

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 24

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, June 18, 2020



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GETTING READY - Jim Byers, owner of the Hobby Horse Arms, surveys the arrangement of patio furniture in the front garden of his pub. The province announced the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Durham Region on Monday, which means Byers can serve customers outside beginning this Friday. *Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove*

Optimists giving town something to look forward to

by Roger Varley

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has seen the demise this year of a number of annual events, one event was given the go-ahead by Uxbridge council on Monday. The Optimist Club of Uxbridge received council permission to stage its annual Festival of Lights in Elgin Park.

In a letter to council, the club said "we feel that the people of Uxbridge will be craving an event like this by the time it rolls around."

Council agreed. Councillor Todd Snooks said the event can be held with the appropriate health regulations in place a lot easier than others. Mayor Dave Barton echoed his thought, adding: "We all need some more joy in our life."

Councillor Pam Beach said it is an important event that adds "some light and sparkle to our lives" and moved that township staff work with

the Optimists to make it happen.

Also during Monday's meeting, council once again discussed what to do with the intersection of Davis Drive and Concession 6 after receiving another report from Public Works Director Ben Kester. The question of whether to make the intersection a four-way stop was addressed but not resolved. Beach said that although traffic numbers don't meet the provincial criteria to warrant a four-way stop, she thought it would be a good place to install one. She noted that Uxbridge residents were "thrilled" with the results of having a four-way stop installed at that hamlet's crossroads last year.

It was also noted a four-way stop had been installed at Wagg Road and Concession 4 even though formal reports had said it also did not warrant a four-way stop.

Councillor Bruce Garrod also favoured a four-way stop.

"It's not as though this is something we're

going to be doing all over the place," he said. "We just know we have an urgent situation at this intersection."

Kester said his department was working on "a whole list of things," for the intersection, noting that some of the sightlines at the intersection have already been improved with tree and bush trimming. New flashing lights will be installed on the Conc. 6 stop signs, and there will be extra roadway painting.

Barton moved that the speed limit on Conc. 6 be lowered to 60km/h (from Davis Dr. south to where it meets the current 60 zone, and a couple of hundred metres north of Davis Dr.), and that tags be attached to the signs indicating it is only a two-way stop.

In other council news, Wixan's Bridge will be expanding its patio area after receiving approval from council. The restaurant had asked for permission to expand its current patio along the

...continued on page 3

Inside Your Cosmos

This week's numberspage 3

Before and afterpage 5

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for June, 2020

Monday, June 22, ~~7:00 p.m.~~

New time 10:00 a.m.

VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING

All Council and Advisory Committee meetings will be held virtually until further notice. Visit

Uxbridge.ca to view calendars.

Public Participation

The Township of Uxbridge is committed to facilitating public participation, especially while meetings are held virtually. 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 at Uxbridge.ca/agendas by selecting the meeting from the calendar and viewing the HTML agenda. If you have any questions please contact Josh Machesney, Deputy Clerk, at jmachesney@uxbridge.ca

Important Dates from the Tax Department:

To minimize the financial strain that COVID-19 may have caused residents and businesses, the Township of Uxbridge implemented a two-month grace period, effective from the April 2020 installment date. The final date of the grace period is June 30, 2020.

The 2020 Final Tax Installment Due Dates are:

- July 29 & September 28 for Residential, Farm and Managed Forest Properties
- August 17 & September 28 for Commercial, Industrial, Multi-Residential and Pipeline Properties

Street Sweeping

Has now begun in rural hamlets and subdivisions. Please try to avoid parking on the street during this time. Sand may be raked into the curb/gutter, but please do not leave in piles or pails as it will not be picked up. Any areas missed will be revisited once hamlets are complete.

Bids & Tenders

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

- U20-05 Supply and Delivery of SCBA packs - due June 30, 2pm
- U20-19 Catch Basin Cleaning - due July 7, 2pm
- U20-15 Design/Engineer/Proj.Mgr. FOU Baseball Diamonds - due July 15, 2pm

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. Public tender openings will not be held until further notice.

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



Our community appreciates the dedication and hard work of our front-line workers. Thank-you for keeping us safe, fed, warm, and for being there in our hospitals and clinics when we need you.

To the front-line workers who clean and disinfect, who make, transport, stock or sell our food and medication, who keep our drinking water safe, who keep our roads maintained, who keep the electricity flowing, who provide emergency help when we need it, and especially those who work in health care,

We are very grateful for you. Thank-you from all our Township residents and communities.

Temporary Road Closures

Visit Uxbridge.ca/roads

for a full list

Victoria Street from Brock Street West to King Street West, on Sunday, June 21 from 7am - 3pm.

Township of Uxbridge Public Library Summer Student Position Available

Within Children's Summer Program.

35 hours per week from July 6, 2020 to

August 28, 2020.

Application Deadline:

June 26, 2020 by 5:00pm

Please apply with a cover letter and resume to:

Corrinne Morrison, Program and Outreach Coordinator corrinne.morrison@uxlib.com

Visit uxbridge.ca/careers for more details under title of role.

DOWNTOWN UXBRIDGE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS



BOARD & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

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 an appointment to one of the following Committees for the remaining term of Council (expiring November 30, 2022).

Economic Development Advisory Committee

The purpose of this Committee is to provide advice and recommendations to Council on matters relating to the attractions, development, and retention of all business sectors within the municipality inclusive of aggregates, manufacturing, commercial (personal service and retail), agriculture and home based businesses. The ideal candidate would have experience and expertise in the areas of agricultural and/or agri-tourism.

The deadline for submissions to this Committee is **Friday, June 19, 2020.**

Any person interested in offering their services, and would accept an appointment, is invited to submit a Committee Member Application Form available on the Township's Website <https://www.uxbridge.ca/committees> along with a letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience to the undersigned.

Any questions regarding these Committees 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
dlroux@uxbridge.ca
Telephone: 905 852-9181 Fax: 905-852-9674

Service Updates

Visit uxbridge.ca/news for updates

Reopenings:

- **Township Offices will reopen to resume regular services on Monday, June 22 at 8:30.** Entrance will be through the main double doors. All visitors will be screened and must wear a mask. The lower rear entrance will be open to Planning and Development Services only.
- **Water Samples/Well Testing pickups will resume on Wednesday, June 24.** Sample dropoff and water bottle pickup is only available at the front main double doors.
- Township offices closed Wednesday, July 1 for Canada Day.
- Durham Region Transit will resume fare collection July 2. Visit durhamregiontransit.com for details.
- Uxbridge Public Library is now offering 'Curbside Pickup' Tuesdays through Saturdays 10am-4pm. Items may be placed on hold and picked up at the rear entrance via social distancing wait spots. Contact www.uxlib.com or 905-852-9747 ext. 2 to leave your name, library card number and up to 3 items on hold.
- Area trails are now open! Visit <https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/news/walking-trails-open.aspx> for details.
- The Fire Ban has been lifted – fire permits are available for sale at the Fire Hall, Monday through Friday between 8:30am – 4:30pm. Social distancing measures are in place and exact cash payment or cheques are preferred - no debit sales.
- The skate park, pump park, off-leash dog park, tennis courts, soccer pitches and baseball diamonds have re-opened for the enjoyment of families/individuals. Team sports and games (formal or informal) are prohibited at this time. Physical distancing requirements remain in place as are bans on groups of more than 10 people on Municipal property.

Closures/Cancellations:

- Decoration Service at Zephyr Zion Cemetery scheduled for Sunday, July 5 has been cancelled.
- All events at the Thomas Foster Memorial are cancelled for the remainder of the year.
- Outdoor playgrounds, washrooms, water stations, play structures and fitness equipment, public swimming pools, splash pad, museum, library and arena remain closed.

Resources to Assist Businesses and Residents

Do you need help, or can you help?

Visit www.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.

Durham College Community Employment Services is assisting local businesses with staff hiring and connections to available hiring incentives!

Durham Region and ShopHERE are now assisting small, independent businesses located within Durham Region to create an online presence free of charge!



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

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



A note from Dave's desk

column by Mayor Dave Barton

Moving to Phase Two

Hello Uxbridge! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for working so hard to fight COVID-19. We all did our part, and while I write this, we are down to only four active cases. I am proud of you all, but I want everyone to thank our essential workers who kept our community moving when the majority of us sheltered at home. We have made it through some of the toughest months in our history, where 20 of our own lost their battle with this virus. The residents and staff at our seniors' homes deserve our unwavering love and support. They have been more isolated and at risk than all of us and completely cut off from many of their loved ones.

COVID-19 is far from over, and we must continue to wear masks and keep physically distanced, but we have proved that we can take the proper steps to shut down outbreaks, even in the most difficult locations.

I also encourage you all to stop putting your lives on hold. This is an ex-

cellent time to try a new hobby, get to know our trails, or try gardening for the first time. Life doesn't have to stop, it just has to be a little more distant than we are used to.

We will move into phase two on Friday, which will allow our restaurants to open patios and put many of our residents back to work. I have been craving an ice cold Second Wedge beer and a Thunder Ridge Bison Burger from one of my favourite local restaurants, and I hope to see you out there with me.

Our downtown businesses need you now more than ever. Although a 75m section of Brock St. is closed, all of our businesses are open and ready to serve you. The owners of these businesses are our friends and neighbours, and when you buy local, they buy local. Your purchase supports us all.

Please continue to stay physically distant but socially connected and healthy.

Patio expansion, from page 1

building's east wall, taking up five of the parking spaces on the municipal lot.

Snooks noted that, although the locations of the patios were different, council had recently agreed to the Hobby Horse Arms' request to extend its patio onto its front lawn. Barton said the township needs to do anything it can to help.

Council agreed to the extension in principle, pending a favourable response from the BIA. Councillor Willie Popp said he would call an emergency meeting of the BIA to obtain a speedy response.

Council also agreed to waive any building fees that might apply.

And finally, the annual mayor's golf tournament, usually held in June, has been rescheduled to happen on Sept. 25 at Wooden Sticks.

In announcing the date change, Councillor Popp noted that the golf course cannot confirm the date until some time in August.

He said that, in the meantime, sponsors are being sought to support the event, which raises money for the township's golf fund, which in turn makes contributions to local individuals and groups seeking financial aid.

COVID-19 Uxbridge Update

As of Tuesday, June 16, Uxbridge had 100 reported and confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the township, with the majority of these cases (86) still coming out of ReachView Village Long Term Care Home.

In ReachView Village, the number of residents currently in isolation has dropped to three, and 44 have recovered from the virus. Sixteen residents have passed away. Twenty-three members of the staff there have contracted the virus - 21 of these staff members have recovered, and the remaining two are in isolation. According to Durham Region Public Health, ReachView Village is still considered to have outbreak status.

Of the cases occurring elsewhere in the Uxbridge community, 11 people have recovered from COVID-19, and no one is currently hospitalized. Only one person from the community has succumbed to the virus; the remainder have been in either ReachView Village, or from Douglas Crossing Retirement Home.

Uxbridge still remains in second place for having the highest number of COVID-19 cases per capita in Durham Region, trailing Pickering.

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

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Our two cents

Dads days around the world

Given everything that's going on around us at the moment, it might be prudent to remind everyone that Father's Day is this Sunday, June 21. Dads - and Dad-like figures - don't deserve to be lost in the COVID shuffle this year, which is why they're celebrated all year long, all around the world.

In Brazil, for example, Father's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in August, honouring St. Joachim, the Virgin Mary's father, and a patron saint of fathers and grandfathers. Spain, Italy and Portugal celebrate Father's Day on March 19, which is the Feast of St. Joseph, another patron saint of fathers.

In Russia, Father's Day is more commonly known as "Defender of the Fatherland Day. While it was apparently a military commemoration originally, it has morphed into a day that celebrates all men, and on Feb. 23 every year, Russians get to watch parades that celebrate the Russian Armed Forces.

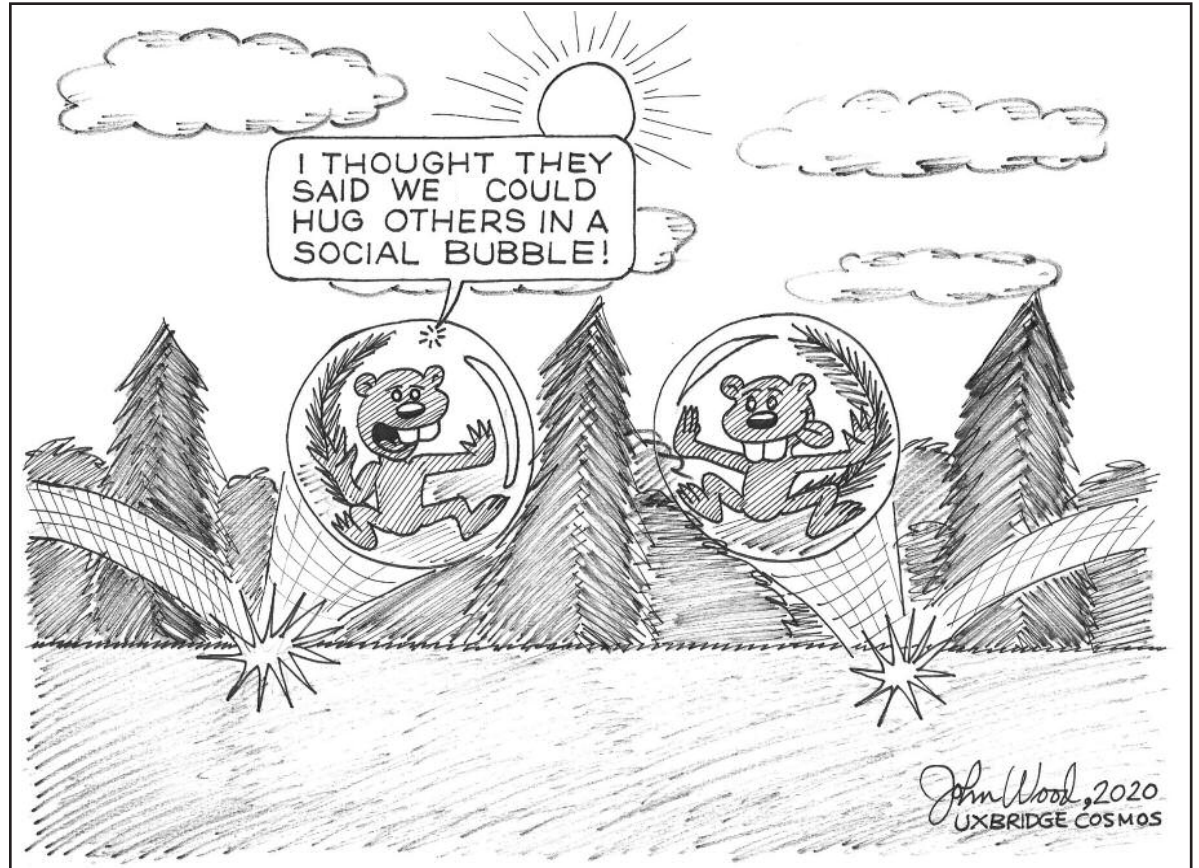
The French will be celebrating their Father's Day this weekend, as will the Mexicans. In France, loved ones will give red roses to fathers who are alive, and place or display white roses in honour of those who have passed on.

Father's Day is dangerously close to Christmas in Thailand, where it's celebrated on Dec. 5. That just happens to be the birthday of their much-loved King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who passed away in 2016. Dads there receive yellow canna flowers, which are said to represent masculinity.

Germans honour *Vater* 40 days after Easter, and apparently spend the day with family going on long hikes. In 1949, the Scandinavian countries decided to move Father's Day from June to the second Sunday in November, partly to place it half a year away from Mother's Day, and partly to increase sales in the quiet sales period before Christmas. (Not Denmark, though - they reportedly forgot to inform the public and press about the date change, so Father's Day remained in June. Oops.)

The history of Father's Day is a little difficult to nail down. The ancient Romans apparently had a tradition of honouring fathers in what we call February, but only those fathers who had deceased. Some sources say Father's Day was created solely in response to Mother's Day. Others say it was a lighter manufacturer who invented Father's Day to help sell lighters to smoking dads after World War II.

No matter its history, or its various celebration dates, this year's Father's Day will certainly be one to remember. It might be celebrated on a patio at a local brewery or restaurant, it might be a small family get-together in a backyard. Or it might be a day of mourning and remembrance. Whatever it is to you, Happy Father's Day. And remember - dads apparently like flowers too!



Letters to the Editor

[Last week] reader Dave Jones voiced an understandable concern that there is a shortage of regular updates on the status of COVID-19 -19 within the community of Uxbridge.

As a director of Butternut Manor, I am pleased to report that, to date, our retirement residence has maintained COVID-free status, thanks to an early lockdown and maintenance of strict protocols by our expert staff. We have just begun to admit new residents under careful admission requirements.

Butternut is so grateful for the wonderful support from people who never give up. They are: the entire staff; our senior residents themselves; their families, who have had to meet through the windows and Facetime; and members of the community who drive by, sew PPE, bring gifts and write messages of encouragement. They seem to know how hard it is to work an entire shift while trying to breathe through a mask. Thank you, all!

C. Coleman-Trotter
Director, Butternut Manor
Uxbridge

commit themselves to a bubble boundary can party, hug, kiss, and disport themselves as they choose, but only with other members of their adopted bubble. Bothered bubble-crashers can peer at the fun through soapy spheres, but can't really join the insiders. Anyone alien to a bubble must observe all previous rules for social distancing.

This bubble blueprint strikes me as just very, very funny, and also completely unenforceable. I can picture a veritable cauldron of bubbling bewilderment, as those with big families draft their list of 10 bubble buddies, while desperately trying not to offend their nearest and dearest in these inclusionary times. Many questions bubble to the surface: Will bubble members sport bubble badges to identify allegiance? Will those outraged by exclusion from coveted membership in an especially bodacious bubble turn to murder and mayhem? Will those who leave, or are asked to leave a bubble, have to self-isolate for 14 days before going bubble shopping? Will there be bubble strata? Literary bubbles? Gastro bubbles? Golf bubbles? Knitting bubbles? Swingers' bubbles? The list is endless. Will each bubble have a leader, a bubble boss, perhaps charged with posting a bubble blog? And what will be the rules for bubble bureaucracy? What of those who are booted from their bubbles for slippery behaviour - perhaps for double-bubbling - and then fail all attempts to re-bubble? Will there be government assistance for the bubbleless?

No, no, it's a hugely complex soap opera. Thanks for the thought, Premier Ford - and so sorry to bubble bash, but I'll stick to the comfort, safety, and generally uncomplicated confines of my own bubble for one.

John Tomlinson
Uxbridge

Rather than blaming the critics of June 4th's cartoon ("Does colour really matter?"), who you said "completely missed the point of what the cartoon was trying to say," I wish the editorial team had shown more grace and understanding in their June 11 "Our Two Cents..." column. While I agree with your sentiment, "Colours of people don't matter - we should love, celebrate, accept and allow everyone to be as they are," can you see how this statement oversimplifies and minimizes the deep structural change that must occur if we are to confront and dismantle anti-blackness? We must look deeper within ourselves, past the well-intentioned sentiments, and force ourselves to face our privilege, our prejudices, and our resistance to criticism.

Yes, it is an awful feeling to be told that you have caused unintentional harm, especially when discussing race. However, when you feel uncomfortable, you should lean into and examine that feeling. It's within that challenging and scary space that you'll be able to—in your own words—"learn, understand, and even help put the fire out."

Megan Eltherington
Uxbridge

Please allow me to respond to your "Our two cents" column of June 11, in which you express your concerns regarding the response to an editorial cartoon.

If nothing else, the last two weeks have been about listening. Listening to what people of colour have to say about their experiences as our friends, neighbours, and fellow citizens. The first thing that springs to mind is that writing a column defending your position is not listening.

Additionally, you say "Colours of

...continued on page 6

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

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

38 Toronto Street North, Unit One, Uxbridge Ontario L9P 1E6
E-mail: Lvann@thecosmos.ca Web site: thecosmos.ca

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

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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.

I'm just wondering, but may I assume that since Council has amended their flag policy to permit the PRIDE flag to be flown on the Township's flag-pole, that other organizations such as the Salvation Army, United Way, Rotary, Lions, etc., will also be allowed to fly their flags during special events? Will special amendments be required for these groups also? Just curious.

Janna de Boer
Uxbridge

The Ontario government has been busy blowing bubbles. Apparently we can now gather in "bubbles" of up to 10 people, without any social distancing requirements. People who



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

The end of the beginning?



Let me guess: most of you are feeling a little happier and breathing a little easier with the news that the COVID-19 restrictions are going to be loosened somewhat tomorrow (Friday).

After three months of social distancing, isolation and mask-wearing, we can finally do a number of things we haven't been able to do, such as getting our hair cut. As you can see by the comparison photos at the top of this column, I am in desperate need of the services of Tammy Dowson, a hair stylist at Details on Church Street who has been cutting my hair for the last 30 years. In fact, I had made an appointment the day the Ontario government shut down all non-essential businesses, but it was cancelled. I was overdue then: by now I'll need to go in for an estimate first.

However, before getting much deeper here, I urge everyone not to be cavalier in their approach to the pandemic. The loosening of restrictions probably signals the end of the beginning, but the coronavirus is still out there and will be with us for some period of time and we need to continue to take precautions, including social distancing (although we can now gather in somewhat larger groups) and wearing masks. Recent reports show spikes in COVID-19 cases in American states that relaxed the rules too much and too early.

I find it hard to believe that I actually approve of the job Premier Doug Ford has done in handling this crisis. Yes, there have been a few flubs, but overall I think he has handled the situation as well as any political leader. I hope he continues to hold a steady course and not be influenced by the increasing demands to open things up more quickly and widely. All indications are that our merchants and businesses in Uxbridge are not going to rush ahead and throw things wide open: they will still be limiting the number of customers on their premises at any given time, they will continue to have hand sanitizer available, they will continue to disinfect. Given that most businesses in Uxbridge have suffered loss of revenue during the shutdown, it is commendable that most are willing to stay with

the pain a little longer to keep themselves and their customers safe.

I've concluded that the pandemic came at us in a series of "A" stages. First, there was apprehension as we first heard about the infection spreading to various countries around the world. Then there was anxiety when it first came to Canada. Next came annoyance after the provincial government announced the shutdown, quickly followed by anger as the shutdown went from weeks to months. Eventually, we had acceptance, recognizing that the measures were, indeed, necessary. And, finally, adaptation, as most of us changed our lives to some extent.

I'm tempted to say that the loosening of restrictions tomorrow brings us to the "at last" stage, but I believe that particular stage is still a way off. It only takes a few inconsiderate people to start the whole thing over again. And they are out there. I have had one person tell me that people who wear face masks are "total idiots." I've had others tell me it's all one big conspiracy. To my way of thinking, these people pose as much danger to the community as the virus itself.

Perhaps, like me, you mistakenly thought Uxbridge had weathered the crisis in relatively good shape, with just over 100 cases reported. However, when cases versus population is taken into account, Uxbridge is second only to Pickering in the toll. The number of cases in Uxbridge represent 446 cases per 100,000 population. Brock and Scugog, by comparison, come in at 80.

So, by all means, take advantage of the extra breathing room we've been given. Patios will be opening, haircuts will be had, gatherings of families and friends will be more extended. But I urge you not to let your guard down. It seems to me we can put up with some restrictions for a while longer. We've already done it. But I doubt any of us wants to go back to square one and start a total shutdown all over again.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Zoomageddon

All right. It's time to take stock. I'm sure you are as sick of this lockdown as I am. Like you, I'm fed up not being able to hug members of my family. I'm frustrated each time I walk that I have to avoid friends and strangers on the sidewalk. I'm tired of sanitizing, distancing, minimizing, and washing my hands 'til they're raw. And if I have to watch one more public service announcement or insurance ad on TV that ends with the same cliché, I may implode.

"It's unprecedented times," they say. "And we're here for you."

Now, please don't misunderstand my sentiment. Those of us who are *not* front-line doctors, nurses, physician assistants, mental health clinicians or military personnel on duty, those of us who've *not* had to face the onslaught of COVID-19 patient symptoms at hospitals, clinics or long-term care facilities, or those of us who've not actually contracted this deadly virus at all, have no grounds to complain. Those of us on the sidelines need to acknowledge our good fortune. But as a good friend told me in a Zoom conversation this week:

"If it's my mental health versus COVID," he said, "I'll take my chances. Enough is enough!"

I see his point. However, I'm beginning to chafe at another of the COVID-19 side-effects. This week, I also marked in my calendar the cancellation of my 26th public appearance since mid-March. Obviously, for the safety of my intended audiences – Legions, Probus clubs, university alumni, public libraries, historical societies, museums, and dozens of other organizations – I've had to cancel most of my talks and presentations. Not long after my in-person presentations began evaporating, however, some groups approached me about delivering my talks to their members virtually. "Zoom is a great way to do your talks safely," they argued. "It's as good as the real thing."

In case you're unaware, Zoom – like BlueJeans, GoToMeeting, Cisco Jabber, Adobe Connect – has everybody video-conferencing as a replacement for face-to-face meeting. Business now employs it to link office staff digitally. Partners in the professions use it to collaborate. Colleges and universities have replaced classrooms with online teaching. And families have turned to linking virtually, sometimes every day, to stay in touch with loved ones. So, I thought, what could I lose? I'll accept these invitations to try to make up for lost contact with my audiences (and to salvage my livelihood). I began Zooming. I've addressed veterans' groups, Probus clubs, even a historical group in Atlanta, Georgia, virtually.

For a while, things went smoothly. Then, I noticed that the larger the group, the longer or more complicated my presentations, the more the glitches appeared. I'm sure you've noticed them – fuzzy, out-of-focus images; jerky, stuttering sound; and frequent interruptions that trigger, "Your internet connection is unstable" on your computer screen. In other words, video-conferencing still has some bumps to iron out. But in recent days I've scaled back on accepting invitations to Zoom for other, more serious reasons. And if you write, publish or speak publicly for a living, take heed.

Most consider Zoom – like much else on the internet these days – as a free application. Actually, it's not. You buy a short- or long-term licence to host events, whether professionally or privately. But more and more, the organizations who invite artists or public speakers to present want to give the impression that video-conferencing for the user is a free service. Not surprisingly, the host then invites the guest speaker to acknowledge the tougher times that organizations are facing and to therefore offer his presentation also for free. The rationale they give reminds me of that given to musicians when Napster arrived on the scene back in 2000.

"Just send us your music for free," Napster told musicians, "and we'll give you worldwide exposure. Sales will certainly follow."

Just the opposite occurred. Musicians handed their music over for nothing, and few if any of those expected CD sales resulted. Today, everybody expects to get their music online for free. For public speakers who also sell their books at events, that option also disappears if the talk is video-conferenced. So, not only is the writer/speaker expected to present for free, on-line transmission does not give the writer or – equally important – independent booksellers the opportunity to sell his/her books on the topic. I note that Blue Heron bookstore has addressed that problem by including the purchase price of a book within the price of admission for audiences to attend its line-up of authors presented via video conferencing.

As much as I recognize that this new delivery system is the best of a bad situation – weathering the pandemic virtually – I also sense the erosion of any artist's or speaker's greatest asset – face-to-face contact with an audience. A trusted friend put it to me best:

"The virtual you is not the same as the real you."

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Domestic violence not something to be 'masked'

by Nancy Melcher

Many people have been inconvenienced by the recent three-month-long COVID-19 lockdown, missing friends and family, adjusting to restrictive policies, and facing uncertainty around jobs, personal finances, food supply, mental health, and so much more. For some residents, however, the past few months have been far more than "inconvenient." People in forced isolation often have strong disagreements. For a few, these escalate and lead to abuse. Early

on during the lockdown, concern for those in abusive situations rose.

Trail Capital IDA Pharmacy owner Hank Parsaniya is now focussing fundraising efforts on helping those who have suffered domestic violence during the pandemic.

"Lockdown has made the situation that abused women face much worse," says Parsaniya. "We want to help them get the help they need."

Parsaniya has been providing non-medical cloth masks to his customers, made by Uxbridge resident Susan Self. Parsaniya and Self belong to the Uxbridge Rotary Club, whose members continue to supply fabric and elastic for the construction. The masks have been available at the pharmacy in exchange for a donation to a local cause. In May that was the Food Bank - the focus now is on domestic violence.

All donations will be directed to the Uxbridge Salvation Army, specifically to support local women, and may be made at Trail Capital IDA Pharmacy. At press time, over \$450 has been raised.

Last year, shelters in Durham responded to over 6,000 crisis calls and provided a safe place for over 600 women and nearly 350 children. Another 1,200 women and children were turned away because facilities were over capacity.

Services are available for local women to leave an abusive situation.

"We can assist in making sure the woman can access a shelter until

things calm down. They have counselling and babysitting at the shelters. The woman can access counselling and attend court and be sure her child(ren) is being taken care of," says Bev Northeast, who works with the Salvation Army.

When a woman is ready to leave a shelter, it can help her find a place to live and provide some housekeeping items.

Durham Region has four shelters: Bethesda House, The Denise House, Herizon House, and Y's WISH (YWCA Durham). They remain open throughout the pandemic to support Durham women and their children who are experiencing vio-

lence and abuse.

The Basketeers of Durham Region work with the shelters to help with supplies when women move to new accommodations.

Agency contact information: Salvation Army: 905-852-0090, bnorth-east@powergate.ca; The Denise House: 1-800-263-3725, thedenise-house.com; Herizon House: 1-866-437-4066, herizonhouse.com; Bethesda House: 1-800-338 3397, bethesdahouse.ca; Y's WISH (YWCA Durham): 1-888-576-2997, ywcadurham.org; and Trail Capital IDA Pharmacy: 905-852-5555, trail-capitalida.ca

ATVs are 'ripping up' trails

by Justyne Edgell,
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter

Uxbridge, known for being the Trail Capital of Canada, is currently experiencing some behaviour that could sully the title's reputation.

At Monday morning's council meeting, Councillor Pam Beach announced that there had recently been some "issues regarding all-terrain vehicles going on the trails and ripping things up." Beach noted that use of the trails has recently increased because of people being home and isolated due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and took the opportunity to remind people that they need to be "more mindful" when using the trails.

Kristina Bergeron, manager of By-Law Services, points out that the Township's Parks By-Law (#2018-152) does not specifically govern just parks, but also covers Township-owned trails and green spaces. Motorized vehicles referred to in the by-law include go-carts, trail bikes, mini bikes, and all-terrain vehicles.

Councillor Beach also mentioned that the Durham Regional Police Service and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) would be out monitoring the trails, although in limited capacity.

"Any witnesses to violations are encouraged to report incidents to By-law Services," says Bergeron. "Any identifiable information that can be gathered on the suspected violator(s) is essential in pursuing these matters."

Along with no motor vehicles on the trails, other trail etiquette includes keeping pets on a leash, cleaning up after them, removing litter and staying on marked trails. A full list of trail information can be found at uxbridge.ca under the "Explore and Play" tab, or under the "Trails" tab on DiscoverUxbridge.ca



Hank Parsaniya, owner of Trail Capital IDA Pharmacy, is giving out non-medical COVID-19 masks in exchange for donations to support women and children suffering from domestic violence during the pandemic.

Photo by Nancy Melcher

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...Letters, from page 4

people don't matter...If that's white privilege talking..." I submit that is PRECISELY white privilege speaking. Only a white person could say "Colour doesn't matter." People of colour know darn well that it matters. It matters every day. It matters when the police pull you over. It matters when you get turned down for a mortgage and you wonder why. It matters when you walk into Holt Renfrew on Bloor St. and you are followed around the store. Or Walmart. Saying "colours of people don't matter" negates *my* blackness, my experience, my personal history of pain and suffering because of racism and white privilege (and other persons of colour as well).

Anyone who knows me knows I look white, I "pass." Anyone who

knows the story of my life knows that racism and white privilege cost me my father, my grandparents, my uncles, aunts, and cousins. I was cut off from the love and support of one half of my entire family. Why? Because my black father knew I would be better off growing up white.

So yes, dear *Cosmos* editor, "creating a world free of anti-blackness" is NOT the same as saying "Colour doesn't matter." Colour matters. It's important to a person's identity the way religion, sexuality, and gender identity is important. Dismissing it out of hand denies reality. Don't do that, please. Please continue to listen and learn, and most importantly, let go of the need to defend yourself. None of this is personal. I know, because I'm white too.

Rev. Elizabeth Allen
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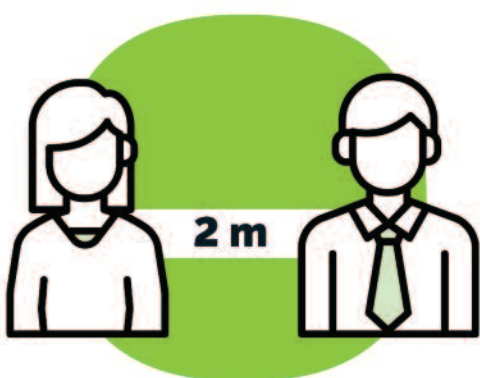
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