you get there. Think about the feel of the wind in your hair and the sun on your cheeks as you race down the other side, hopefully thankful that you had the chance to enjoy the ride, regardless of the scraped knees you may have incurred along the way.

This Sunday is Mother's Day. Enjoy it for what it is this year. Take advantage of the neat deals some local businesses have on offer, and make it special, even more special than usual. You never know - maybe Mom wants a bike.

Stay well, and Happy Mother's Day to all Uxbridge moms.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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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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.



Letters to the Editor

In mid April of this year, a challenge was issued to members of the Uxbridge Rotary Club, who in turn reached out to their families and friends. All were invited to "make a donation" to the Uxbridge Rotary Charitable Foundation, earmarked for either the Loaves and Fishes Foodbank (Uxbridge) or the North Durham (Brock) Foodbank, and those contributions would be matched, up to \$5000, from Rotary's "Catch the Ace" lottery funds.

In one week, Rotarians, friends and family donated \$6,568 personally, which resulted in an immediate donation of \$11,568. Both food banks will use the funds in support of their communities most vulnerable and those suffering financially as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

In addition to the Rotary contribution, we note that our Catch the Ace operational partner, the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #170 Uxbridge, has also donated \$3,000 to the local Loaves and Fishes Foodbank.

When we are able to take the current "Catch the Ace" lottery "off pause," please keep in mind that your \$5 ticket purchase is much more than a chance to win the weekly prize or Jackpot.

Stay Safe,

**Terry Chapman,
Ian Morrison
Co-Chairs, Catch the Ace
Progressive Weekly Lottery**

Re: 'The Barris Beat' April 30 edition

As a law abiding firearms owner, it was immensely disheartening to read Mr. Barris' article last week. It is easy to make an argument on either side of the gun debate that is based solely on emotion, but I implore everyone with an opinion to educate themselves on the actual Canadian Firearms Laws. It continues to amaze

me how little anyone outside of the firearms community knows of our laws.

Mr. Barris advocates for a ban on handguns; I would be interested to hear if he knows what a Canadian must do in order to acquire one. Hundreds of dollars and two days of intensive RCMP training courses is just the start. Handgun owners undergo extensive background checks, and the RCMP contacts past and present spouses. Every day, the RCMP conducts a background check on every single gun owner, and any multitude of criminal charges results in the seizure of all firearms in your possession (all handguns are federally registered).

We are not the USA.

As for "assault weapons," is Mr. Barris aware that assault weapons in Canada have been prohibited since 1978? The ban introduced on May 1 was done without any legislation or democratic process, and largely targets guns based solely on their appearance. It will have no effect on criminals, as they don't tend to follow laws.

The shooter in Nova Scotia was not licensed and used smuggled guns from the USA. This ban would have done nothing to stop him. Border control and strengthened policing is a great start, but unfortunately doesn't generate headlines. This ban only serves to alienate over two million law abiding Canadians. You do not stop drunk drivers by banning all the sober ones.

**John McNamee
Uxbridge**

COVID-19 has affected Canadians in every facet of life, no more so than those of us who are self-employed like myself, and apparently another 40 per cent of Canadians. The tragedy of this is the farmers of this country who feed us! The criteria to

meet the requirements and fill out the forms are unbelievable in that the crevices are wide enough to be a crater on the moon.

Surely, the government can easily adapt these forms to be more user friendly to the average Canadian.

Moreover, while some farmers and other self-employed people like myself may not actually have the virus, their businesses have certainly been impacted by the closures declared by the various levels of government. Not having any income, to pay one's rent, food or other expenses can be stressful to say the least.

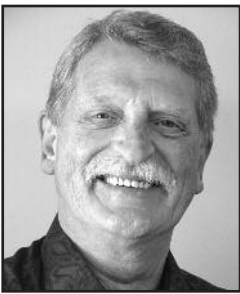
**Rick Blair
Uxbridge**

Re: 'Am I Wrong?' April 30 edition

Yes, Roger, in this case not only are you completely wrong, but the way in which you have written appears to reflect that you did not do your homework when you are referring to medical experts. The physicians and other specialists to whom you are clearly referring are exceptionally well qualified, experienced and clinically astute in the areas of public health, immunization, infectious disease, respiratory medicine, emergency medicine and epidemiology.

In paragraph nine you write: "... 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 is anyone out there who doesn't yet know about the devastating effects of this horrible disease, I don't think it will help to keep a score sheet."

...continued on page 11



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

I must have done something good

A few days ago, I jokingly told my editor, Lisha, that this self-isolation had become so long that I had been reduced to watching *The Sound of Music*.

However, in the movie, Julie Andrews (Maria) sings that somewhere in her youth or childhood, she must have done something good. I'm beginning to feel the same way.

Over the last few months, since I wrote about my brief stay at Markham Stouffville Hospital's mental health ward, I have been the recipient of a number of anonymous gifts. People have left money to pay for my coffee at the Tin Cup, someone left \$25 worth of Tin Cup gift cards, and a few weeks ago someone left me a gift certificate for Blue Heron Books.

But it continues. On Saturday, I had a lovely meal of curried chicken and rice, salad and dessert delivered to my front door by Nicole Robertson and her A Taste of Community group. I have no idea who paid for my meal and, of course, Nicole wasn't saying. On top of that, a group of Trinity United Church women who knit and crochet have made me a lap throw which I can pick up anytime.

This outpouring of, for want of a better word, love has been rather mind-boggling. Although I appreciate it, I try to think what I've done to deserve this attention. I even found myself wondering if somehow I had used my column to subconsciously beg, but I can't think how.

So I just have to settle for the fact that this small town has many, many caring, compassionate and generous people who quietly exemplify what it means to be a good neighbour.

A number of these good neighbours took advantage of my offer a couple weeks ago and called me for a chat. Some I knew, some I didn't, but every conversation has been a delight. I learned of new TV shows to watch, how to descale my kettle and a couple of new jokes. But I also learned that most of those calling were doing so to make sure I was okay.

Yet despite all these good neighbours, the weekend's warm, sunny weather, showed there are some who really don't think about

their neighbours at all. I saw groups of motorcycle riders congregating and there was no way they all belonged to the same family. I saw some senior ladies enjoying the sunshine on a park bench and they stopped three men passing by and asked them to take a photo with an iPad. No social distancing there. In fact, as I drove around, I saw numerous instances of people taking a relaxed attitude to social distancing. At the TD Bank, there are signs urging customers to use one ATM at a time. While I was there on the weekend, a man blithely marched up to the ATM next to me, ignoring the signs and social distancing.

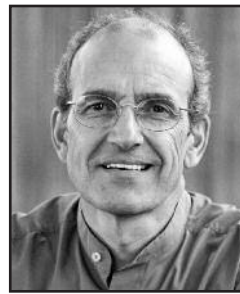
Folks, it is quite clear this COVID-19 is going to be around for a while and rushing out too soon to gather in groups is only going to increase the spread of the disease and, therefore, the amount of time it's going to be around. People in the U.S. have been crowding beaches and parks at the same time the government says COVID-19 deaths there are going to surge to 3,000 a day.

If these people don't care about their own health, so be it, but it's obvious they don't care about anyone else's health either. This disease is insidious to the extent that even our own Cottage Hospital has had an outbreak in the in-patient ward, despite the efforts of staff to keep it at bay.

Eventually, this will pass one day. Despite the hardships - and I know some are having a harder time than others - consider this: during the Second World War, the Brits endured years of fear, food shortages, blackouts and the like, but when it was all over they chose not to dwell on the hardships but on the positive things they had experienced during that dark time. They spoke of neighbours helping neighbours, of how everyone joined in the war effort, of things they had done to stretch meagre rations.

It seems to me that, instead of complaining about the restrictions we all face, we should take a little time to think of some of the positives in this situation, positives such as a free meal from an anonymous donor.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

A life at sea in letters

I never met John Birnie Dougall. But I came to know him this week, 79 years after his death. He spoke to me by way of his letters - letters he'd written as a Canadian merchant sailor keeping the supply of food, oil, munitions and hope flowing to Britain during the Second World War. As an example of his correspondence home, Dougall characterized the fate of Britain, in 1940, when it seemed Hitler's U-boats would choke Britain's shipping lanes to death:

"Even though England may be doomed," he wrote in a letter to his mother Rachel, "each of us has fixed determination to do or die - a spirit that will not be beaten."

Tomorrow, May 8, Canadians and Europeans will mark the actual date of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender. It's the 75th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day. This past Sunday, the annual Battle of the Atlantic commemoration (normally held at Point Pleasant Park in Halifax) took place online. For those who don't know, that siege at sea proved to be Canada's longest military engagement of WWII, fought from the outbreak of the war in September 1939 right up to May 1945. Almost 2,000 members of the Royal Canadian Navy died in battles across the North Atlantic, as well as 750 Canadian airmen. Not often acknowledged in this crucial campaign, however, 1,451 merchant sailors "carrying the lifeblood of the U.K." died in the Battle of the Atlantic too. John Birnie Dougall was one of them.

By coincidence, Dougall's niece, Jane Hutchison, whom I met at a Canadian Club talk in Halton a while ago, mailed me correspondence that her uncle kept up throughout his wartime service - first as an apprentice aboard the British oil tanker *San Felix* in 1940, and then in 1941 as a third mate serving on the Scottish freighter *Gretavale*. Most merchant shipping companies knew the high risk of U-boat attack between North America and Britain, and that "up to 25 per cent of (sailors) would not arrive in the U.K."

Age 18 and barely out of high school in Cornwall, Ont., John enlisted the help of family in Scotland to get him hired aboard merchant tankers whose home port was London, England. From the British Isles, the tankers (often armed with naval guns) sailed to Venezuela to load thousands of tons of oil bound for British industry. Then, the tankers joined convoys at Halifax or Sydney, Nova Scotia, running the gauntlet of winter gales, fog and icebergs, not to mention wolf packs of German U-boats

across the North Atlantic back to Britain. As an apprentice, John served long hours on the open sea, training and studying to acquire his certification "ticket," while taking his turn at the helm of the ship.

"Just taken over the wheel," he wrote his mother in May 1940, "when a station alarm went off. So, to the gun platforms we scrambled and eyed along the gun barrels for (U-boat) periscopes. One of our escorts let go depth charges and even three miles away our ship nearly shuddered to pieces with the vibration."

Beyond his own safety and off-shift time studying logarithms, trigonometry, navigation and seamanship for his third mate's certification - during three years at sea - young Dougall appeared to shoulder much responsibility for his family back in Cornwall. Sending a portion of his \$45 monthly wage home, supporting his mother through ill health, and keeping his younger brother in line, meant a regular flow of letters home from all of his ports-of-call. When his brother graduated with honours, John challenged him to go to college, because, "it's what you have in your head that counts in this world."

In 1941, John Dougall completed exams for his mate's papers and took a position with a new shipping employer aboard the freighter *Gretavale*. His crossing from North America early that November would be his first as third mate, during one of the darkest periods of the Battle of the Atlantic. "If I should go down, don't you fret, for I shall be angry either above or below," he wrote his mother. "After all, the sea is my life. If I have to be splashing about in it, it is the way I would want to go - living the spirit of the sea. With that off my chest, cheerio 'til you hear from me again. Yours... J. Dougall."

The family never did hear from John again. On Nov. 3, in an eastbound convoy for the U.K., the *Gretavale* - loaded with tons of steel and trucks for Britain - was torpedoed and sunk off Newfoundland. All but a handful of the 47 crew were lost. So, while this week many are remembering the liberation of the Netherlands and VE Day celebrations across Canada, I'll note those commemorations too. But I'll also thank Jane Hutchison for letting me meet her uncle John Dougall through his letters. He and his merchant navy comrades also secured the victory at sea.

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



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Closed libraries still offering many resources online

Both the Uxbridge and Zephyr public libraries are still closed due to the

COVID-19 pandemic, but they want to remind patrons that they are still offering a variety of eResources, which are available 24/7. These include Libby/Overdrive, Britannica online, World Book Online and Kids

InfoBits plus several from companies that are offering free trials to libraries during the coronavirus crisis.

Both libraries would also like patrons to note the following:

- ALL ITEMS previously due

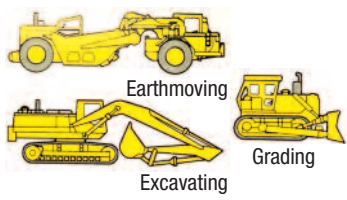
March 13 or later, are now due June 30, 2020.

- Fines will not be incurred on any items while the libraries are closed.
- Holds and reserves are currently suspended and will be available to

patrons once the libraries reopen.

For more information on the eResources that are available, please visit www.uxlib.com

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Online survey seeks feedback from local businesses on recovery efforts

The Durham Economic Task Force (DETF) is reaching out to local business owners via a three-minute online survey to learn more about

the economic impacts of COVID-19 and help to shape local recovery efforts.

The survey is available by visiting invest-durham.ca/CovidResponse, and results will be used to develop a made-in-Durham local business recovery plan; outlining considerations for recovery efforts and required supports. They

will also provide input into future discussions with other levels of government.

The DETF, comprised of local chambers of commerce, boards of trade and business improvement areas (BIAs), the Business Advisory Centre of Durham and economic development teams from each municipality, has allowed the

business community to rally together; working as one cohesive task force to support local businesses, from across the region, during these challenging times.

The COVID-19 Economic Recovery survey will be open until May 19, 2020.

A Thank-You Message

Now that my knee replacement operation was a success, it is now time for me to express my thanks to many people.

Heartfelt thanks to those friends who sent get well cards, baked goods, lovely plants, telephone calls of best wishes before and after my operation, and prepared meals which they brought and shared with Jim and I. These acts of kindness will never be forgotten.

To my fellow Shobrook Gardens friends and Management for your kind encouragement and assistance before and after my operation.

To our McDonald's coffee friends - thank you for your beautiful get well card. Jim and I look forward to seeing you all in person, shortly we hope.

I thank Dr. McMahon and his fellow doctors, nursing staff and all other employees I met while hospitalized for their professional skills, which once again is greatly appreciated.

It is at times like this that you appreciate more and more your community of friends, which mean so much to me.

I wish to thank my friends at Trinity United Church and others for their prayers on my behalf and wish to let them know their prayers have been answered.

To my family - there are not sufficient words to express to them what a blessing they are. From start to finish they were there for me and Jim.

A large shout of thanks to the physiotherapy department at Lakeridge Health Port Perry for getting me going with post-operation exercises on my knee, which have enabled me to walk pain free.

I do have a schedule of exercises to do several times each day. I have to say good bye for now as I can hear Jim asking if I have done my exercises yet?!

So good bye with love and thanks to all!

Frieda Campbell



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The foundation of this reputation was built by our local business community. But Durham's businesses—like so many others—are experiencing historic challenges.

This is why the Durham Economic Task Force was formed. This team is made up of staff from municipal and regional economic development, all chambers of commerce and boards of trade, the Business Advisory Centre of Durham, and Business Improvement Areas.

"Local business is the heart and soul of our community. That's why our Task Force is focused on addressing the current challenges COVID-19 has brought on, while offering critical resources to our small business owners," said John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer. "By supporting our local businesses, we invest in our communities. Together, we will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever."

The task force is advocating to all levels of government for support. Offering business-related training and webinars. Organizing virtual roundtables; promoting collaboration and sharing best practices. Plus, they are planning for recovery. Through their networks, this team has contact with thousands of businesses across the region.

"While physical doors might be closed, our local companies are very much still available for business," said Simon Gill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism. "Our community can shop local and remind local businesses that they are not alone. They have a whole region standing behind them."



#DurhamStrong



To get in touch with the Durham Economic Task Force, or for more information, visit InvestDurham.ca/CovidResponse.

Legion hosting a virtual/live celebration for VE Day

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 170 in Uxbridge had "big plans to celebrate VE75 this week," as the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe coincides with the 90th anniversary of the Uxbridge Legion. But, as with all other things, a Parade and Pub Night, along with numerous other events around town, had to be cancelled because of social restrictions in place due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Plans to commemorate both events haven't been cancelled, however, just changed in format. Friday, May 8, is the official 75th anniversary of VE Day, marking the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender in 1945 and the beginning of the end of the war. On Friday, at 3 p.m., the Legion invites everyone to take a moment of silence for all that was lost, and to "have a toast to remember the fallen and the Liberation of the Europe."

Paul McLoughlin, who manages public relations for the Uxbridge Legion, encourages people to take part in this small memorial.

"As we face some of the most challenging times, it is important to show unity in recognition of service to our nation, just as communities did 75 years ago. We can still do this in a safe way from our homes."

On Sunday, May 10, at 11 a.m., the bells both at Trinity United Church and at the Uxbridge Public Library will ring 75 times to commemorate VE Day. Pipers from the Uxbridge Legion Pipes and Drums will be located at different places around Uxbridge, and together they will play "When The Battle's Over" after the bells have finished tolling. At the Cenotaph and at the Legion the flags will be lowered during the ringing of the bells and raised during the playing of the pipes. A wreath will be laid at the Cenotaph after the playing of the pipes.

After the ceremonies at the Cenotaph, Karen Hammond-Croxall, the Legion Madre, will conduct a short service, and Legion president Sherrill Hodgson will recite the Act of Remembrance. Both of these will be live streamed on the Uxbridge Legion Facebook Page.

The Legion is asking that everyone stay home and offer these commemorations while respecting social distancing. If members of the public feel the need to be at the Cenotaph or the Legion, they are asked to stay in their own car.

"In accordance with Ontario Public Health we are not encouraging people to attend this event. Please stay safe and keep well."

Local wedding seen around the world

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Cosmos readers Rob and Carol McTaggart recently shared some happily un-Covid-19-related news. Their daughter, Marie, married Zeid Abu Itham on Saturday, May 2, in the McTaggart's backyard, and although the actual wedding only had five people in attendance, friends and family from all over the world joined the happy couple to celebrate via Zoom.

"Less than a week ago, the thought of not being able to attend our daughter's wedding was devastating, but the outcome has been beyond anything we could ask or imagine!" says Carol McTaggart.

Several family members were, as Carol calls them, "tech savvy," and were able to ensure that the couple was married in the presence of loved ones. The maid of honour and the best man were both put to work as the videographer and Zoom camera-man, and the wedding, which was broadcast as far abroad as Jordan (the groom emigrated from there in 2008 with his family), was, according to Carol, complete with audience participation over Zoom from various family members.

"We are also so grateful to our neighbours, one of whom invited Zeid's mother and father into her backyard to watch the ceremony, and whose daughter photographed the entire event using her telephoto lens," says Carol.



Newlyweds Marie McTaggart and Zeid Abu Itham greet cheering neighbours as they leave her parents' backyard in Uxbridge after an "intimate wedding" that was attended by family and friends via Zoom. Photo by Emily Pearsall Raines

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).

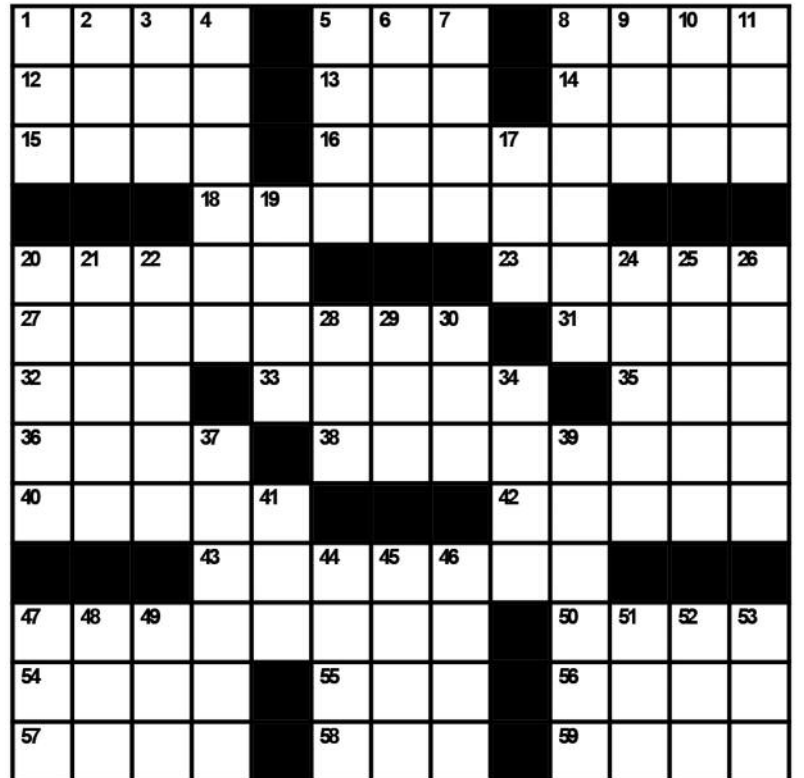
Appreciation of community journalism, an interest in the role it plays in supporting public accountability of local government and familiarity with the Uxbridge area and Region of Durham are strong assets.

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

The Uxbridge
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Across

- 1 Corn ____
- 5 Plumbing joint
- 8 Comparable (to)
- 12 Flu symptoms
- 13 "____ bad!"
- 14 "Hot in Cleveland" actress Gilpin
- 15 Fraternity party attire
- 16 Rental car service
- 18 Recitation
- 20 Rocks
- 23 Necessities
- 27 Woman's wear
- 31 6th month on the Hebrew calendar
- 32 "The ____ Daba Honeymoon"
- 33 Acid alcohol compound
- 35 Bug
- 36 Document type
- 38 Can't get a word in this way?
- 40 Wanderer
- 42 Copenhagen natives
- 43 Nightclub (2 words)
- 47 Follow too closely (2 words)
- 50 Duffer's challenge
- 54 Jamacian fruit
- 55 Deer type
- 56 Bulgarian coin
- 57 Gaucho's weapon
- 58 Harry Potter's mailman
- 59 "... happily ____ after"

Down

- 1 Tangle
- 2 Self image
- 3 Summer month, abbr.
- 4 Picked up
- 5 Sicilian rumbler
- 6 Washerful
- 7 Lesotho coin
- 8 Highest point
- 9 Cognizance
- 10 Sep or traditional
- 11 Opposite of all
- 17 Dew Drop ____
- 19 Start on NC motto
- 20 Salmon's destination
- 21 It's a no-no
- 22 Take a piece from
- 24 Tiny
- 25 Edible seaweed
- 26 Large numbers
- 28 Bring into play
- 29 Common contraction
- 30 Yearling sheep
- 34 Modify
- 37 Showy bloom
- 39 Interweave
- 41 Tail wagging animal
- 44 Root
- 45 Put in it's place
- 46 Remove rind
- 47 Place to unwind
- 48 It's ____
- 49 Calamity
- 51 Race
- 52 Welcome, Maria!
- 53 Good thing to break



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Kim Nicholls, Uxbridge resident

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Isaiah 26:3



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Letters, from page 4

Right on the face of the situation, there are many folks who still "just don't get it!" They still don't get the fact that this virus spreads like an uncontrolled wild fire. They still refuse to follow safety precautions such as personal distancing of two metres/six feet! They still don't get the fact that hundreds of vulnerable people have died, particularly those who live in long-term care facilities, alongside those who work in those same facilities, many of whom have become seriously ill and some have died!

I would go as far as to say, that if both government and public health officials DID NOT provide daily updates for new cases and "body counts," they would be guilty of negligence.

And finally, you appear to scoff at "someone's predictions." Those qualified predictions are based upon a number of factors including, but not limited to, the historical data gathered from previous pandemics such as SARS, H1N1, etc. The only way by which those qualified to make such predictions as to the

activity of COVID-19, is to track new cases, document body counts, and report recoveries. So far, there is no cure for COVID-19. Perhaps, eventually a vaccine may be developed.

Unfortunately, Roger, your com-

parison to the predictions by a couple of sportscasters to the reports by qualified medical and other experts, is simply quite disingenuous.

Hilary A. Balmer, RN (Ret'd)
Uxbridge



*Remembering a
wife, mother & grandmother*

**Lynda Diana
Kerrigan**

May 8, 2019

Our angel taken too soon.
The glue that held us all together.
Still so hard to believe you are gone.
You will always be in our hearts
and memories.

*Gone but not forgotten,
our angel.*

*Love,
Alan, Tanya, Rachel, Jordan
and Nicholas*



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**UNDERWOOD,
Daniel**

"Dan, Danny, Gotch, Taz"

It is with broken hearts that we share the passing of Dan. On April 28, 2020, we lost our hero. Dan was a fiercely loved husband, father, son, brother, uncle, cousin and friend.

To say he was a fearless warrior and fighter would be an understatement. Dan faced the challenges in his life head on, with an upbeat attitude and he never stopped. He never stopped working, he never stopped fighting and most importantly, he never stopped loving. Among the many things he loved were his gardens, woodworking, drumming, fishing and most importantly, his family. There is/was nothing that he would not do for us.

Dan was the soulmate to his wife Debbie (nee Couper) for more than 28 years, and his passing has left an unfillable void in her heart. He shared his strengths and passions with his sons, Couper (20) and Connor (17), leaving them with irreplaceable memories, and he will be missed more than words can express. A devoted son to Marie Wise-Collins to the very end; they shared an unbreakable and special bond for 53 years. Precious son to George Collins and much more than a son-in-law to Jim and Olive Couper. Son to Ivan and Pat Underwood. Amazing brother to Gerry Underwood, Karren and George Collins. Beloved brother-in-law to Linda McKenna and Sheila Gallant, and loved uncle to Sydney, Samantha, Hannah, Daniel, Kennedy, Zachary, Owen, Addison, Isabella, Curtis and Katie.

Heartfelt thanks to all medical staff who made Dan's treatments feel more like family visits. Dr. Pandes, Heather, Christina, Imee and Lidia (Oak Ridges), Dr. Babak and nurse Deb (MSH), Drs. Singh and Myrehaug (Sunnybrook), and Dr. Cho (Southlake). Dan knew you pulled out all stops in his treatment and was always so thankful for your efforts.

In lieu of flowers, Dan has requested that donations be made in his name to Lions Camp Dorset (a special camp that allowed Dan to vacation with his family and receive dialysis treatment).

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Uxbridge, Ontario (905-852-3073). Online condolences can be made at www.lowandlow.ca

"Ride on bumblebee...ride on"

*In
Memoriam*
Mae Cudmore

Jan. 7, 1946 ~ May 11, 2016

Ripples on a Pond

Four years since we were torn apart,
Far sooner than we ever expected.
And with each passing year, I become
less and less.

You were the energy of my life,
And now that energy is spent.
And the years pass like ripples on a pond,
Each one smaller than the one
before.

I miss you so...
Bill



**GAETZ,
Jerrold Stafford**

**Ottawa, April 14, 1936 ~
Uxbridge, April 30, 2020**

Born in Ottawa, he grew up in Creighton Mine and Copper Cliff, Ontario, and graduated from the University of Western Ontario. He was soon employed at Ontario Hydro in North Bay and then in Toronto. He married Lynne Johnson, on August 2, 1966. They lived in Toronto raising three children: Fraser (Shannon; children Lily and Nick); Andrew; and Christy (Scott; children Katie, Ben and Emily). In 1998, they took over the family 'farm' (Coolwood) on Durham Road 30 and became involved in many activities in Uxbridge.

Jerry had his downhill ski group, the Silver Ducks; he belonged to the Uxbridge Pipe Band and was a member of the Loyal and Ancient Order of the Unicorns which met weekly for lunch in Toronto. Two other Uxbridge groups of which he was a member were the 'Magnificents' and the 'Gang'. Together with his brother-in-law, Bill Cole, 'Scotch Friday' meetings and regular Monday lunches became traditional events.

From a very young age Jerry was always building or fixing things. When he realized he couldn't do it any longer he and Lynne moved into Uxbridge.

Jerry is survived by his younger, loving sister Elinor. He was predeceased by younger brother Peter and older brother Michael.

Jerry succumbed to a long fight with cancer. He will be remembered with love by family and friends.

Sincere thanks for all the care given to Jerry at Douglas Crossing and to the medical personnel who were of assistance. Donations to the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital, Loaves and Fishes Food Bank or North House would be appreciated. Cremation has taken place. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, P.O. Box 388, Uxbridge, Ontario, L9P 1M8. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Online condolences can be made at www.lowandlow.ca



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