

# The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 25

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, June 25, 2020



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**FRESH FROM THE SUNSHINE** - Lilly transfers some freshly-picked strawberries to a bigger basket at Forsythe Family Farms in Greenbank. The local farm has protocols in place enabling berry pickers to be COVID safe while still enjoying this favourite summer pastime. *Photo by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

## Councillor cut from key committees

by Roger Varley

While other councillors sat in what appeared to be stunned and embarrassed silence, Mayor Dave Barton introduced a resolution at council

on Monday removing Ward 2 Councillor Gary Ruona from three key positions.

Ruona was stripped of his chairmanship of council's environmental and sustainability committee, and was removed

from the board of the Uxbridge Music Hall and from the Arts and Visual Enhancement Committee (AVEC).

In the resolution, Barton

...continued on page 7

## Patio patrons show support for local businesses

by Roger Varley

Following last week's announcement by the provincial government that it was relaxing some of the rules governing businesses in the COVID-19 era, a number of restaurants in Uxbridge opened their patios to customers on Friday. By all accounts, residents were ready.

Rebecca Harman of the Bridge Social described the weekend as "fantastic" even though the store only had a couple of small tables and chairs set out on the sidewalk. She said her sidewalk furniture was set out not just for customers, but for anyone to use. She said The Passionate Cook and Blue Heron Books also set out seating for general use. Just down the street, the Tin Restaurant set up a fenced-in patio complete with umbrella-shaded tables, comfortable chairs and potted plants. Seating was arranged to allow for social distancing but the restaurant still managed to fit about six tables into the area which were well used over the weekend.

Across the street at Wixan's Bridge, where they have enlarged their patio temporarily by expanding into the municipal parking lot, weekend business was described as "steady" with Monday being their best day. One staff member opined that a lot of people were aware patios had been reopened. However, the reopening meant the restaurant was able to bring back a lot of its staff to work.

Rob Garrard, co-owner of the Second Wedge Brewing Co., described the weekend as "very confusing, very different." He said the brewery was only given a few days' notice about the patio reopening and to get the appropriate protocols in place. He said the beer garden saw a steady flow of customers, but noted the numbers for Father's Day were lower than last year. He, too, brought staff back to work.

For Jim Byers, owner of the Hobby Horse, it was "a whole new experience. We didn't know what to expect." But he said he had a good volume of customers using his patio, which he has expanded onto the pub's front lawn. Similar stories came from Boston Pizza and Starbucks.

One restaurant, however, could not take advantage of the relaxed regulations. Symposium

...continued on page 7

## Inside Your Cosmos

Cosmos columnists on Canada Day

Notes from town council . . . . .page 7

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## Council & Committee Meetings

### Meeting Schedule for July, 2020

Monday, July 13, 10:00 a.m.

VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 15, 7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL COMMITTEE OF  
ADJUSTMENT MEETING

Until further notice, all Council and Advisory Committee meetings will continue to be held virtually. Visit [Uxbridge.ca](http://Uxbridge.ca) to view calendars.

## 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)

## Street sweeping is almost complete!

Sweepers are now working in rural subdivisions and hamlets. 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.

1. N/W corner of town - COMPLETED
2. S/W corner of town - COMPLETED
3. S/E corner of town - COMPLETED
4. N/E corner of town - COMPLETED
5. Rural subdivisions and hamlets - UNDERWAY
6. Town parking lots

## Temporary Road Closures

Visit [Uxbridge.ca/roads](http://Uxbridge.ca/roads) for updates

- Victoria Street from Brock Street West to King Street West, on Sunday, June 28 from 7am – 3pm.
- Concession 6 will be closed July 1 from 7-11pm, between Reg. Rd 8 and Bolton St.
- Brock Street West between Toronto and Bascom Streets will be closed until late September.
- Lane closures on Brock Rd. from south of Allbright Rd to Goodwood Rd to July 3.
- Lane closures on Concession 3 north from Wagg Road 850m to July 3, 2020.
- Access from Quaker Trail to Museum grounds will be closed from noon July 1 to noon July 2.
- Goodwood Road (Reg. Rd. 21) at the York-Durham Heritage Railway crossing on June 26.



# Uxbridge at a Glance

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge  
51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190  
Uxbridge L9P 1T1  
905-852-9181 [info@uxbridge.ca](mailto:info@uxbridge.ca)

## From The Tax Office

2020 Residential, Managed Forest and Farmland Final Property Tax Bills were mailed June 17, 2020. Payments for these bills are due on the following dates:

**FIRST Tax Installment is due on July 29, 2020.**  
**SECOND Tax Installment is due on September 28, 2020.**

2020 Final Property Tax bills for Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Residential properties will be mailed next week. Payments for these bills are due on the following dates:

**FIRST Tax Installment is due on August 17, 2020.**  
**SECOND Tax Installment is due on September 28, 2020.**

For non-payment of a tax levy on or before the respective due dates of each installment, a penalty of 1.25% shall be imposed on the first day of each calendar month and thereafter in which the default continues. Failure to receive a Tax Bill does not excuse the taxpayer from responsibility for payment of taxes nor liability of any penalty or interest due to late payments. The penalty/interest charges cannot be waived or reduced by the Tax Department or Council for any reason.

Tax payments can be made: in person by Interac, Cheque or Cash; by Mail (Post-dated cheques are accepted); Internet & Telephone banking; Drop box at Town Hall (No Cash please); or at most Financial Institutions. **Credit Cards and E-Transfers are NOT accepted for tax payments.**

**PLEASE RETAIN YOUR 2020 FINAL TAX BILL FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.** If a reprinted tax bill, receipt or Statement of Account is required for any year's taxes, a fee of \$12.00 will apply

If you did not receive your 2020 Final Tax Bill, please call the Tax Department at 905-852-9181 ext. 211.

**The final date of the grace period for overdue taxes is June 30, 2020. Interest will be charged on overdue taxes on July 1, 2020.**

## DOWNTOWN UXBRIDGE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS



## 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](mailto:corrinne.morrison@uxlib.com)

Visit [uxbridge.ca/careers](http://uxbridge.ca/careers) for more details  
under title of role.



## Off-Leash Dog Park

The Off-Leash Dog Park is closed from June 24-June 29.  
Crews are on-site paving the pathways and parking lot. The dog park will also be closed on July 1 and will re-open mid-day on July 2.  
Thank-you for respecting these closures. Sorry for the inconvenience.

## Bids & Tenders

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

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, dropped off in person, or to the 'Red Barn' mail box, or mailed to 51 Toronto Street South, Box 190, Uxbridge. Public tender openings will not be held until further notice.

## Service Updates

Visit [uxbridge.ca/news](http://uxbridge.ca/news) for updates

### Reopenings:

- **Township Offices are now open.** Entrance to the Tax or Clerk's Counters are through the main double doors. All visitors will be screened and must wear a mask. The lower rear entrance is for Planning and Development Services only.
- **Water Sample pickups have now resumed daily at 9:30am.** Access to sample bottles and water drop-offs is only available via the front via the front double doors, inside the vestibule.
- Durham Region Transit will resume fare collection July 2. The Township no longer sells passes. Residents may now purchase passes at Shoppers Drug Mart. Visit [durhamregiontransit.com](http://durhamregiontransit.com) for details.
- Uxbridge Public Library is 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](http://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 open!
- The Fire Ban has been lifted and fire permits are available for sale at the Fire Hall, Monday through Friday from 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, 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:

- All Summer UxCamps have been cancelled for summer 2020.
- 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](http://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!

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

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



# 2020 Citizens of Distinction

This Canada Day, the Township of Uxbridge honours the dedication, compassion and sacrifice of all frontline workers and staff who overcame COVID-19 outbreaks at

**Douglas Crossing  
ReachView Village  
The Uxbridge Cottage Hospital**

Your extraordinary efforts in the fight against COVID-19 are deeply appreciated




## Canada Day

The Durham Way

Find the Facebook link to enjoy local celebrations at [www.uxbridge.ca/canadaday](http://www.uxbridge.ca/canadaday)

**July 1, 2020 | 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Join Durham Region for an online Canada Day celebration!

**[www.durham.ca/CanadaDay](http://www.durham.ca/CanadaDay)**

## Hey Uxbridge! Show us you're #UxbridgeProud

Sadly we will not be able to be together to celebrate our Uxbridge pride on Canada Day this year. Instead, show us!

Decorate your house, the lawn, your trees, heck... how about Mom, Dad and the Kids, or Scruffy the dog! Post a picture of what you have done on the Uxbridge Canada Day Facebook page

**<https://www.facebook.com/uxbridge150/>**

by MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020 11:59 pm and get all your friends to vote.

Tag your post with #UxbridgeProud #DurhamStrong .

There will be 3 prize packages awarded. Prize packs will have Gift Cards from local businesses and a Red Uxbridge T-shirt from "SupportLocal.ca"

This local company donates proceeds from sales to the Uxbridge Food Bank and Uxbridge Emergency Pet Food Bank.

Winners will be announced July 1, 2020.





# Our two cents

## Finding reasons to celebrate

It will be a funny little Canada Day in Uxbridge this year. No red and white parade (not that we have those often at all, but they have popped up), no big concerts, no town-sponsored fireworks to come at the end of a day full of Elgin Park festivities. It just doesn't feel natural, not planning big backyard barbecues and pool parties with friends (we used the word "big" - SMALL ones might be okay, depending on your social circle). Not heading to the park a bit before the sun goes down to try and score a seat on one of the benches. And not feeling that rush of Made in Canada pride that comes with sitting amongst a few hundred other Canadians watching fabulous fireworks - we're going to miss that.

But we're sure there will still be an abundance of DIY-type fireworks displays going on throughout the township, and we're sure that people will still find a way to display their Canadian pride. The township is running an awesome little contest to try and get the Canadian creativity going - check out page 3 for more on that. In terms of big bashes though - we have to come to terms with the fact that, for 2020, we need to pare things down a little. Okay, a lot.

We recommend that you *do* try to find a little fun next Wednesday, July 1. Heaven knows we all certainly deserve it. To say it's been a rough few months for us all is a bit of an understatement. We can be safe, smart and socially responsible on Canada Day and still have some much-needed fun. We'll leave how you do that up to you.

\*\*\*\*\*

Earlier this week, some of us were standing around in the *Cosmos* office remarking on how much has changed since the current publisher took over the paper in June, 2013. It's still a challenge convincing some people that local newspaper ads are still a great way to get a message out, but, happily for us, Instagram, Facebook and Google are losing footing in that area.

The term 'fake news' entered the global lexicon, challenging those of us who value real news and how it's disseminated to prove our trustworthiness.

Over those seven years, it's been said countless times that the age of the printed newspaper is over. Yet here we are.

We're here because people still care about what is going on in their own community. It's not always that easy to find out what's going on in your own backyard when world news is buzzing about 24/7. The *Cosmos* still does nothing but local. We may be small, but we are mighty - award-winning, even! Another cause to celebrate. We raise our glass - to Uxbridge!

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

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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.

**nnc** National NewsMedia Council  
**ocna** Ontario Community Newspapers Association  
**CMCA** CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARD 2019  
**News Media Canada** Médias d'Info Canada



## Letters to the Editor

Many thanks to John Tomlinson who brought me to tears of laughter as I read his Bubble Trouble letter [June 18 edition] to my family. I am sure others will be bubble blubbing for days.

**Derek Connelly**  
Uxbridge

The Optimist Club of Uxbridge thanks the *Cosmos* for the front page coverage last week about our annual Christmas event. We are certainly hopeful that this event will be able to go ahead. We will, of course, have to make sure that all safety precautions are taken for our members during the set up as well as the public coming to view it.

We would, however make one small request. Our event is called the FANTASY of Lights (not the name used last week) and it is important to our branding.

**Jan Wilson**  
Secretary  
Optimist Club of Uxbridge

*Editor's note: the Cosmos apologizes for incorrectly naming the Fantasy of Lights, and regrets any confusion it may have caused.*

This week I am compelled to respond to the letter submitted by Janna de Boer in reference to the Pride flag flying on the Township flagpole [June 18 edition].

I hope that others in our community are as proud as I am that this flag is flying high. It will eventually silence the blatant prejudice and ignorance of what has become an uninformed minority.

Pride month is celebrated provincially, nationally and internationally every June and I am delighted that Uxbridge has joined in.

Pride Month represents the celebration of the successes that the LGBTQ2+ communities have seen

across the globe recognizing both basic rights and great accomplishments.

Like other awareness months, including Black History Month and the History of Women, governments around the world support the many initiatives that promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of these vital causes.

Global causes are not events as Janna de Boer inappropriately remarks, although many, many worthy events do occur in these months. Incorrect assumptions about special events and our flag policy made by Janna de Boer only shows that much more needs to be done to ensure that communities large and small understand the real meaning of these critical social changes.

The hard work of the Salvation Army, United Way, Rotary, Lions and other organizations are highly valued, recognized and supported here in Uxbridge. I would love to see their flags fly across the township during their events, but please do not confuse or belittle a global social movement with a local event.

I hope that she and others who challenge the Township's choices will one day have the courage to celebrate them instead, and along side their queer neighbours.

**Robin Bonkowski**  
Uxbridge

Last week Janna de Boer wrote in asking about the flying of the Pride flag outside of the Uxbridge township office. Her question was whether the same consideration would be made for "other organizations" here in town.

I'm writing in to make a very important distinction: the Pride flag wasn't flown to represent PFLAG Durham North West (formerly the Uxbridge Sexuality and Gender Alliance) but to show support for Pride

Month and the LGBTQ+ residents for Uxbridge. If it had been PFLAG, Durham NW would have been invited to the raising of the Pride flag.

Pride month is so important to the LGBTQ+ community because we fought for the right to exist, and that flag represents the right to be ourselves. The service organizations in town are important but they do not stand for the multigenerational fight against oppression and dedication to the fight to love who you love.

An important event at any one of these service clubs cannot compare to the freedom that Pride month represents to a community of people that have fought for so long.

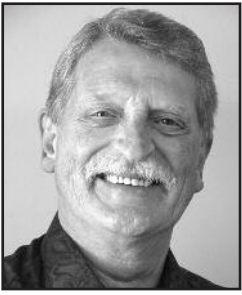
**Katie Fortune**  
Uxbridge

During these COVID times, people are enjoying walking outside more, for pleasure, physical and mental health reasons. On Mill St. we see dog walkers, young mothers with babes in strollers, whole families with tykes on bicycles, older folks with walkers, teen groups on bikes, strolling couples, and we are so happy to see them all. They bring colour and vitality to our street which has many charms: quaint houses, pretty gardens and best of all, Elgin Pond and access to Elgin Park. Mill St. is a historic street with an s-curve and a sidewalk on only one side. It's very narrow and no parking is allowed. It is also partly on the series of walking trails the town promotes.

This being the case, you would wonder why council has no interest in reducing the 4,000 vehicles a day (by their own count before Brock St. was closed), that daily spew out noise, air pollution and danger. The traffic mainly uses Mill St. as a link between Toronto St. and Reach St.

...continued on page 13





## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Food for thought?

Along with a fair number of other people, I spent some time on downtown restaurant patios on the weekend, the first time they've been allowed to open in months. Whether it was because of the beautiful sunshine and warm temperatures or the fact that we've all been cooped up so long, it almost seemed as though patio goers were giddy with excitement.

The patios ranged from the Tin Restaurant's fenced in patio with umbrella-shaded tables to the large new expanded outdoor dining area at Wixan's Bridge to the Bridge Social's couple of chairs and tables set out on the sidewalk, but all were being used - and social distancing protocols were still being observed. The Second Wedge reopened its beer garden and the Hobby Horse expanded its patio down onto the pub's lawn.

As a matter of fact, I found myself enjoying the patio experience three times on the weekend. Councillor Willie Popp and his wife apparently also did the triple-header!

The number of people in the downtown area on Friday, the first day of the easing of restrictions on patios, was encouraging. They lent an air of vitality, something that's been missing for a long time. It also started me thinking about the future of the downtown. As I have mentioned before, I have been invited to be a member of council's new downtown revitalization committee. For years now, our council and business leaders have been suggesting all kind of ways to attract more people downtown, but to my mind most of them have focused on what might be called "beautification."

But to "revitalize" means to breathe new life into something and life isn't found in bricks: it's found in people. People won't necessarily head downtown just because some stores have improved their facades or because we have installed a few new flower beds or bicycle racks. They will head downtown if there's something there for them to *do*. The weekend showed that patios give them something to do and will draw them in.

If that is the case, perhaps council and the revitalization committee should look at patios - particularly sidewalk patios - as a major factor in breathing new life into the down-

town. They could be the key to attracting people. The more people we can attract, the more chance there is they will also shop in downtown stores. And the more people that are going downtown to use patios, the more likelihood of new stores opening up, especially when the culvert project is completed. Just looking down a street and seeing a flow of colourful table umbrellas set out at various stages with people sipping coffee or eating a salad gives one a sense of vibrancy, of life, a feeling that you want to be part of it. It becomes contagious. Just think of all those outdoor cafés on the plazas and piazzas of Europe.

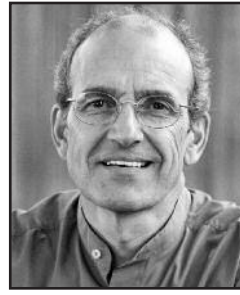
Obviously, as it is, the sidewalks on lower Brock are far too narrow to allow outdoor seating at places like Nexus or Captain George's or the sushi restaurant, etc. However, a few bump outs, similar to those on upper Brock, could be installed to provide room. Such bump outs would necessarily eliminate a handful of on-street parking spaces in the area but there would still be plenty of parking available close by.

Of course, there would have to be regulations set in place for eating establishments to set up patios but they shouldn't be so onerous or complicated that they would discourage applications. This township already has too many barriers to small business start-ups.

However, if this township ever does consider embracing the idea of allowing more patios on Brock, they still have to deal with the region, which owns Brock Street. If the region decides there will be no realignment of the streetscape, there's nothing Uxbridge can do about it. That's a major problem, when the region owns and controls the urban area's three main thoroughfares: Main Street, Brock Street and Toronto Street South. Even on those rare occasions when the township wants to close off Brock Street for some special event, it has to go to the region for permission.

To quote a line from an old Irish song, "there are some folks who say that I'm a dreamer." But it seems to me that without dreamers, there are no visions and without vision, the town stagnates.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Canadians and a Dame

The occasion was our 20th wedding anniversary. As a gift to my wife Jayne and me, that spring of 1995, my parents had bestowed airfare to the U.K. We'd barely unpacked in London, when we saw on the news that one of our planned tourist destinations - Winston Churchill's underground Cabinet War Rooms - was the to be visited by Dame Vera Lynn the next morning. At a press conference, she'd be launching a fundraiser to assist needy veterans. Jayne and I decided to try to "accidentally" arrive there about the same time. I think we were first in line to tour the site the next morning.

"We understand that Dame Vera will be here," I shared with the commissionaire at the ticket wicket.

"Oh, really?" the commissionaire kidded. "And who might you be?"

"Just a couple of curious Canadians," I offered. "Well, how appropriate. Today, Canadians get in free," and he directed us - stunned but delighted - directly in.

I'm not one easily dazzled by status, royalty or celebrity. However, I confess to adoring Dame Vera Lynn. When she died, this past week, I reminisced about the precious few times I'd actually met her. If you'll allow me, a few stories: Our first meeting in the 1970s came while I hosted a CBC Radio show; I interviewed her (on the telephone) about the release of a new record album.

That anniversary trip to London in 1995 turned out to be our second encounter. That morning, having apparently dazzled the Cabinet War Rooms commissionaire of our Canadian-ness - remember this was pre-911 - I moved quickly around the war rooms site in search of Dame Vera's press conference. Armed with a copy of a book that my father, Alex, and I had just co-authored, *Days of Victory*, I asked some of the people attending Ms. Lynn, if I could meet the lady and give her a signed copy of our book about the final days of the Second World War. Dame Vera's handlers agreed, and suddenly there I was in front of lights, microphones and news cameras presenting "the Forces' Sweetheart" with Dad's and my co-authored book.

"To Dame Vera Lynn, who made the lights come on again all over the world," I inscribed on our title page, and handed her the book. Whereupon she snapped her fingers and immediately, one of her attendants, brought out a copy of her latest book, *We'll Meet Again*, and she signed it: "To Alex and Ted. Yours, Vera Lynn." The consummate professional, she played to the cameras as much as I did. But the

difference was, after the cameras stopped rolling, she still invited Jayne and me to tea; she seemed genuinely delighted to meet a couple of Canadians touring London on their anniversary.

Now, one might think in nearly a century of public appearances - Dame Vera died last week at age 103 - that the parade of faces, millions of handshakes and worldwide adoration would all have become a blur to her. She would never remember an individual meeting. It turns out, not only did she have enough personality to charm Allied armed forces in wartime, but she also had a memory as long as her parade of hits. As Jayne and I have done for many years now, in 2006, we organized a springtime tour that explored sites in and around London, that had housed secretive operations between 1939-45. Places such as Bletchley Park, where encryption experts had decoded Enigma; Southwick House, where Eisenhower had planned the D-Day invasion; and those very same underground Cabinet War Rooms, where Churchill had directed the war effort ... and where I'd "accidentally" bumped into Dame Vera in 1995.

With a number of veterans, their families and others travellers old enough to recall the war first-hand with us on our 2006 tour, I managed to reach Virginia Lewis-Jones, Vera's daughter. "Might Dame Vera recall that moment she and I had exchanged books in the Cabinet War Rooms in 1995? And would she consider meeting some Canadian veterans over cocktails on our tour?"

"Yes and yes," Virginia said eventually.

So, on our final day of touring London, recalling its wartime years, I announced to the group: "We have a special guest joining us for cocktails," I told our group on June 12, 2006, "somebody you'll all know as 'the Forces' Sweetheart.'"

Well, gobsmacked doesn't begin to describe how thrilled our group was, not the least of them, our guest veteran, Charley Fox. During the war, Charley had served as an instructor in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan until 1943. Then, with the RCAF overseas during combat operations flying Spitfires, P/O Fox had also survived 222 combat sorties as a fighter pilot, enough to earn him a DFC and Bar. And yet, Charley told me that evening in 2006 had topped them all.

"Meeting Dame Vera Lynn," Fox said, "was a highlight in my life."

I'd have to agree.

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



## The Cosmos wishes everyone in the Township of Uxbridge a safe and carefree Canada Day!

We will not be publishing a newspaper on July 2, and office hours will be reduced for the week.

The Uxbridge  
**COSMOS**

**Summer Hours:**  
Beginning July 6, Cosmos office hours will be  
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Closed Saturday & Sunday

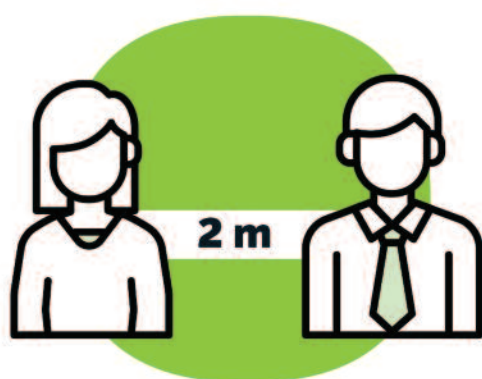
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647-220-9173 or [thecosmos.ca](http://thecosmos.ca)



# **We're Making a Difference to Keep Each Other Safe from COVID-19**

As businesses begin to reopen, we all need to continue our efforts to protect each other.



**Practice physical distancing.**  
Stay two metres away from others



**Wear a face covering** when physical distancing is a challenge



**Wash hands** thoroughly and often

**Inside or out, stay safe. Save lives.**



## TOWN HALL

by Roger Varley  
Notes from the June 22  
Council Meeting

A delegation to council's virtual meeting on Monday asked councillors to ban all symbols of hate in Uxbridge, saying they were prompted to ask for the ban when a vehicle displaying the Confederate U.S. flag drove by the peaceful stand-in that was held June 5 outside township offices.

"It was difficult to explain to our kids," one of the delegation said, adding a ban "would be in the best interests of the community."

Clerk Debbie Leroux told council-

lors such a ban would require changes to the township's sign bylaw.

Council referred the request to staff for a report.

*Easing up on patios:* In a report to council, Leroux said there have been a number of requests from local business to either install or expand patios for outside dining during the COVID-19 crisis.

With council set to operate on its usual summer hiatus, with only a couple of regular meetings scheduled for July and August, Leroux proposed that township staff be given the authority to approve such requests so that applications will not be unnecessarily delayed.

"The ability for local businesses to move as quickly as possible is extremely important to them as they look for ways to keep their business

operational during these difficult times," her report said.

Leroux also said the region "is open to the idea of permitting patios on regional roads (e.g. Brock St.) as long as there is no impact on traffic lanes." But the region wants any such requests to be relayed through the township, not directly from businesses.

Council agreed to Leroux's recommendation.

*Canada Day contest:* The Canada Day committee is holding a "Show Your Pride" contest, in which residents are urged to decorate their homes and/or gardens and send photos of the results to the Canada Day committee's Facebook page. Three prize packages will be awarded, with the winners decided by the number of likes their submissions receive on

Facebook.

The deadline for entries is 11:59 p.m., June 29, and winners will be announced on July 1.

The annual fireworks display will be held this year at the Historical Centre, one of the highest elevations in the urban area. Residents are asked to watch the fireworks from their homes or neighbourhoods rather than gathering at the museum grounds.

## How to stay informed without leaving your home

- 1 The Cosmos is delivered to your home every week through Canada Post.
- 2 Download the full edition of The Cosmos FREE online at TheCosmos.ca
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Stay in touch with The Cosmos for

- Updates on local events
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- Local opinions
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You can also email us with information for the public, including closures, cancellations, store hours and announcements, etc. We will do our best to fit it in. Send your email to: Lvann@thecosmos.ca

The Uxbridge  
**COSMOS**

## Patios, parks open up, from page 1

Café has closed down, apparently evicted from its premises because of non-payment of rent. A notice on the front door shows a letter from YF Uxbridge Property Inc. of Scarborough declaring Symposium had not paid rent for April, May and June, and showing the restaurant owed al-

most \$149,000 in "rent, additional rent, interest, accelerated rent and legal fees."

On another front, Uxbridge's splash pad at the arena is expected to re-open sometime within the next two weeks. Arena staff are working on rules for using the splash pad, including having a staff member monitor it at all times while it is in use. The number of users would be restricted at any one time and people wanting

to use the facility would be required to e-mail for a time slot.

Mayor Dave Barton said facilities such as ball parks are open, but not for organized sports. There are no immediate prospects of Uxpool re-opening, in part, the mayor said, because of severe budget restrictions brought about because of the pandemic. Playground equipment also is still off limits.

## Cutting a councillor, from page 1

Barton wrote: "Council is desirous of making a change related to the Councillor representatives on the various Boards and Committees of Council in order to meet growing needs of the Township and its residents." He did not explain how Ruona's removal would meet those growing needs other than to say there is a lot to do in his ward to keep the councillor busy.

When the mayor called for questions or comments on the resolution, all councillors sat silently staring at their computer screens. On the resulting vote to support the resolution, only

Councillor Todd Snooks joined Ruona in opposing it.

The Music Hall position was handed over to Councillor Willie Popp, the seat on the AVEC committee went to Councillor Bruce Garrod and Barton took over the chair of the environmental and sustainability committee. That will be in addition to his chairmanship of the administration, emergency services and economic development committee.

Ruona said he was shocked by the resolution and wanted to know why he was being removed. Barton only addressed the AVEC position, saying there has been a "lack of communication." Ruona responded that

AVEC had been falsely accused of mismanaging and overspending its budget, something he communicated to the mayor in a letter earlier this year. He said AVEC does not feel appreciated by council and feels frustrated.

Snooks also asked why Ruona had been removed and again Barton said he'd like Ruona to concentrate on his ward.

Ruona put it more bluntly on Tuesday.

"He [Barton] doesn't like me," he said. "He blind-sided me."

He added that AVEC members told him after hearing the news that they were ready to quit, but he persuaded them not to.



# Happy Canada Day

## Peter Bethlenfalvy


MPP for Pickering-Uxbridge

**THANK YOU!**

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





## CANADA DAY CLOSURE

Regional waste management facilities in Brock, Scugog and Oshawa, as well as the Household Special Waste Depot in Bowmanville will be closed **Wednesday, July 1.**

Regular operations will resume Thursday, July 2.



[durham.ca/waste](http://durham.ca/waste)

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-667-5671.



# Check It Out is checking out

by Roger Varley

After 31 years of running Check It Out, a women's fashion store on Brock St. W., owner Martina Frankfurter is calling it quits. She has decided to close the store and retire.

"It's been 31 years and I've loved every minute of it," she said Tuesday, adding that she is both disappointed at having to close up shop but also ready to retire.

A number of factors came into play leading up to her decision, Frankfurter said. Her store, along with many others, was forced to close for two-and-a-half months by the

COVID-19 crisis. But her business was also impacted by the construction of the Brock Street culvert and by a landlord who "was not helping at all" while she struggled to survive the shutdown. Years of neglect of the lower Brock Street area also didn't help.

She said there was a possibility she could have sold the business before COVID-19 but now it's just a case of closing it down.

Frankfurter said she has no immediate plans on how to spend her retirement, but she wanted to thank Uxbridge for supporting her business over three decades.

# Donation made years ago to help with COVID-19 today

by Justyne Edgell,  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A large donation that was bequeathed to a local church several years ago is now being passed on to a country that will need it to get through the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was a unanimous decision for the congregation of St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church to donate \$100,000 to the ACT (Action by Churches Together) Alliance to help developing countries during COVID times.

"We realized that this money

[which was left to the church by a longtime congregation member] was a gift that would allow us to do many good things for others," said Anne Phillips, also a member of the St. Andrew's congregation.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the church knew that the developing world would suffer, as many of those countries are already faced with war, climate disasters and malnutrition.

With approval from the entire congregation, a donation was made to ACT Alliance through Presbyterian World Service and Development. ACT Alliance works with people and organizations on the ground who are doing work in areas like humanitarian aid, development and advocacy. The St. Andrew's donation will be

going to ACT Alliance's programs for COVID-19 relief. It currently has 14 approved projects in countries such as Afghanistan, Brazil and Haiti. ACT Alliance reportedly ensures that 92 per cent of the St. Andrew's donation will go directly to helping the people in these programs, with remainder going towards administrative fees.

In addition to the ACT Alliance donation, the church has also made a donation to the Evangel Hall street mission in Toronto for its food program, and also has a fund available to help in Uxbridge if and when the need arises.

"We are also prepared to donate at home when government programs end and housing and food instability are greater issues," explained Phillips.



# Wishing Everyone A HAPPY CANADA DAY!



**Contact our office if you need assistance with  
COVID-19 supports or federal departments.**

**Jennifer O'Connell**  
Member of Parliament  
Pickering-Uxbridge

Community Office:  
4-1154 Kingston Road, Pickering, ON L1V 1B4  
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Email: Jennifer.OConnell@parl.gc.ca

## COVID-19 Uxbridge Update

As of Tuesday, June 23, Uxbridge had 101 reported and confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the township.

In ReachView Village Long Term Care Home, the number of residents currently in isolation has been reduced to one, and 46 have recovered from the virus. Seventeen residents have passed away. One staff member is currently in isolation, and 22 staff members have recovered. According to Durham Region Public Health, ReachView Village is still considered to have outbreak status.

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](https://durham.ca/covidcases)



## Happy retirement Randy Hickey

Following almost 40 years of service with BDO, Randy Hickey is setting his sights on a well-deserved retirement effective June 30, 2020. Randy has been an integral part of BDO, playing a pivotal role in building the BDO office in Uxbridge over the past 30 years. His contributions will always be valued, his hard work, commitment to his clients and dedication are worthy of admiration. Randy has been a pillar for our BDO Uxbridge team and has given back to the community. His BDO family wishes him a wonderful retirement and thank him for his years of hard work and dedication.

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It is recommended that you bring a mask to wear in areas where physical distancing is a challenge. It is important that you pre-book your tour ahead of time to allow for the management of patrons at the site.

Please call 905 862 0808 or [lmontgomery.on@gmail.com](mailto:lmontgomery.on@gmail.com)

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## The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

### Oh, Canada!

There are many ways we're reminded of past adventures and occasions: photos, calendars, jewellery, music, aromas, and lots more. Social media has just reminded me of last June's wonderful trip that Mark and I enjoyed in the west: five airplane flights, four train trips, several bus tours, a marvellous Alaska cruise, meals in restaurants, nights in hotels, and hugs from family and friends. What a different situation we now experience! It's a new world we inhabit.

A century ago, Canada was nearing the end of the fourth wave of the Spanish flu. Spread by travel within the country as troops were demobilized to return home, it targeted healthy young people. A lack of coordination between health authorities and inadequate quarantine measures led to chaos for those treating the sick. Over 50,000

Canadians died between 1918 and 1920.

However, something good arose from that chaos. The federal Department of Health was created in 1919, and partnerships were developed between the various levels of government. Public health nationwide became a joint responsibility, and eventually included universal healthcare.

We've benefitted from that coordination during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's chief public health officer, broadcasts appropriate health measures regularly. In addition, her provincial, regional and municipal colleagues have also provided the same clear communication about what we must do to keep ourselves as safe as possible. Yes, some of the messages have changed over the last three months, but since we're still learning about this disease, our

strategies must adapt as the medical community gains new information and insights.

Our political leaders came together to work for the common good. We've watched our prime minister, premier, mayor and their officers of health in their regular public broadcasts explain the newest information and update relevant policies. Much remains uncertain, but I feel we are well-informed and given reliable advice about how best to manage day-to-day, as well as moving forward.

Personally, cruises are officially off our Bucket List – "been there, done that!" Same for bus tours, rock concerts and (for now at least) air travel. We still have many places left we'd like to visit and adventures to experience. We can, and will, wait for better times, to see what the "new normal" becomes. Then we'll decide what will stay on the list, what we'll discard, and what items need to be added. Life will go on, although with a different focus.

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Nancy and Mark Melcher in Wiseman, Alaska, June 2019, 63 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

Photo submitted by Nancy Melcher

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## ...I'm just sayin'

column by Justyne Edgell, LJI reporter

### Tough and tired, together

Five months ago I never would've guessed that our spring, and now the beginning of our summer, would pan out the way it has. At the first sign of COVID-19, my naive self thought we were dealing with an upsetting

and mysterious news story. Little did I know, this virus would take over the entire world and become a global pandemic. As the virus began to spread quickly around our planet, I remember feeling as though many were getting stuck in that same naive bubble and that too few people were taking it seriously. However, as we have weathered its course, I've seen an incredible banding together that I feel has made us so much stronger.

As the media manager for the Uxbridge Health Centre, I was in a bit of a unique position with COVID information and knowledge. I was in charge of helping to spread important information and resources around our community to ensure everyone was well prepared and informed for the difficult and foreign times we were experiencing. With the help of doctors, nurses and

community broadcasters, we set up a plan to help our town make it through as unscathed and as well educated as possible.

At first, we felt as though we were desperately trying to convince our community of the importance of social distancing and proper hygiene practices. But just as suddenly as this virus came on, our government hammered down with restrictions and guidelines, showing us all how serious and real this crisis was. We went to bed one night and woke up the next day almost as if in a different world. Everyone's lives were modified and all aspects of normal day-to-day had changed, and suddenly the whole world was all on board.

The messages of strength and encouragement that were being shared around our community did not go unnoticed. From driveway signs to painted rocks on the trails, people young and old found creative ways to inspire and build up our frontline workers and all those facing challenges during our COVID-19 world. Despite all the struggles, there grew a collective feeling of togetherness as we banded together to keep each other safe, happy and healthy. While this virus was, and still is, devastating to so many, we all stepped up to modify our daily lives. From parents taking on the role of homeschool teachers to business owners finding ways to operate entirely online, none of us went untouched.

Additionally, it's been amazing to see how well we can adapt. Being midway through my school semester

when the world shut down, we quite seamlessly were able to modify the way we ran classes and assignments to suit a world of social distancing and isolation.

Services continue, such as the Adult Day Program from Community Care Durham, who manages to run daily activities for their clients through Zoom. And amazingly, I have witnessed my very tech-illiterate grandmother pick up the Zoom calls and virtual games quite easily. I feel as though we took a lot of our modern world for granted before we realized just how useful and important some of our inventions could be.

Although it's sometimes hard to see the end in sight, it's comforting to know we are all in this together. As our country begins to re-open I think it's important to remember that just because our social circles can increase and that our economy is beginning to open, the virus itself is still present in our world and still very much contractable and spreadable.

Until we find a solid and reliable solution to combat this virus, our world will continue to look a little different. It's tough and tiring to live in this strange reality but I am so proud of our town and our country for taking so many steps to ensure we can manage through as best as possible.

Keep up the great efforts and enthusiasm, everyone! Together, we will get through this and be better educated, and prepared for our future.

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## Writing Fitz

column by Shelagh Fitz

### Reactions to a virus

On March 13, on arrival at Pearson International airport after a complex itinerary of flights, my daughter arrived exhausted from Madrid, Spain, where she had been studying since January. Fully prepared to quarantine as she had been required to do during her overnight stay in Dublin, she was shocked at the lack of response by officials at the Toronto airport. She repeatedly identified as having returned from Madrid, the then emerging new epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her temperature was never taken. She was not offered a mask. There was no visible hand sanitizer. She was given no instructions to quarantine. She was handed a single piece of paper that highlighted the existence of the pandemic and identified symptoms for which she should be on the lookout.

This was two days after the coronavirus epidemic had been up-

graded, in hurricane parlance, to a pandemic. There may not have been time to acquire adequate supplies for all arriving passengers but there should have been a more concerted effort to protect our communities from the potential risk posed by those who were arriving from known hotspots.

My daughter, not wanting to be the pariah that brought the virus to her community, her home, or her grandparents, chose to quarantine in place for two weeks. Almost two weeks later, on March 25, the government "announced

an Emergency Order under the Quarantine Act that requires any person entering Canada by air, sea or land to self-isolate for 14 days whether or not they have symptoms of COVID-19."

With the benefit of hindsight, it is clear our response as a nation could have been faster. We are a polite nation. Perhaps we didn't want to insult anyone by suggesting they might be carrying COVID-19 into the country. That being said, I believe our Canadian sense of social responsibility may have been our saving grace. This is especially apparent when juxtaposed against American-style independence. I suspect that many Canadians repatriating themselves from Spain, Italy, Iran, China and other locations made the self-sacrificing decision to quarantine in the absence of a di-

rective.

Our community response has been most impressive. Money raised for the food bank. Mask making collectives. Adoption of online formats for many local businesses. Local delivery. Care mongering of neighbours and strangers in need. Social distancing birthday car rallies and food drives. Bagpipers on parade. Innovative restaurateurs. New found appreciation for the previously unheralded essential workers – grocery store employees. The list goes on.

For me the pandemic has been a blessing in disguise. While many have been lamenting social isolation, I have been hard-pressed to find time to be alone. The kids are all back with a few add-ons. Our bubble has been large from the beginning. Previously, the best I

could have hoped for was a couple of weeks here and there where all four of my kids would be home. There is something wonderful in getting to see your adulting children interact, debate and discuss on a daily basis. With all that has been going on with respect to the global pandemic, Black Lives Matter protests, challenges to LGBTQ+ rights, the race for a vaccine or effective treatment, systemic racism and police brutality, and the increasingly scary response from the White House, our dinner table discussions have never been livelier. And amid the seriousness, I am being schooled in the world of memes.

This is a cool and caring generation. Their presence is my silver lining to an all-round devastating event.



### BACK YARD POTTERY SALE

Arts Shows have been cancelled this summer so come to the back yard! You'll see hand-crafted, functional, one-of-a-kind pottery by Krista Sweet – as seen at Uxbridge/Stouffville/Newmarket/Pickering Art in the Park!

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## Message from the Publisher

The Cosmos wishes to thank all those who continue to work tirelessly through this pandemic - we sincerely appreciate all those who are putting themselves at risk in order to serve this community.

We also want to thank our advertisers, from our local businesses right through to the various levels of government. Without them, it would not be possible to continue delivering local news right to your mailbox every week.

**Please continue to support the businesses that we feature on these pages and online – they keep the Cosmos alive.**

The Uxbridge  
**COSMOS**

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove  
Publisher/Editor



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The Uxbridge  
**COSMOS**





*This week's Letters, from page 4*

Why council favours the convenience of out of town traffic over the residents who pay their salary is not rational to me. Elgin Park Dr., with fewer houses and walkers, is much better suited to heavy traffic.

The 4,000 vehicles include many trucks the size of the Beer Store truck; long, rattling construction vehicles; pick-up trucks and vehicles pulling horse, house and open trailers. Last year, a huge truck took out a power pole and electricity lines: the driver was trapped in the truck for several hours.

Now that GPS links Toronto and Reach Streets via Mill St. as the best route through our town, our current mayor says he cannot overrule Google Earth. Last year he said the "hospital wouldn't let him make changes," but he can pave the road. The only thing that slows down the traffic are the many pot holes. Speed bumps, no left turn, and traffic calming are not considered solutions by the Roads Dept.

If you, as a walker/cycler, have been threatened by the traffic on lovely Mill St., please let Councillor Willie Popp or the mayor know. Somebody's life may depend on it.

**Saundra Reiner**  
Mill St., Uxbridge

We have a fill operation happening on Conc. 4, and I know the township is monitoring this, BUT who is protecting the residents from the dust that is very obvious whether there is wind or not?

In Goodwood we live with dust from Lafarge using the entrance east of town (instead of the Wagg Rd. bypass for trucks). And we smell the diesel fuel (the World Health Org. has deemed diesel the number one carcinogen for lung cancer). Never mind the noise we live with from the trucks and the speeding, which never stops.

Yes, I have heard the comment "Then why did you move here?" or "Why don't you move out?" I bought here not knowing that the trucks would be allowed to speed, or the safety checks by the police or MTO wouldn't happen more than every two or three years - especially when there were safety checks done on the trucks and 25 to 35 per cent were unfit for the road.

And I didn't know the region (with two reps from the township) would be designating Durham 21 and Hwy. 47 (west of Goodwood) a truck bypass to accommodate trucks off the 404.

The downtown Uxbridge businesses are fed up with the trucks as well, as are the residents who shop downtown. They want the trucks re-routed - that means along Durham 21 through Goodwood.

A house is one of the biggest investments a person makes. They spend this money to have a place to live and enjoy. We cannot enjoy our homes.

If the region is allowed to continue to make Durham 21 and Hwy. 47 a truck bypass the safety issues are numerous.

We are residents of the Township of Uxbridge, we pay taxes. We are demanding a fund be set up to assist the residents financially to help offset expenses associated with the health risks of living here. OR start discussions on a bypass around the hamlet of Goodwood, with local residents involved.

And please, answer the question - when is a gravel pit no longer a gravel pit?

**Bev Northeast**  
Ratepayers Assoc., Goodwood  
With permission & support from  
Daryl & Diana Leigh; the Tripodi  
Family; Greg Henley; Gary Kilbride; Art & Lukie de Waard

Re: "Our Two Cents," June 11

I was extremely shocked and disappointed to see such defensive reactions from you regarding the comic/white privilege issue. As journalists, first and foremost, it was irresponsible of you to (seemingly) not even do a basic Google search to confirm what the term "white privilege" even means before getting your backs up and publishing such incredibly reactionary and defensive columns when members of your community—people who don't have their own papers to leave in every mailbox in town whether folks want them or not—tried to engage and educate you.

Secondly, as socially-conscious individuals and members of this community, it was ignorant and tone deaf not to sit a moment with the uncomfortable fact that yes, all white people do in fact benefit from a level of blissful ignorance because we (perhaps even unknowingly) experience white privilege in our daily lives, and our lived experiences do not include a reality where the colour of our skin matters to the point of affecting our hireability, our livelihoods, our lives.

If you had done a simple online search (or even thought about it for a second), you would know that white privilege DOES NOT EQUAL racism. If only white people benefit from a thing, they are experiencing (or in the case of the *Cosmos*, speaking from a place of) white privilege. It doesn't matter if you're racist or not.

We still enjoy many levels and facets of white privilege in our daily lives, even benefitting from the racism of our ancestors despite the fact that we would never dream of committing the atrocities they have committed throughout history.

Put another way, can a person of colour use the phrases "colour doesn't matter" or "I don't see colour?" Absolutely not. These folks are VERY AWARE that many white folks see them as "other" or worse, and will treat them as such if given half a chance. It is our privilege to be able to say things like this because OUR colour doesn't matter; white/caucasian is considered the default or societal norm while other skin tones continue to be under-represented, underpaid, underacknowledged and subject to discrimination, violence and murder at the hands of the very people and organizations that are supposed to be in place to protect them.

I'm still learning. We're all still learning. Please do better.

**Jessie Davis**  
Uxbridge

I have received many messages, emails and notes of concern regarding your recent [cartoons/editorial/column] in the *Cosmos*. Roger Varley's column would have been missed entirely by me had it not been forwarded to me by friends and residents (all of them white) of Uxbridge expressing concern and outrage that this columnist was al-

lowed to print his article. I am astounded at the tone-deaf nature of your paper. What do I care, I don't even live in town anymore? What does anyone care? Roger Varley is 100-years-old and as well-meaning, salt of the earth as they come, right? Who cares if he is a complete racist as exhibited with his strong white privilege posting an article begging to have that privilege validated by other well-meaning white folks of Uxbridge? Shouldn't I just let this go? No. No I shouldn't.

I ask for a call to action from everyone who will listen to me to contact you personally regarding this article. The recent Black Lives Matter movement has momentum - yes, even in Uxbridge. I make no apologies for who decides to take this call to action, or how far it goes from here.

**Carrie Oswald (Budgeon)**  
Former Uxbridge resident

I'm very disappointed in the response written in the June 11 paper in regards to the *Cosmos*' cartoon printed on June 4.

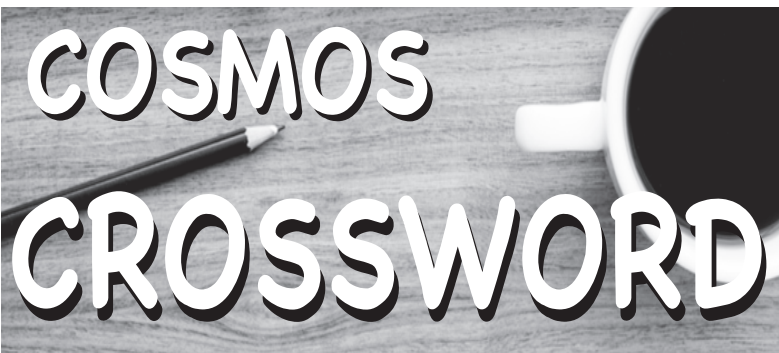
The author states they were "jumped on for expressing white privilege" in response to the cartoon that stated "Does colour really matter?" I've read the responses on FB, and every single one of the comments (all four of them!) were very respectful! A few tried to explain that although they felt the *Cosmos* was well-meaning, the cartoon missed the mark because colour does matter (just ask a person of colour) and that by not acknowledging that, it demonstrates (white) privilege.

Most disappointing was that one comment was from a black person that has lived in our town, and instead of acknowledging her experiences, your response in this article was extremely defensive as you tried to explain what you meant, but going as far as denying their opinions and saying that you "were not coming from a place of white privilege," and that you "take umbrage with being told" that you did! I, more than anyone, want to live in a world that you described, but teaching in such a diverse community like I do, the truth is that the experiences of the black community (as well as other people of colour) are not at all like we would hope. Just because you don't see it doesn't mean it doesn't exist. When you describe it the way YOU see it, you're denying their experiences.

By the end of the article, you make yourself sound like you are the victim in this situation with comments like, "if that's white privilege talking, then we're not sure what else we're to say." No one is asking you to not promote differences or inclusivity, but language matters. We all know that what you were trying to convey was to love everyone, but if you really felt the way you do about our differences, then you need to LISTEN to others different than yourself, BELIEVE their experiences, APOLOGIZE for hurting them and LEARN to do better next time, even if your intentions were good. Intentions can mean well, but the impact of those intentions can still hurt someone.

We all need to step up to show ALL our community members that we care and that we will do better.

**Jill Ballinger**  
Uxbridge



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Across

- 1 Heroic story
- 5 Middle of the alphabet letters
- 8 Facts and figures
- 12 Rude person
- 13 Pursue
- 14 Auspices
- 15 Wildflower
- 17 Scottish lake
- 18 Confines
- 20 Rubbernecked
- 23 Lone Star state
- 26 Business grad
- 27 String instrument
- 29 Really small amount
- 30 Moves along
- 31 Metal bearing rock
- 33 No charge item
- 35 Not her
- 36 \_\_\_ cotta
- 37 Mix-up
- 39 Forgetfulness
- 42 Applies
- 45 Put in jail
- 49 Mysterious letter
- 50 Daddy day staple
- 51 Low-lying area
- 52 Must have
- 53 And all that jazz
- 54 Edible starchy tuber

- 2 Government figure, for short
- 3 Chit
- 4 Brunch serving
- 5 Pitcher
- 6 Gangster's gal
- 7 Loneliness
- 8 Exquisite in quality (2 words)
- 9 "Give it \_\_\_!"
- 10 \_\_\_-tac-toe
- 11 Fireplace remains
- 16 Beer, for short
- 19 Seafood delicacies
- 20 World time standard
- 21 In the direction of the stern
- 22 Latin American priest
- 24 Island greeting
- 25 Printing stroke
- 27 Town dweller
- 28 Real big goldfish?
- 30 Hair curler
- 32 Bird that doesn't fly
- 34 Wiped out
- 37 Elton John, for example
- 38 Unsophisticated
- 40 Give out
- 41 Detailed description
- 42 Roman pot....
- 43 Trial lawyer's advice
- 44 Mariner's point
- 46 Melancholy
- 47 Timeworn
- 48 "The Matrix" hero

Down

- 1 Diminish



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## Margaret Weatherup

*It is with great sadness the Weatherup family announces Margaret's passing on Friday, June 5, 2020, at the age of 84.*

*Wife of the late Alexander Weatherup, mother of Alexandria, Gordon (Susan) and Gregory (Jennifer). Grandmother of Tegan (Clint), Shannon (Damian), Cole, Brandon, Sophie and Spencer, Great-Grandmother to Ellowyn.*



*Margaret was an avid traveller, gardener and knitter, and maintained a lifelong passion for murder mysteries.*

*Due to restrictions of COVID-19, a memorial will be held at a later date. Donations in Margaret's name can be made to the Diabetes Association and Alzheimer's association.*

## Thanks, neighbours!

*Special column by Roger Varley*

This year's Canada Day will be remembered above all others for a long time to come. Canadians generally are not given to ostentatious displays of patriotism - (what's in our hearts usually satisfies most of us) - but we do look forward to celebrating Canada Day every year. Obviously, in the midst of the current coronavirus crisis, this year's celebrations will be greatly reduced.

I'm biased, of course, but I've always enjoyed small-town celebrations much more than the huge concerts and parties that large cities put on. At the large events, you feel good about being among so many other fellow Canadians, but in small town gatherings you feel good about being among so many neighbours.

I like to think that that is one of those "Canadian values" we're always hearing about: being a nation of neighbours. I also like to think that that is what has allowed Canada to handle the COVID-19 pandemic in a fairly effective way. Of course, when all this is well behind us, I can

almost guarantee there will be calls for commissions of inquiry to determine where our governments went wrong and how they could have done better. But until that day, despite the number of deaths this nation has suffered as a result of the coronavirus, from all the information I get from the news, from medical experts and from government, the spread of this virus is gradually being dampened down. It's a long way from being over, but it will be beaten, one step at a time.

And it's being dampened down thanks mostly to my neighbours. For the most part, my neighbours, far and wide, have shown that they understand being a Canadian is not just about rights: it's also about responsibilities. They have undertaken that responsibility by wearing masks, social distancing, self-isolating and more for longer than we wanted but knew was needed.

I speak in generalities, for sure, because we all know the blips that have appeared on the screen to spoil my idyllic picture. But one cannot deny that the majority have done their part

- (maybe grumbling and griping) - by following the advice of the experts and the rules set in place by our governments.

So, when you mark Canada Day next week, rejoice that you can at least be joined by your family, be thankful they are all safe, spare a thought for those who are grieving and take pride in your country and yourselves for a job well done.

Thank you, neighbours.

P.S.: Two hours after I wrote this item came the news that thousands of people jammed Toronto's beaches on the weekend. Looking at the photographs, one has to agree with Premier Doug Ford when he describes it as looking like South Beach, Florida. It was Florida that recorded 4,000 (that's four thousand) new cases in one day. Heaven forbid we see a similar spike as a result of this mass selfishness. I suppose we've all had to put up with bad neighbours at some point. And doesn't it seem that whatever approach you take with bad neighbours, it's always the wrong one?

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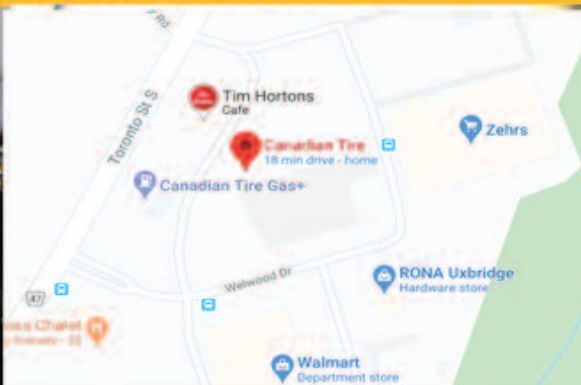
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## Sandford Cemetery Decoration Day

**will take place this year on  
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**Please note that due to COVID-19 there will be no service this year; however, the grounds will be open all day.**

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# Goodwood News

with Bev Northeast

We may still be in isolation, essentially, but the community businesses are opening up, along with trails and parks, and small gatherings are allowed with your family members.

I am hearing from many Goodwood residents that they have had time to do a lot of the jobs around their home that were being put off due to lack of time, so this isolation has been put to good use in catching up on projects!

If you are a family looking for something to do with your children, you might consider going into the parks and picking up litter, which seems to be accumulating, or checking with the senior next door to lend a hand cutting the grass or weeding the flower

beds.

Goodwood Baptist Church will not be reopening at this time due to the uncertainty with the coronavirus. There are a number of vulnerable members of the congregation, so the church will continue to monitor the situation. As always, if there is anything the church can do to assist in any way, please don't hesitate to call 905-640-3111 or check out the website at [www.goodwoodbaptistchurch.com](http://www.goodwoodbaptistchurch.com)

On Sundays - our one day of quiet living with no trucks - we have had to put up with three noisy dirt bikes tearing around town. Now, I am sure there is enough rural land where these

dirt bike enthusiasts could go and ride to their hearts content. Please, don't drive noisily through the hamlet.

I don't know what Goodwood will do to watch fireworks this year for Canada Day. In Uxbridge, there will be a smaller display at the at the museum grounds, and organizers are suggesting you watch from your back yard. Also, a reminder that it's illegal to set off fireworks in our parks without township permission and the fire

department on stand-by.

Finally, a thank you to those who were seen on the speed board to be

obeying the speed limit and keeping our children and pets safe.



*Congratulations  
Meghan Cummins*

on graduating from Goodwood Public School!  
Meghan will be attending Uxbridge High School.

We are proud of you and wish you continued success!

Love Mother, Father, Madelyn, Toby and family



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