

# The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 28

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, July 23, 2020



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**UP, UP AND AWAY** - Titan Van Winkle takes to the air at the Rotary Skate Park (Fields of Uxbridge). The Skate Park and adjoining Optimist Pump Park have become popular spots for people of all ages to be outdoors and exercise during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo by John Cavers

## Inside Your Cosmos

Walking a tightrope .....page 4

Looking for virtual virtuosos .....page 6

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## 'Post your hours! Post your protocol!' Enter Stage 3

by Justyne Edgell,  
Local Journalism Initiative  
Reporter

Many people throughout the province - and particularly throughout the Township of Uxbridge - are looking forward to this Friday more than usual. As of 12:01 a.m., Durham Region will be one of seven regions in Ontario that move into Stage 3 of reopening businesses and the economy after spending over four months in lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic.

On Monday, Premier Doug Ford announced that more businesses will be able to "hang up their open signs." As Durham Region heads into Stage 3, also known as the "long-term growth and recover stage," social gathering counts will increase to allowing 50 people indoors and 100 outdoors, with physical distancing still in place. Perhaps most anticipated, however - in Stage 3 nearly all businesses are allowed to reopen, including movie theatres and

gyms.

In the past few weeks, many local businesses have already opened up, although owners have been forced to alter the way they work and provide their services in order to operate and continue to serve the community safely.

Shelley Macbeth, owner of Blue Heron Books, which has been reopened for two months, has a few tips for businesses who are just beginning their post-COVID comeback.

"Make sure your hours are posted EVERYWHERE!" says Macbeth emphatically. She says that with all the uncertainty and confusion around, it's important to be very clear on store hours and protocols. "Make sure you update your new hours on all platforms. Signs, Google, Facebook, etc.," she says.

Macbeth also noted the importance of making sure that customers and employees are all comfortable. "Everyone has different levels of fear and comfort, and it's important to follow your customers' lead while maintaining your own boundaries."

Macbeth suggests dedicating one employee to welcoming customers and helping guide them through the newly reopened space.

"Sometimes falling back to Stage 1 or Stage 2 protocols isn't bad either," says Macbeth. "If people are requesting curbside pickup or online orders, and you're able to do that, it's a great way to keep your customers comfortable."

Keeping everyone at ease seems to the advice from more than just Blue Heron Books. Rebecca Harman of The Bridge Social, which has remained open online through the entire pandemic, says that they are going to keep their bricks and mortar store closed off to customers for a little longer.

"We went straight to delivery options and have been doing really well with this," says Harman.

The Bridge Social recently implemented a screen door pick-up, where customers can get their drinks and pre-ordered products through a trap door in the bottom of their screen.

...continued on page 3

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## Council & Committee Meetings

### Meeting Schedule for August, 2020

**Monday, August 10**  
**10:00 a.m.**

VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
**2:00 p.m.**  
VIRTUAL PUBLIC PLANNING  
MEETING, VICDOM SAND & GRAVEL  
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OPA 2014-008

**Wednesday, August 19, 7:00 p.m.**  
VIRTUAL COMMITTEE OF  
ADJUSTMENT MEETING

**Proclamations for the Month of August**  
Flight of the Monarchs Day  
August 22, 2020

# 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)



### Splash Pad Temporarily Closed

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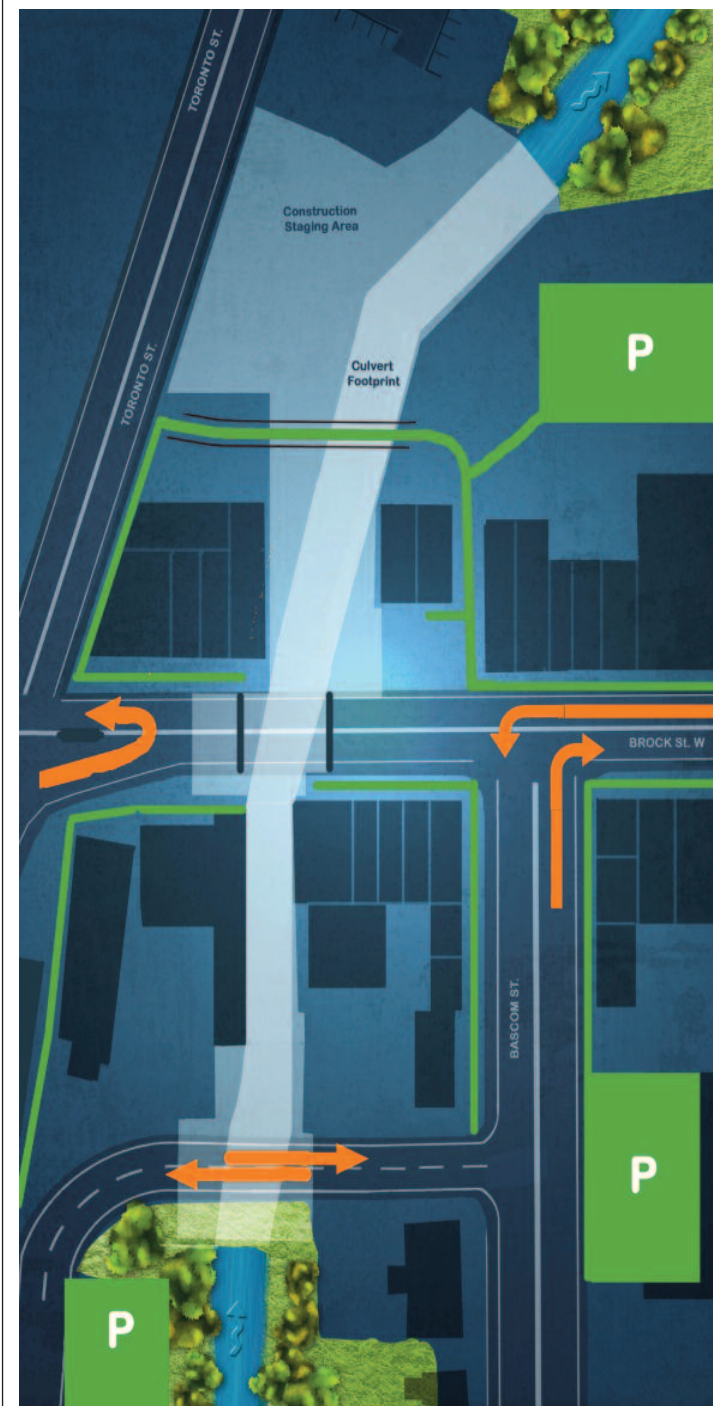
## Sidewalk Repairs Underway

Please expect localized sidewalk closures over the next several weeks on sidewalk sections adjacent to:

South Balsam Street  
Quaker Village Drive  
Milne Court  
Mill St./Main St.  
Reach Street  
Carmody Lane  
Planks Lane  
Toronto Street  
Main Street N.  
McGuire Cres.

## Brock Street Sidewalk Closure

The sidewalk directly in the path of culvert construction will be closed on both the north and south side of the road. All stores remain open and can be accessed from the sidewalk directly in front of their business. Pedestrians will be able to travel along Brock St. and through the construction by using a new walkway that connects the Toronto St. sidewalk to the walkway beside Circle K Convenience.



## DOWNTOWN UXBRIDGE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS



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The Township of Uxbridge intends to control noxious weeds along the following rural concession roadsides north of Davis Drive:



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Commencing on July 23, 2020, weather permitting and ending August 14, 2020.

We are controlling Noxious Weeds under the Public Works Exemption of the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban to promote public health and safety.

For more information call: **Township of Uxbridge**  
Bill Rynard, C. Tech, CRS, Road Operations Manager 905-852-9087  
**Green Stream**  
Steve Ford 905-510-1229



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phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209



Opening up, from page 1

“We’re still not totally comfortable opening up our space to the public, but this is a great way to serve our customers as well as being able to chat with them from a safe distance,” says Harman.

Kim Kelland, proprietor of Kimberley Kelland Fashions (which recently moved to share a space with Keith’s Flower Shop & Gifts at 14 Brock St. E.) also wants to remind those who are reopening to step up their hygiene practices.

“We are all wearing masks and doing lots of hand sanitizing! We also have our customers call prior to entering so that we can control the number of people in our space,” explains Kelland.

Gyms like Okami Kai Martial Arts and Fitness, which has been running weekly outdoor classes, are now getting ready to open their doors.


“We will be running indoor classes as of August 4, and are hoping to surpass government protocols while doing so,” says owner Scott Campsall. Okami Kai will also be implementing physical distancing, sanitizing and temperature checks.

As of press time on Tuesday, the *Cosmos* had not heard back from other gyms in Uxbridge as to whether they were opening on Friday. It also did not hear back from the Roxy Theatres to learn if it would be opening its doors, even at limited capacity.

Even as government-instructed protocols relax slightly, everyone is still encouraged to respects physical distancing and continue proper sanitization practices.

For more on State 3 reopening in Ontario, visit [news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/07/ontario-moving-more-regions-into-stage-3.html](https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/07/ontario-moving-more-regions-into-stage-3.html)

### A Happy 100th Birthday



Family and friends recently celebrated with Flora Purdy (née Norwood) as she turned 100. Purdy was born on Reach St., in Uxbridge, and attended Uxbridge High School. According to her daughters, she “actively participating in church and school activities.” While in high school, she learned how to type and write shorthand, skills that served her when she worked for the Ontario Minister of Agriculture. At 97, Purdy took up painting, and her work can be seen on Instagram @florrie\_artist

Purdy currently lives in Pickering.



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# Our two cents

## A tightrope act

We have all witnessed the wave of craziness that has swept across the United States in recent months. This craziness might have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the on-going protests against racism, police brutality and their almost rampant killings and assaults of unarmed Black people, but they didn't cause it: the craziness has always been there.

As evidence of that, witness the countless videos on the Internet of so-called "Karens," usually white women, raging and ranting against perceived slights, like being asked to wear masks in stores.

Unfortunately, some of that craziness appears to be seeping across the border. Canada has its own videos of people going off in a rage after being asked to wear masks in stores. And we also have protests, mostly in Western Canada, by so-called "anti-maskers."

They carry signs saying "Freedom." Either they have watched *Braveheart* too many times or they watch too much American television. Down in the U.S., where they are forever crying "freedom," to most Americans it merely means they can say whatever they want (First Amendment) and own guns (Second Amendment). We don't profess expert knowledge of the U.S. constitution, but we doubt there is any mention in it that the rights bestowed also come with responsibility. And that goes for our Canadian protesters as well: Canadian citizenship gives us many rights, but those rights come with responsibility.

When these anti-maskers gather in their protests sans masks, they not only put themselves at risk of contracting the coronavirus, they put their families and the general public at risk as well. And that includes you and me. I don't know about you, but when someone puts my life at risk with their selfishness, I think they should be punished.

However, that puts governments and law enforcement officers on a tightrope. Currently, some police are handing out fines to people who disregard the regulations and restrictions the governments have put into place for our own good, our own protection. But are fines good enough? Our criminal justice system provides penalties for people found guilty of criminal negligence. Are the anti-maskers engaging in criminally negligent behaviour?

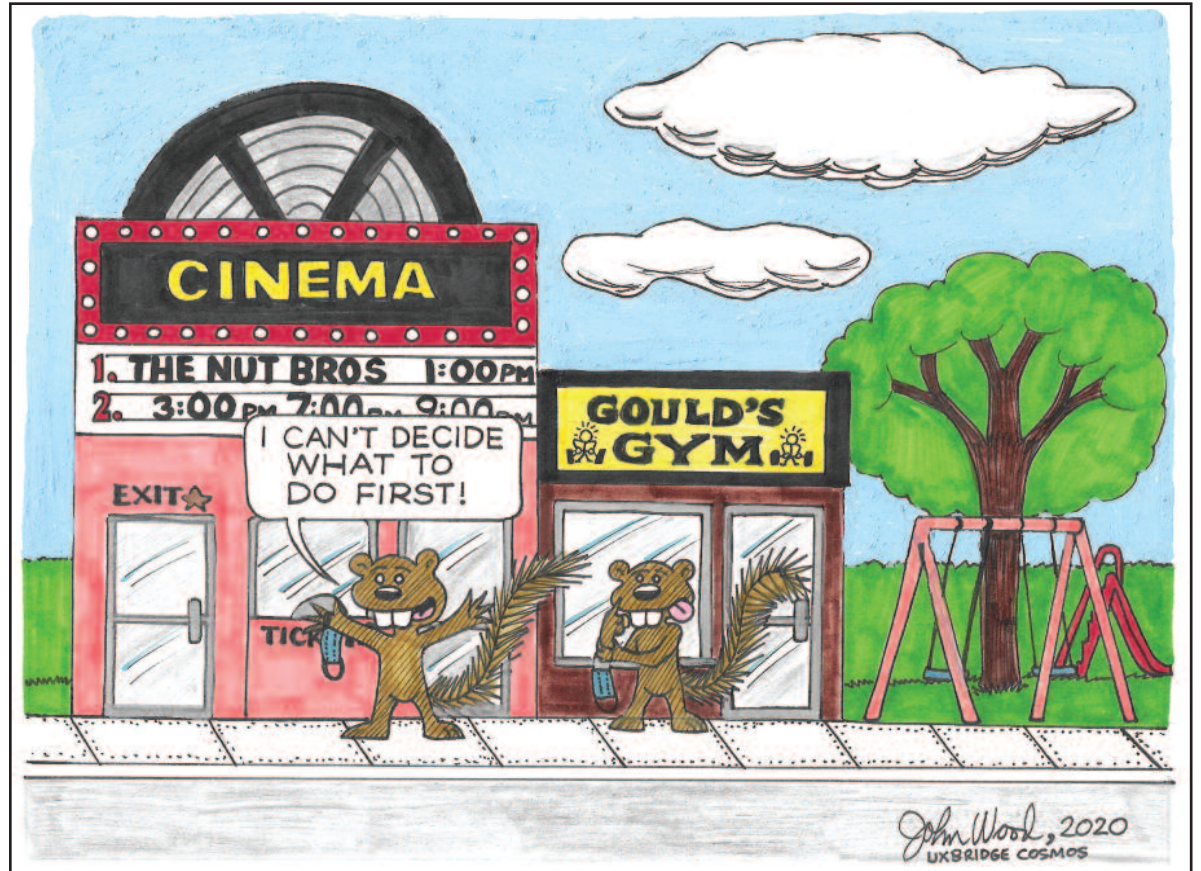
It would take a brave government and police force to break up a protest of anti-maskers. After all, we do have the legal right to peacefully protest and there has been no sign that the Canadian anti-mask protesters have not been peaceful. But just as you would be arrested for smashing a window during a peaceful protest, so these anti-maskers should be arrested for not wearing masks at a public gathering and charged with criminal negligence. And if any are found guilty of that offence, they should receive jail time.

That said, we don't want to see what is happening in the U.S., where police are wearing army battledress with no markings other than the word "Police," grabbing people off the street, hustling them into unmarked rented vans and taking them off to God knows where.

That's where the tightrope act comes in. How can government and police stop these COVIDiots without descending into? How can they protect one group's rights (the right to protest) while protecting another group's rights (the right to be safe from criminal negligence)?

Perhaps the first step, in Canada at least, is to stop sending out police forces that seem to be equipped to invade a small country. Stop with the camouflage (it doesn't work when you're standing in the middle of a street), stop carrying guns that could halt a charging elephant, stop with the full body armour, the long batons and shields (they indicate you're going to use force, not words and tact) and stop having police formed up like Roman legions (it indicates you are scared). And stop throwing every person you arrest face first into the ground: that's the act of a bully. Canadians aren't bullies.

We're not a circus act, either. So how do we walk the tightrope?



## Letters to the Editor

I was somewhat disappointed by the front page photo in the July 16 issue [of the *Cosmos*].

I realize that [the YDHR Heritage Tea] is an outdoor event, but I would have hoped to see the people wearing mask or at least practicing social distancing.

**Chris Hanley**  
Uxbridge

Two years ago, time and township resources were spent on making dramatic improvements to the one km long Maplebridge Trail. At that time, the walkway was eight feet wide, but after just two years certain parts are now only

four feet due to the ever encroaching vegetation.

If the township would devote a half an hour of work only twice a year to this trail, cutting back each side, we could maintain what we have today. This is a beautiful path with wildflowers and a creek nearby, so let's care for this gem within Uxbridge.

**Larry Emo**  
Uxbridge

We read with interest Ted Barris's article "State of statues," (*The Barris Beat*, July 16 edition).

His comment "Historical individuals once revered, have sud-

denly been revealed," caught my attention because there is one historical figure whose stature remains untouched (as far as I know) in all the "cancel culture," and that is the statue of Charles Darwin. Not only was he extremely racist, he taught racism as part of his explanation of the development of mankind.

On the other hand, I hope there is a statue of William Wilberforce somewhere commemorating his tireless battle to end the injustice of slavery.

**Dale Maxson**  
Uxbridge

## Durham Region hosting anti-Black racism town hall

Residents of Durham Region are being invited to take part in a virtual town hall discussing anti-Black racism.

On Thursday, August 6, Durham Regional Chair John Henry has invited Durham Regional Police Chief Paul Martin to join him in a discussion that, according to the invitation, is intended to give the both the regional government and the DRPS a better understanding of the "scope of the situation here in Durham Region; and how Regional programs and policies can help address systemic anti-Black racism in our community."

"No form of racism is acceptable. Yet we know that people continue to experience unfair treatment because of the colour of their skin or their cultural background—some more frequently than others," says the open invitation.

Several panelists will join Henry and Martin online, including: Sean Mauricette, an award-winning motivational speaker, artist and youth worker (facilitator); Celina Caesar-Chavannes, a consultant and former Member of Parliament; David Mitchell, the assistant deputy minister for the Youth Justice Division of the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services; and Ann Marie Morrison, incoming president for the Black Student Success Network at Durham College.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., residents are invited to ask questions, listen in, and share stories/ideas about how the Region can address systemic anti-Black racism in throughout the community.

Visit [durham.ca/VirtualTownHall](http://durham.ca/VirtualTownHall) to pre-register for this event. It can also be streamed online via the Region's website.

## COPE workshop helps with COVID stress

Community Care Durham (CCD)'s COPE Mental Health program is running a free online Wellness Workshop on July 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend.

"At CCD, we have seen that dealing with the impacts of COVID-19 has increased people's stress and anxiety levels," says James Meloche, CEO, Community Care Durham. "The number of phone visits carried out by our COPE team were more than double what was expected in May."

The two-hour online workshop will include an explanation of the physical, emotional, and behavioural symptoms associated with stress and anxiety. Participants can choose to attend by phone or video and confidentiality will be protected.

To R.S.V.P. and receive the link to the July 30 workshop, please email [elisa.stephen@communitycaredurham.on.ca](mailto:elisa.stephen@communitycaredurham.on.ca) or call 905-985-8237. [www.communitycaredurham.on.ca](http://www.communitycaredurham.on.ca)

**The Uxbridge COSMOS**

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mail, 700 available in  
stores and boxes.





## Wandering the Cosmos

column by Conrad Boyce

### Seven decades

It was a pleasure to walk the Countryside Preserve last week for the first time in a few years. I took a deep breath of that lovely woodsy air and was reminded of how calming it always was when my furry friend Lacey and I used to tread those paths. I inevitably got a chance to step back and reflect on how life was unfolding.

These days, as I approach the big 7-0, there's a lot to reflect on. Like how lucky I am to have a summer birthday... I didn't always feel that way when I was a kid. I thought I was getting cheated out of being made a fuss of in school, having all my friends around. But soon I realized that being born in late July meant celebrating in places or circumstances you might not be in at any other time of year. Like camping with my family, or working in summer jobs. And the "significant" birthdays always seemed to happen during key transitional periods.

The summer I turned 10, the family moved from the middle of South Edmonton to the very outskirts of town, and I prepared to enter a new school for the first time. I turned 20 while tree planting in the foothills of the Rockies, the first time I ever spent more than a few days away from home. The summer I turned 30, I was doing a show for tourists in one of the most fascinating towns on the face of the planet - Dawson City - and making the life-changing decision to settle permanently in the Yukon.

The summer I turned 40, I bought my first home, a half-finished monstrosity about an hour south of Whitehorse, and wasn't that an adventure?! I turned 50 while commuting daily to the Big Smoke from Uxbridge (and resolving never to do that again), and I and my wife Lisa, who was born 36 days after me in that great mid-century year, threw a big party for ourselves in Elgin Park. Ten years later, we had a more modest celebration at the train station, and by then, I was finally beginning to turn the corner on running my own business - this one! And finally, the summer I'm turning 70 has been just a little too interesting for everyone, eh?

Actually, the mid-decade years were landmarks, too. The year I turned 15, I was beginning to discover girls, but more importantly, the magic of the theatre. By my 25th summer, I was in Grande Prairie, Alberta, and believe it or not, embarking on a single life for the first time. The year I turned 35, I was on Vancouver Island, near my beloved "noisy water", but soon hightailed it back to the Yukon when I couldn't

find work. The summer I turned 45, I decided to visit Ontario for a spell... and found the love of my life. My 55th summer, I founded this newspaper. And in our 65th year, Lisa and I took the difficult decision to leave Uxbridge and follow our hearts to the Ottawa Valley.

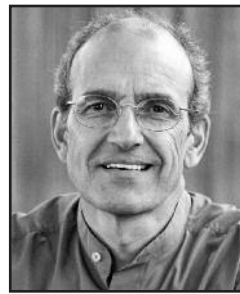
As you can see from this quick sketch, my life has enjoyed a few twists and turns. Because of all the enforced down time recently, I've had a chance to go through my "memorabilia box," and vividly relive some of those days. Whenever you take the time to do that, you inevitably find yourself wondering how things might have turned out if you'd made a different call here and there. If you'd decided to hang in on a difficult relationship, or not jump so eagerly at a tasty opportunity. It's a diverting exercise for a while, but it can drive you crazy, too, especially the older you get.

In university, I learned what an "existentialist" was, and that I absolutely was one... An existentialist believes that "fate," in whatever form, plays a very little part in how your life turns out. It's the thousands of choices, big and small, that you yourself make, that spell the difference. Sometimes you have to make the choice quickly, sometimes you get a bit more time, and you draw on as much sage advice as you can to help your decision, but in the end it's up to you. A heavy burden, but you can't beat yourself up about it. You take a deep breath, move on, and don't look back. Except when you're sifting through your memorabilia box.

On the Countryside Preserve, it doesn't really matter which path you take, you can always come back and try the other one tomorrow. Life choices seldom work that way. The existentialist anthem is a short poem by Robert Frost that concludes: "Two roads diverged in a wood, but I - I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference."

You make your choice, sometimes you shed a tear or two. You take a risk, and sometimes it doesn't play out the way you thought, the way you hoped. But you learn, and hopefully you go through it with people who remain your friends for life because of it.

There's another great Frost poem that goes: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep." Hard to say, as I near the venerable age of 70, how many miles I have to go before I sleep. But hopefully they'll be as intriguing as the ones I've put behind me. And I'm looking forward to the choices they present.



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Edu-clock is ticking

It was a gathering – yes, a gathering – we'd anticipated since the first days of the province-wide shutdown back in March. Monday night, we entertained half of the family – one daughter and her three sons – at dinner on our back porch. We actually sat together at the table. And we hugged the grandkids for the first time in four months. It felt wonderful. But the next morning, as we smiled in the afterglow, my wife observed:

"You know, once they're back at school, we're going to have to be extra careful."

It didn't register immediately. How much more careful would we have to be? While more fortunate than most, since our nuclear family members all live close by, we've only enjoyed their company periodically and from afar. One or the other daughter, with her children, has dropped by every few days. The kids have run around in our backyard, while we adults have sat outside in a physically-distanced circle. We've not touched any of them, nor they us. They've not stepped into our house, nor we into theirs. We've shared no food, until the other night. We've made the best of that "quality time" to be a family.

Extra careful? Then, I did a little research and based on a bit of reading, I thought I might share what my wife implied by being extra careful. First, it appears that the Ministry of Education is considering three back-to-school scenarios: A) All students back to normal school days; B) A blended-learning system, with students ideally in 15-pupil classes on alternate days or alternative weeks doing both in-class work and remote learning at home; and C) all students taught online.

Let's save a bit time here and take Scenario C right off the table. I'm not the only observer, with either scientific or anecdotal evidence, to trash that system months ago ("Online or out-of-line" *Barris Beat*, Jan. 16, 2020). And any discussions with parents or teachers I've had since the lockdown have illustrated in spades that remote learning is a long way from teaching children anything, much less replacing in-class, face-to face contact with professional teachers. Period.

Let me offer some thoughts on Scenario B, the blended system of online and in-class. For the record, the Durham District School Board has surveyed the region's parents and learned as many as a third of Durham Region parents will not send their children back to school this fall. So, for better or worse, DDSB schools might be dealing with only two-thirds back in class this fall; that's 47,000 students instead of

70,000 (broken down further, two-thirds of elementary attendance is 30,000 pupils and 16,000 high school students back in school). Even reduced, these numbers mean that the parents of 30,000 kids will have to find care for their children on alternate days or weeks. First, right now there isn't the day-care capacity. Second, all the logisticians in the world can't compute their way out of the cost to parents seeking alternate day/week arrangements for their children, not to mention the re-scheduling nightmare. The result, as I indicated in my July 9 column, will shut more women out of work and certainly blunt the recovery.

Then there's the practical sociology of Scenario B. So, children go to class, say, on Monday and Wednesday and Friday; they take their contact with classmates (and their parents and siblings) to day care Tuesday and Thursday and mix with the children of parents and siblings from the other side of the blend. Then, they bring that contact back to the original cohort. And, all of a sudden, we have multiplied contact by a factor of three, at least. In other words, instead of containing potential spread of COVID-19 to a class of 15 students, teachers and their families, Scenario B has broadcast it to the other cohort's students, siblings, parents, teachers and day cares ... and returned the favour. Again, I'm no scientist, but that plan doesn't appear very safe to me.

Finally, let's look at Scenario A, which is what everyone would love to see. At the outset, I don't see full classrooms as they were before the pandemic until health experts produce a successful vaccine. Next, with class sizes reduced to 15 (the apparent optimum), that means schools finding additional space – in gyms, cafeterias, libraries and even schoolyards (during clement weather this fall) – not to mention the funds for additional teachers, teaching assistants, janitorial staff and personal protective equipment, may prove insurmountable.

A number of MPPs have asked quite appropriately: "Where's the funding? Where's the planning?"

On its tentative calendar, the DDSB says the first day of elementary school classes this fall is Tuesday, Sept. 8. That leaves the provincial government 47 days to transform its daily TV photo-ops to specifics on safe schooling. Whatever scenario the premier and education minister choose, my wife's right. We'll still have to be extra careful.

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# Focus on Finance

with Tammy Scuralli, Edward Jones

*Don't Let Fears Drive Your Investments*

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

facts that matter to investors may be far less gloomy than you might have imagined.

Here are some things to keep in mind: This isn't 2008. If you were an investor in 2008, you well remember the market crash that resulted from the bursting of the housing bubble, which had severe ripple effects throughout the economy. The situation is different now. This is primarily a health crisis, not a loss of confidence in the financial system. While the Canadian economy will likely take a meaningful hit in the short term, the overall economic fun-

damentals were in solid shape before the coronavirus came along. Banks were well-capitalized, the labour market conditions were the best in decades, housing activity was improving, and interest rates remained near historic lows.

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

So, given these factors, how should you respond? Instead of simply selling your stocks in an attempt to cut your losses, review your portfolio to see if it is properly balanced between stocks, bonds and other investments in a way that reflects your goals, time

horizon and risk tolerance. Those investors with properly balanced portfolios are not seeing the same level of decline as those whose holdings are almost entirely in stocks. And while diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses, it can help reduce the impact of volatility.

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

Remember that you're investing for goals that may be decades away. By keeping your eyes on the horizon, you'll be less likely to over-react to the news of the day and more likely to follow a long-term strategy.

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

## Community concert band plays on through COVID

For almost three decades, several Uxbridge-and-area musicians have gathered together in the summer to create a concert band, rehearsing throughout the season then capping it off with a few performances. This year, gathering for rehearsal has been impossible, but that hasn't stopped the Uxbridge Community Concert Band from finding ways to create music. Technology is helping musicians everywhere join forces to create works of musical art, and the UCCB has been no exception. It ran a pilot project in the late spring with a performance of one of the famous melodies from Edward Elgar's "Enigma Variations." Band members were provided with a part and a video of the conductor, and the final performance was a satisfying performance. It can be seen at [uxbridgeconcertband.webs.com](http://uxbridgeconcertband.webs.com)

UCCB is now working on a second online project, and is encouraging more members of the musical community to step forward. Potential players might be high school students who missed out on their spring concerts, or adults who have a little extra time on their hands.

The band's website contains the necessary materials to get started, as well as many experienced musicians within the group who can help and support younger or less experienced players. The UCCB is also reaching out to other community bands in Markham, Newmarket, Whitby, and Pickering.

For further details on how to get involved, contact the band at [uccb@powergate.ca](mailto:uccb@powergate.ca)

The UCCB was formed in the summer of 1992, and has been a summer-time fixture in the community for over 25 years. This year would have been its 28th performance season. The band's director, Steffan Brunette, is an Uxbridge resident and Head of Music at Bill Hogarth Secondary School in Markham.

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## TUCK, Iris Doreen (née Cooper)



Was called home to be with her Lord on Monday, July 13, 2020, while surrounded by the love of her family. After 30 years she is now reunited with her patient soulmate and best friend, Chauncey Tuck and will be welcomed by her loved ones that went before her; her mother and father, Elizabeth and Jack Cooper; brothers Leonard, Sidney and John; sister Dorothy; sons Glenn (Susanne) and Byron (Karen); and granddaughter Teegan.

Iris is survived by her children Kimberley (Anthony), Andrea (Larry), Patricia (Mike), Carol (predeceased Ron), Wendy (Tony) and Dale (predeceased Leny). She was the inspirational and tender-loving Nana to her grandchildren Brooke, Kyle, Lesley, Melanie, Brett, Kelly, Josh, Brittney, Cory, Cathy, Christine, Greg, Mark, Stephen, Tanya, Jason, Lawrence and Deborah; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Iris was born on March 20, 1929, in London, England. She began her nursing career in 1946, which took her to various hospitals throughout England. After immigrating to Canada in 1955, she continued her nursing career at Muskoka Sanatorium, where she met her then patient, Chauncey, and his four children. The two were later married in 1956 and added four more children to their family.

Iris' fondest memories include the many corn roasts they hosted at Tuck's Turkey Ranch, attending church with family, and walking around Israel knowing Jesus had walked and thought in the same places. She loved to knit, make porcelain dolls and ornaments, gardening, and baking – food was always abundant in her kitchen. She looked forward to her travels back home to England, her adventures through Corfu, and her weekly 'Winsome Widows' outings. Iris' primary focus throughout her adult life was her ever-expanding family, and she was happiest when surrounded by the ones she loved the most. Her deep love, forever proper demeanour and ability to make everyone feel special just by being in the same room will be forever missed.

We wish to thank the caring staff at Douglas Crossing Retirement Community who so lovingly cared for 'Nana' and quickly became her second family, especially the staff on the second floor; and a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Dhar Doobay. Each caring individual contributed to the happiness of Iris' extraordinary life.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, P.O. Box 388, Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). In lieu of flowers a donation can be made in memory of Iris to Covenant House Toronto or a local charity close to your heart. For online condolences, please visit [www.lowandlow.ca](http://www.lowandlow.ca)

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- Across**  
1 Tropical constrictors  
5 Personals, e.g.  
8 Sprite perhaps  
12 Monk  
13 Geometry line  
14 Summon, as a taxi  
15 "Excuse me ..."  
16 Amusement sound  
17 Genealogist's work  
18 Well built and curvy  
20 Presage  
22 Baglike structure  
24 Money spent  
27 Wihtout equal  
31 Salty Chinese sauce  
32 Collar  
33 Tennis ball hit  
35 Branch of math  
40 Mysterious  
41 "Silent Night" adjective  
42 Shield  
44 Atlantic, for one  
48 Carmina Burana composer  
51 Cry loudly  
53 Dais  
54 Superman to Lois Lane  
55 Furthermore  
56 Small units of length, abbr.  
57 Tennyson work  
58 Messy place  
59 Hunted animal
- Down**  
1 Spill the beans  
2 Waikiki beach island  
3 Card type  
4 Small turnover  
5 "What a relief!"  
6 Not very bright  
7 Fourth-grader  
8 "Fiddler on the Roof" setting  
9 Crew need  
10 To \_\_ for  
11 Drink in a mug  
19 Blemish  
21 Owing  
23 Paddlers  
25 Moolah  
26 Scent  
27 You and me  
28 Loan document  
29 Combustible heap  
30 Office computer link  
34 One \_\_ one  
36 Angry  
37 Engagement  
38 Farm noise  
39 Bivouac  
43 Black powder  
45 Mideast ruler  
46 Proficient  
47 Snoopy  
48 Japanese sash  
49 "The Hunt for \_\_ October" movie  
50 Wray of "King Kong"  
52 Lad



## The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

### Those pesky masked marauders

They can be forgiven for wearing their mask over their eyes instead of having it cover their nose and mouth. Raccoons are a familiar sight just about everywhere. They're cat-sized, a grizzled grey in colour, with a pointy nose and rounded ears, and a ring-marked tail. They will eat just about anything, and use their dextrous paws to catch frogs, crayfish, insects, eggs and mice. They also get

into our garbage and compost, which is why some municipalities use green boxes that almost require users to have a PhD!  
Raccoons make their den in a tree hole, fallen log, vacant groundhog burrows, caves, even garages, attics and chimneys. Females give birth to three to seven young in the late spring/early summer. They start to forage on the ground when the

young are able to climb well. They will eat fruit from trees, vegetables growing in gardens, grubs in your lawn, and whatever may be in your garbage. In rural agricultural areas there are roughly five to 10 raccoons per square kilometer. In prime urban areas the density increases greatly, up to 100 animals per square kilometer. Later in summer and fall their diet focus shifts to packing on weight to survive through winter. Raccoons are not true hibernators, so they need plenty of fat reserves to maintain body temperature through periods of inactivity. In fact, at the start of winter, fully half their body weight may be fat!

Fun Raccoon Facts:

1. In the wild raccoons live for three to five years.
2. Females do all the work raising the young. The adult male plays no part.
3. The characteristic mask and colour patterns form at about 10 days of age.
4. Raccoons are carriers of a serious roundworm parasite which sheds eggs in their feces.
5. Raccoons also spread "raccoon rabies" through their saliva.

Cute as they may be, raccoons are wild animals that can bite and scratch if cornered. Should you find one living in an undesirable location, you should contact Animal Control for advice about how best to deal with them.

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



Raccoons, a common presence in both rural and urban areas, will eat just about anything, from grubs to garbage.  
Photo from [livescience.com](https://www.livescience.com)

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