# The Uxbridge CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARD 2019

Volume 16 No. 29

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, July 30, 2020



A SIGHT TO BEHOLD - The C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE) comet appears to be plummeting to Earth, but was, in fact, streaking across the sky above Ball Rd., Uxbridge. The comet, which was only discovered on March 27 of this year and was named for the telescope that first saw it, has been making nightly appearances around the world since the beginning of the month. It's closest approach to Earth - an estimated 103 million kilometres.

Photo by John Cavers

# 'Do what's best - get the test!' at new assessment centre

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

COVID-19 testing - coming soon to an assessment centre near you.

Next Tuesday, Aug. 4, the North Durham COVID Assessment Centre will open its doors at Prince Albert Hall in Port Perry. The centre is a joint project by the doctors of both Uxbridge and Port Perry.

Getting a COVID-19 swab is now recommended for everyone, and local doctors say they are looking forward to the opening of this centre, which will provide local testing, which may become even more necessary as flu season approaches.

Director of the clinic, Dr Merrilee Brown, wants the community to know that they are ready to get testing.

"We are here for the whole family, no long wait times, and it's really a very simple process."

Whether you are needing a swab to visit a relative in a retirement facility, are worried about symptoms, or just want to know if you're in the clear, testing is open to everyone over the age of 12 months of age, without severe symptoms.

To get a COVID-19 test, visit covidswab.lh.ca and answer a few online screening questions. At the end of the screening survey, select the appropriate testing centre and receive a swab time. Then it's just a trip to 19 Jeffrey St. in Port Perry for the test.

When you arrive at the testing centre, park in the designated spot, remain in your vehicle and call or text the posted number to announce arrival. Someone will come out to check your health card (through a closed car window to reduce any unnecessary contact), and then you will receive the nasopharyngeal swah

The testing clinic will have doctors on-site, should there be a need for an in-person assessment, but for most, it will be as simple as poking your face out your car window for the swab.

The opening of the North Durham COVID Assessment Centre is being set up to in order to reserve emergency departments at both the Port Perry Hospital and the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital for real emergencies, as the testing centre gives those with respiratory symptoms a place to see a doctor and get a swab.

For complete details and information, visit covidswab.lh.ca



#### **Inside Your Cosmos**

Closing both sides of the street .....page 6 Celebrating 200 years on Conc. 6 ....page 9





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# 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

# The Township of UXBRIDGE

Trail Capital of Canada



# MORE INFO www.uxbridge.ca

#### **Council & Committee Meetings**

Meeting Schedule for August, 2020

Monday, August 10 10:00 a.m.

VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING
2:30 p.m.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING, VICDOM SAND & GRAVEL 978970 ONTARIO INC. OPA 55, ZBA 2014-05 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

# 2019 Consolidated Financial Statements

The 2019 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge have been approved by Council and are now available to the public on the Township's website under the 'Financial Statements' section. A copy of the 2019 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Township of Uxbridge are available for pick up (at no cost) upon request, at the Tax Department in the Municipal Building, located at 51 Toronto St., South in the Township of Uxbridge.

# **Uxpool Remains Closed**

Uxpool remains closed at this time. Staff are investigating a possible reopening in the fall.

# Craving Fresh Air and Exercise?

Area trails are open.
Follow uxbridge.ca/trails to plan
your next excursion.
Please remember to maintain proper social
distancing from other visitors and take
your garbage with you.









Care about walking, cycling or wheeling around Uxbridge? Complete our survey and help us build an Active Transportation Plan!

https://uxbridgeatp.metroquest.ca/

Learn more about the project at www.uxbridge.ca

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# Open Air Fire Ban In Effect

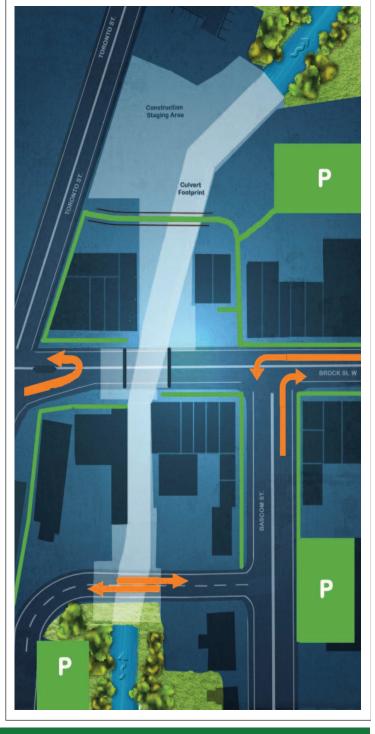
in the Township of Uxbridge

# 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.

#### **Brock Street Sidewalk Closure**

McGuire Cres.

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.





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

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

# Local churches faithfully reaching out to congregations during pandemic

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

In the wake of COVID-19, everyone has been forced to react and adapt to the new and changing world. Community organizations, business owners and schools alike all stepped up to alter the way they functioned so they could continue to serve their communities as well as they were able. Churches were forced to make some great changes, as congregating in person became impossible. But they all had faith that they'd make it through.

For many of Uxbridge's churches, seniors make up the majority of the congregation, a demographic containing many who may have underlying health concerns which leave them more vulnerable to things like COVID-19. This age group is also known to be not overly familiar with new technologies, and often struggles while trying to adapting to modern gadgets. This technological adversity posed a challenge when churches began considering how to deliver their message via alternative methods.

Goodwood Baptist Church Pastor Kevin Oates says that, with the strength and teamwork of the congregations, his church found a way to continue its worship from a distance. "Here at Goodwood Baptist Church, being a congregation that is elderly and many having compromising health issues, we stopped our public services and have not yet reopened. We have a YouTube station where we do a weekly a message that is posted each Sunday at 8 a.m., along with a scripture reading by one of our deacons. I also keep in touch with our congregates by phone and lately, we have been doing porch visits with many outside."

Goodwood Baptist Church is notthe only church to have resorted to a YouTube service. St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church in Uxbridge has also taken to the web. And because some of its older members don't have access to a computer, they also contactlessly deliver copies of the sermon to those in need each week.

As well as running virtual "coffee and conversation" sessions and an online vacation bible school, St. Andrew's-Chalmers has also joined forces with Trinity United Church to hold an online anxiety study to further help community members during this stressful, and worrying time.

The Uxbridge Baptist Church has also developed alternate programming for its congregates. As well as holding live-streamed services, it also runs youth and young adult programs via Zoom, provides activities and devotional items for children, and it is also holding a popular online vacation bible school. On top of that, like many of the other churches, the Baptist Church is making driveby visits to its congregates for special occasions like wedding showers, or just for a fun drive-by parade to spread some good cheer.

While there really is no replacement for the experience of in-person interactions, Lynita Webber, executive director of St Paul's Presbyterian in Leaskdale, says their online services have been well received. "The response has been positive: even though people deeply miss gathering in person for worship, they have been appreciative of our online content and are intentional about connecting with one another. In a recent survey, the congregation overwhelmingly indicated that maintaining an online presence is going to be important regardless of when we meet in person," says Webber

As for when local churches will throwing open their doors again, the consensus across town seems to be that, although re-opening is now government approved, it is best to wait until everyone is comfortable. The majority of churches have said they are sending out surveys to their congregates to judge when they would feel most comfortable meeting again in person.

For more information on individual places of worship, visit uxbridge.ca/en/living-here/places-of-worship.aspx and go to individual church websites from there.



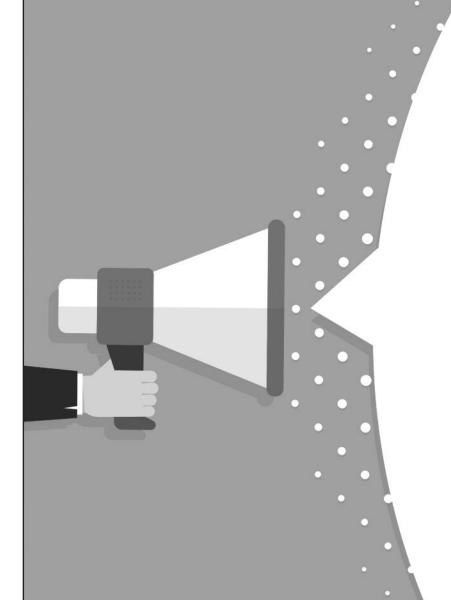
# Uxbridge asked to turn off taps - again

The Regional Municipality of Durham announced Tuesday that it is asking residents in the Township of Uxbridge to practise additional water conservation efforts as the Works Department performs work on a water supply well from Wednesday, July 29, through to Sunday, August, 2. Residents should limit nonessential water use (which includes activities like cleaning driveways or decks, washing cars and lawn watering) during this time.

A statement from the region said that, once work is complete, residents may return to normal water conservation efforts.

"In an effort to conserve water, residents using our municipal water supply are reminded to practise odd-even lawn watering until September. Under the Regional Water System By-law 89-2003, odd-even lawn watering is mandatory during the summer months."

Residents wanting more information can contact the Technical Support Division at 905-668-7711 (toll free 1-800-372-1102). For water conservation tips, visit durham.ca/WaterEfficiency



# 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.



Lisha Van Nieuwenhove Publisher/Editor

# Our two cents

#### We're pickin' up bad vibrations

We stepped out of the Cosmos office early Tuesday evening to enjoy a breath of fresh air and grab a quick bite to eat. While we were waiting for our food to be prepared, we took a wander down the street to get an up-close glimpse of the construction site that is currently taking up our downtown. We reached the construction zone, and even though the road is completely and safely blocked off to traffic, we felt wonderfully rebellious while freely jaywalking all over the still-exposed portion of Brock St. W. in front of the Roxy. We then hopped up onto the sidewalk in front of RE/MAX and sauntered down to have a peek through the metal fence.

Whatta mess.

Holes to left of us, rubble to the right, here we are - stuck in the middle with a giant black drilling machine that looks like it could strike oil at any second (apologies to Stealers Wheel). Said machine is currently sitting right where Uxbridge Shoes and Repair was once located, and is but a few feet from the walls of Mondo Hair Salon to the east and the Royal LePage office building to the west. We bet those businesses just *love* that.

Now, we are sure that all the engineers, contractors, architects and project managers involved in this culvert project have done their due diligence in making sure that while said big drilling machine hammers away at the ground, the integrity of the surrounding buildings won't suffer. But we have two words - Coffee Time (to recap: Coffee Time was closed down at the beginning of January when cracks and heaves were discovered in the building. It's been closed ever since.). When Brock St. was closed down for this part of the project, the powers-that-be said that crews learned a thing or two from working on the north side of Brock, and that procedures for the south side would be different.

We certainly hope so. Because, although our little pea-sized brain doesn't know squat about putting in a culvert, it seems pretty unlikely that the Mondo and Royal LePage buildings aren't going to suffer from a huge machine rumbling away mere metres away from their concrete walls. We hear the banging and feel the clanging here at the office - being at ground zero must be sheer torture. And those poor businesses, trying to get started up after being closed for weeks due to the COVID pandemic - they're being slapped up one side of the face, then the other, repeatedly. How is it possible to give a haircut or consult with a home buyer when mechanical vibrations unsteady the hand that's holding scissors and noise makes holding a conversation impossible?

That rig needs to get out of there as soon as possible. It's making us nervous for the buildings, and for those who work and live inside them.





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News Media Canada

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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.

#### stop the wearer from spewing out those large airborne droplets when they cough, sneeze or even shout,

covering that lessens the expulsion of droplets combined with physical distance that keeps those droplets out of

Plexiglass counter shields, spacing markers on the floor all do a great job of reminding us to stay apart and protecting staff and customers. But, many businesses have a weak link in the chain - the individual designated as the SDO the "Sanitizer Deployment Officer," the one who sprays your hands before you enter the establishment.

This person is the initial contact for everyone who walks into your business. Let's keep in mind that most of the public are not wearing a N95 virus filtering mask. When you have to walk up to that person within arms reach, you are already violating the distance rule in order to have sanitizer sprayed on your hands.

What if that SDO picked up the virus from someone else in line, or from their own unintentional contact with a virus carrier after business hours? That person could then potentially infect everyone who came close to them to get their hands sanitized. Remember, non-medical fabric masks DO NOT FILTER the air you are breathing. That's why we distance six feet/two metres. In a worse case scenario, your business could become a hot spot for spreading the virus to all your customers.

All business owners should make sure, that the designated sanitizing officers stay six feet from the sanitizing station and only supervise the customers entering the building. Where possible they should be equipped with medical masks, or at least a plastic face shield covering their own fabric mask, to insure they remain relatively safe during their extended time on the front line meeting the general public and being exposed to literally everything.

Let's face it, COVID is not cur-

rently taking over our community, so our protective measures seem to be enough. But let's make sure it is not a convenient illusion. We have those measures in place for a reason, to prevent the worse case scenario from happening, which would be a major community outbreak. Let's not take that risk and do our best to accept and follow all the rules.

Examine your own "Chain of Virus Protection" and ask yourself "What If" someone actually has the virus!

> Stuart Blower Uxbridge

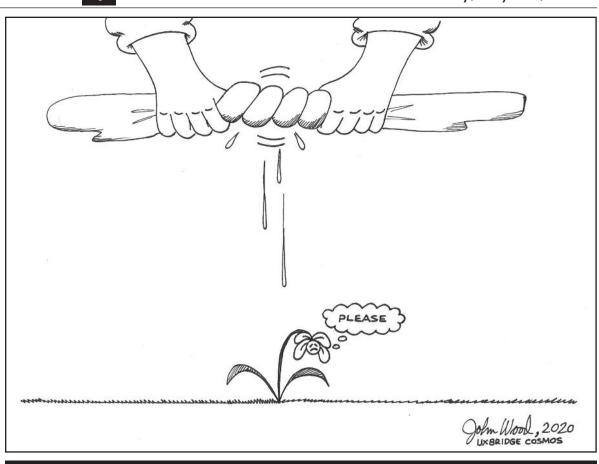
Ever wonder why your Uxbridge property taxes are so high and the high street is still closed off for laying a culvert pipe?

On July 17, we sat on our deck having a mid-morning coffee when along comes an Uxbridge town pick up truck, which parks on the small play park grass opposite. The driver turns on the flashing lights, assumedly in case of a high-speed squirrel encounter, the driver gets out holding a bucket and puts on a high visibility jacket...obviously the worker. Then another truck arrives, pulls up on the grass, on go the flashing lights, more anti-squirrel precautions, out steps the driver who is also wearing a high-vis jacket and carrying a clipboard...obviously the supervisor. Then another truck arrives, pulls up, turns on his flashing lights for the benefit of the local squirrels who are now suffering from arc-eye and epileptic seizures due to the multiple flashing strobe lights, out gets the high-vis jacketed occupant...must be the union "elf n safety manager" checking up!

The crew then replace the COVID closure tape which has been in place for four months with new tape and the old tape was put in the bucket.

On the 23rd, yet another town

...continued on page 11



# **Letters to the Editor**

Re: Maplebridge Trail, July 23 edi-

Two days after I commented on the Mason Homes trail, the township was in and cut both sides of the pathway. A job well done.

Larry Emo Uxbridge

COVID-19 came, we isolated to lessen the strain on our medical personnel and treatment facilities. We sacrificed jobs, income stopped, social gatherings stopped and we "flattened the curve."

Now we are trying to recover some semblance of a former way of doing things, but nothing has changed with the virus, it is still out there ready to move through our population again, forcing us to invent new ways of doing things. We've already made sacrifices, we don't want to go back there again.

One single infected individual can introduce the virus into a community, infecting hundreds even before the individual shows any symptoms. The danger is still present. It is that single hypothetical individual with the ability to spread and infect others in a chain of successive contacts, that we are all trying to stop.

All of our required business protocols - physical distancing, wearing masks or face coverings, washing our hands, not touching our faces - are all aimed at stopping airborne droplets containing the virus from landing and surviving on surfaces that we may touch, and more importantly from landing on our eyes, nose and mouth, the primary contact points for the virus.

Publicly available fabric masks only laugh or talk loudly. Protection only comes from everyone wearing a face



# Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

# Ask a policeman? I don't think so

When I was a boy, my mother told me often that if ever I was in trouble or lost, I should "go ask a policeman." The message, of course, was that policemen are our friends and they are there to help us.

I'm not so sure she would still offer that advice today.

Many of you will have seen news coverage of the police response to protesters in the U.S., particularly in Portland, Oregon, where people have been protesting, every day for the last 50 or so days, the killing by police of George Floyd, a Black man in Minneapolis. I can understand police reacting severely against people attacking them or throwing projectiles at them, but it is difficult to watch the way they have been brutalizing people for just standing there. And it doesn't matter whether the protesters are men or women, young or old: the police show no mercy to anvone.

A few nights ago, a line of mothers created a human barrier between the police and the protesters in an attempt to stop the violence. Bad move! The police moved in on them and began to roughly shove and push these women whose only "crime" was to stand in the street with arms linked.

Then there was the video of a U.S. Navy vet standing in front of police to reportedly ask them questions. They set on him with long batons and pepper-sprayed him in the face. Just for wanting to ask them a question!

There are many other examples, too numerous to list here. But unless you think this is just another tirade against Trumpland, let me give you a few examples closer to home. A video came out a couple of days ago showing an Edmonton policeman talking with a man on the sidewalk. The policeman is standing next to the civilian, apparently talking, when, without warning, he sweeps the man's legs from under him and slams him to the sidewalk. Almost immediately, a large pool of blood can be seen issuing from the man's head. Then there was the Albertan First Nations chief who was beaten by police on camera. And the image a couple of years ago of an RCMP constable kicking a man hard in the face while the man was on his hands and knees will last with me for a long time.

In Peel Region, recently, police killed a man who suffered from mental illness. They killed him during a "wellness" check. The same thing happened to a young lady in Toronto a few weeks ago when she fell from an apartment balcony during a "wellness" check. How she fell from the balcony while several policemen were with her is still under inves-

A CBC investigative report says there have been 30 police-related fatalities in Canada in the first half of this year, the yearly average over the past 10 years.

In the movie The Hunger Games, which I watched again last night, there is a scene in which the government's "Peacekeepers" roll into one of the districts. The peacekeepers wear full body armour (although it is white) and arrive in heavily armoured and fortified troop carriers. I couldn't help but compare that with the armour today's police forces wear and the armoured personnel carriers some police forces have, including Durham Regional Police.

When I was a boy, our policemen (the bobbies) either walked their beat or patrolled on bicycles. They only weapon they carried (always out of sight) was a billy club. These were policemen you could quite comfortably ask for help. The last time I asked a policeman for help was about five years ago when a woman, quite agitated, was trying to get into a neighbouring apartment and making a lot of noise about it. By the time the police arrived she had left, but I gave them a description and pointed out which way she had gone. But they wanted to know all my details, including my Social Insurance Number. What that had to do with the situation is anybody's guess. I finally told them to \*\*\*\*

I've had so much of policemen being involved in questionable antics and tactics and being protected by their police unions no matter what they are charged with - that I personally no longer have any respect for the police. And it pains me at great deal to say that - my youngest son is a member of the RCMP.

But it seems to me that if police want respect, they would live by their motto of 'Serve and Protect" rather than by fists, batons, pepper spray and guns.

Tell me, am I wrong?



# The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

# Including all 'the few'

It's a phrase often repeated in times of crisis. And we've employed it a lot during recent health, political and natural crises. I remember it used when Canadians coped with the Red River flooding in 1997, and in the aftermath of the Fort McMurray fire or the murders in Nova Scotia, for example. And, of course, politicians and public health officials have often turned to it during this year's COVID-19 pan-

'We are all in this together," they've said.

It's a common call to arms or for popular solidarity, that leaders have adapted in so many different ways. Franklin D. Roosevelt's told Americans (at his inauguration in 1933) to pull together since, "The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself." In October 1970, after the FLQ kidnapping of a politician and a trade diplomat, Pierre Trudeau invoked the War Measures Act, encouraging Canadians, "If we stand firm, this current situation will soon pass." Following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, George W. Bush said, "We stand together to win the war against terrorism." And Winston Churchill's wartime oratory inspired patriotism and gratitude. His "We shall fight them on the beaches" speech in June 1940, and two months later his tribute to the airmen in the Battle of Britain, 80 years ago this summer, are vivid examples.

"We must never forget," he said, "never ... was so much owed by so many to so few."

I recently learned from my author friend, Ellin Bessner, just how much Canadians played a role in the Battle of Britain in the summer of 1940. More than 100 Canadians were among those "few" whom Churchill applauded, all members of RCAF's No. 1 Squadron. Those 18- and 20-year-old fighter pilots scrambled daily in Hurricane and Spitfire fighters, against thousands of German bombers and fighters. In that 53-day struggle, the young Canadians destroyed 29 aircraft and damaged another 35 more. Twenty-three Canadian airmen were killed. There's even a monument in London, near the Thames, noting one Canadian among "the few": Flight Lieutenant William Henry Nelson (DFC).

However, in her latest book, Double Threat: Canadian Jews, the Military, and WWII, Ellin Bessner points out, not only does the monument fall short depicting the numbers of "the few," it also fails to note that F/L Nelson was Jewish. In a Zoom presentation on July 18, she explained that as many as 40 aircrew in the Battle of Britain were Canadians, and some of those were Jewish. In part, his family's choice

as immigrants arriving in Canada to change its surname from Katznelson to Nelson, may account for the invisibility of F/L Nelson's faith. But his deeds spoke volumes about the man's skill and courage.

"He applied to join the RCAF in 1936, when he was 19," Bessner said, but was turned down. "He worked his way across the Atlantic ... on a cattle boat ... and applied and was accepted in the Royal Air Force in 1937."

In England, F/L Nelson fell in love with British Red Cross worker Marjorie McIntyre. They married just as the war was about to begin. In fact, he flew his first operational flight in a bomber on Sept. 8, 1939, the sixth day of the war. With Europe collapsing under Hitler's Blitzkrieg, in 1940, Nelson transferred from bombers to Spitfire fighters, chalking up several combat flights each day. As the Battle of Britain intensified, F/L Nelson accumulated victories in the air - destroying five German aircraft, damaging two more - and, Bessner said, he became the highest-scoring Canadian Spitfire pilot of the Battle. Then, on Nov. 1, the day after the Battle of Britain officially ended, Nelson was shot down over the English Channel. Neither his plane nor his body were recovered.

"Although the RAF considered Nelson as Church of England, [enlisting as a Christian,]" Bessner said, "his Jewish religion would remain a secret."

The scarcity of details about F/L Nelson's career as one of "the few" and the celebration of his extraordinary service lies hidden in the anti-Semitism that Jewish volunteers faced in society and inside the military. Nevertheless, author Bessner pursued Nelson's story. His widow Marjorie and their son Bill (who never knew his father) moved to Canada, where she later married Bill McAllister. In 1957, the family returned to Britain. Recently, Bessner tracked down F/L Nelson's son Bill; she invited him to the Zoom broadcast, and we learned from him about the family secret.

"Only when my mother was nearly on her deathbed did I learn that my father was Jewish," Bill McAllister told us from England, in the Zoom cast. "It only made me feel prouder of his accomplishments."

What author Ellin Bessner makes clear is that 80 years later, some of those who made history or changed it, continue the fight to be included even when their leaders insist, "We are all in this together."

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



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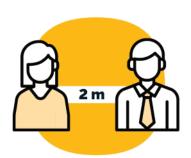
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# As more businesses and services reopen, we must all continue our efforts to protect each other.



**Continue to** practice physical distancing, stay two metres apart even in gatherings.



Wear a face covering where physical distancing is a challenge or where required.



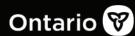
Continue to wash hands frequently.



**Get tested** if you are worried you may have COVID-19, or have been exposed to the virus.

Inside or out, stay safe. Save lives.

Visit ontario.ca/coronavirus Paid for by the Government of Ontario



# Brock sidewalks closed for a month

by Roger Varley

Construction crews have started tearing up Brock Street as part of the final push to install a new culvert under the thoroughfare.

Public Works Director Ben Kester said Tuesday the crews have broken out the concrete base of the road. Next, they will start digging down deep enough to begin installing the culvert sections. The towering drilling machine has been moved into the empty site on the south side of Brock and was scheduled to begin drilling sometime Wednesday.

Both the north and south sidewalks in that section of the street have been closed off to pedestrians, and a temporary walkway has been opened, running from Toronto Street North, through the construction area on the municipal parking lot and leading out to the east end of Lower Brock. Kester said the temporary walkway will be in use for at least a month, during which time "not much is happening" in that part of the construction area. Brock Street itself is scheduled to be re-opened at the end of

"They are on track to finish all the installations before winter and they'll be back in the Spring for cleanup," Kester said.

# Local school trustee stepping down

by Roger Varley

Kathy LeFort, who has represented Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock as Durham Catholic District School Board trustee almost continuously for the last 32 years, has stepped down from her position.

LeFort, a Port Perry resident, said she is building a new home in Kawartha Lakes and must leave the board since she will no longer be a resident of Durham. She offered her resignation Monday in a meeting with the director of education.

LeFort was first elected trustee in 1988 and served in that position for all but 10 months, being appointed to the board once and either winning election or being acclaimed in all subsequent elections. In her final years with the board she served as

"It's bittersweet," she said of her leaving. "I've met wonderful people and learned

She said she will probably look for volunteering opportunities when she has moved. Asked about her thoughts regarding the re-opening of schools, she said it's something that is on her mind every day and every time she passes a school.

"I'm thinking 'Are we ready yet?'" she said. "I don't know, It's a tough call."

The board has 90 days in which to either hold an election to replace LeFort or appoint someone to fill the role.



20 Bascom Street, Uxbridge Lower Level Only Masks are Mandatory We are now accepting donations



All proceeds to Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Auxiliary.

Thursday, July 30, 2020 The Uxbridge Cosmos



# From the MP's desk

column by Jennifer O'Connell, MP

# **Coming through COVID**

Over the past several months, your federal government has taken a number of extraordinary measures to support Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic. Millions of Canadians have been able to pay bills or buy groceries because of the help they received through the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). Businesses are safely reopening, with many of them utilizing the support available through the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) or through a loan from the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) program.

Last week, our government announced a Safe Restart Agreement with the provinces and territories that will see \$19 billion invested in protecting the health of Canadians, getting people safely back to work, and preparing for a potential second wave. Ontario will be receiving \$7 billion under the agreement, which includes investments in priority areas, including:

- Increasing testing and contract tracing
- Securing personal protective

equipment for front line healthcare workers and businesses

• Supporting the most vulnerable, including seniors in long-term care facilities and nursing homes

- Ensuring safe child care is available so parents can return to work
- Supporting people who do not have paid sick leave
- Helping municipalities deliver key services

Locally, the Regional Municipality of Durham is also receiving \$19,589,047 from the Government of Canada under the Gas Tax Fund, with the Township of Uxbridge receiving \$642,400.

Minister of Health Patty Hajdu

also announced that the government will provide \$4.28 billion to further expand testing and contact tracing capacity, and the associated data management and information sharing systems. Part of this funding will help ensure testing components such as swabs and point-of-care kits are available, and will help to ensure a Canada-wide capacity of conducting 200,000 tests per day.

Close to 9,000 Canadians have passed away from COVID-19. This staggering loss of life is having a profound impact on many Canadians and their loved ones. While things are not fully back to normal just yet, I've been proud to witness people in our community protecting each other by observing physical distancing rules and following our mandatory indoor masks guidelines. The steps you've taken have helped to flatten the curve, relieve pressure on our front line health care workers and kept you, your family and your neighbours safe. As

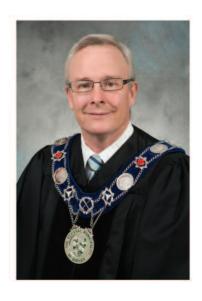
we enjoy the rest of summer and head into the fall, it's as crucial as ever to continue practicing these safety measures and prevent the spread of the virus.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office if you have any questions, concerns or need assistance in your dealings with federal departments. You can reach us by phone at 905-839-2878 or through email at jennifer.OConnell@parl.gc.ca









# A message from John Henry, **Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer**

Recently, the Province of Ontario announced Durham Region's move into stage 3 of the provincial reopening plan. This means our economy is now fully open; offering access to a wide variety of services within a 'new normal.'

In stage 3, residents can dine in at their favourite restaurants; catch a movie on the big screen; work out at a gym, fitness or yoga studio; or possibly, return to their desk in an office building. But, large public gatherings—such as concerts and sporting events—are still currently unavailable.

Residents may also notice that some establishments look different. It's all part of an effort to meet physical distancing measures and/or operation at reduced capacity. We still need to follow public health recommendations; limiting risks until a vaccine is available or a treatment can be found.

And, although the move into stage 3 is a direct result of hard work that deserves to be celebrated, residents are reminded to continue following public health practices. Now is not the time to get complacent. What we are doing has worked so far, so let's continue along the right trajectory.

Continue wearing a mask while in a commercial establishment, practise physical distancing, wash your hands frequently, and stay home when you are sick. In this stage, the province still has the authority to apply or tighten public health measures, if/when required.

Thank you for working together to help protect the health and safety of our communities. Your direct actions made an impact—together, we are an excellent example of what it means to be #DurhamStrong.



walking, biking and using scooters and skateboards past my house.

I really want our community to maintain this momentum as we reopen, and we know that, by wearing

masks, we stay healthy and protect our damaged economy from a sec-

ond wave of this deadly virus. Please



# A note from Dave's desk

column by Mayor Dave Barton

# Lots to look forward to

We have much to celebrate here in Uxbridge in the summer of 2020. As I write this, the Township has only one active case of COVID-19 unfortunately, it is related a staff member from Reachview Village.

We have incredible business people who are reopening their businesses and calling back staff members. It is so nice to see our town continue to come back to life. From my office window I see hundreds of people

keep up the vigilance and good work - we are all in this together! I'm getting more used to wearing my mask when I go out, and I hope you all forgive me if I don't recognize you when I run into you at the gro-

> Please also keep in mind that we have many residents who are stressed, scared, have lost jobs or companies and may not be acting like their best selves. I am sure that each and every one of us has had a moment or two during the past five months when we were not calm, loving, patient, or optimistic, and I am asking each and every one of us to try to be a little more understanding of those around you. We are still in this together and some might not be adjusting as fast as you are with the new normal.

cerv store!

Stage 3 in the Township means that our park amenities such as fitness

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Stage 3 in Uxbridge means park amenities like fitness equipment, park washrooms and playgrounds are open again. Buildings like the Music Hall, pictured above, community halls and Uxpool remain closed until further notice. Cosmos file photo

equipment, park washrooms, water fountains, and playgrounds have reopened. We have kept the pool closed for now, and we will not be reopening our arena, the Music Hall, the senior's centre, the Historical Centre or any community halls right away. We are developing a recovery

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**RETRACTABLE AWNINGS AND CANOPIES** 

plan to reopen more facilities and balance the costs of safely doing so with the staff and resources we have

At Town Hall, we have begun to shift more of our attention back to our longer-term strategic objectives. Once the culvert is complete we have the opportunity to revitalize our downtown. We have an initiative launching soon that will enable us to examine the many facets of downtown revitalization and help us create a plan that will result in positive downtown changes over several years. We have also just launched a survey to help us collect information about walking, cycling or wheeling around the Township. This is part of our Active Transportation Plan.

We are also working hard to acquiring funding for a new aquatic centre and are actively working with various stakeholders on our new health care campus, which will include a new hospital, a long-term care facility and the medical office building already under construction at our current hospital site. These are all projects you will begin to hear more about in the weeks and months to come.

Stay healthy everyone, relax and enjoy your summer!





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(battered Halibut, 3 battered black tiger shrimp, 3 Breaded Bay scallops, onion rings, fresh cut fries and choice of salad).

\*Coupon valid at Halibut House Uxbridge location only, 4 Banff Road.

\*Present coupon at time of purchase. '
\*Coupon Valid Until Aug. 19, 2020. \*Offer cannot be combined with any other offer.



# $A\,200th\,Birthday\,$ with Allan McGillivray

Every second Sunday of June, a public meeting is held at the Uxbridge Quaker Meeting House. This year COVID-19 got in the way of what was to have been a very special annual meeting - a 200th birthday.

The Meeting House, the oldest building in Uxbridge Township, sits quietly in the shade of age-old trees on Conc. 6, west of Uxbridge, where it was built 200 years ago. Some members of the Society of Friends, also known as Quakers, many from the Catawissa area of Pennsylvania, began arriving in Uxbridge Township in 1804-5. In 1809, they built a log Meeting House or Church, and obtained land for a burial ground across the road.

In 1817, local sawmill owner Joseph Collins noted in his account book that he was cutting boards for the Meeting House. This new building replaced the log one in 1820. Today, one can still see the plane marks on the boards, made by the hands of the Uxbridge Quaker settlers 200 years ago.

Traditionally, Quakers didn't have ministers, and the meetings were silent except for thoughts expressed by some members. However, in the 1890s, Alma Dale, daughter of Joseph and Mary Gould, led services. She even built the pulpit that is in the Meeting House.

Times change, and in 1925 the Meeting House closed, left to sit on

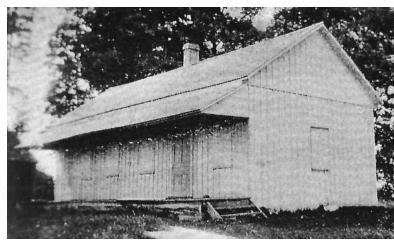
Quaker Hill as a relic from the past. In 1940, the property was advertised for sale by the Pickering Meeting, which had charge of it. However, some folks opposed the sale, and it was stopped.

The next year, the first non-denominational annual meeting was held, and such meetings have continued to take place. A board was formed to look after the building's maintenance, and many volunteers have given time to caring for this historic building. Wilda Clark was a leader in

with the ground were discovered in various stages of decay. The building was lifted, moved aside, and a concrete foundation with a crawl space was built. Thanks go to Ron and Russ Gould, descendants of local Uxbridge Quaker settlers, who headed up this work.

The Meeting House board deserves our thanks for looking after this Uxbridge heritage landmark, one of the oldest buildings in Durham re-

Rob Croxall, board chairman, says



The Uxbridge Quaker Meeting House celebrates 200 years of looking over the town of Uxbridge in its current form.

that area - she also opened the Meeting House for tours.

Like most old buildings, this one had no foundation, and in 1995, the sills and floor supports in contact there may be a 200th birthday celebration in the fall, COVID-depend-

For more, visit xbridgequakermeetinghouse.com

# Changing Perspectives with Brian Evans

Who would have thought that things could change so abruptly for every human being on the earth! To say that this pandemic is unprecedented is somewhat of an understatement!

The media keep talking about the 'new normal' and we all wonder what that means...really. Will it be different for everyone? What about our investments and retirement plans? Will we need to adjust the variable estimates for return and inflation in our plan? Of course, as with any other time, there is no way for anyone...skilled and professional as they might be...to forecast or accurately project these things.

When the pandemic began, many economists suggested that it would be a 'V' shaped recession, and it certainly started out that way on the down side. However, the 'V' is not looking symmetrical from this side! They also said at the time that the downturn in the market was not due to fundamentals as company balance sheets were generally solid. The downside was caused mostly by fear! True as that was, with the length of time it is taking for the economy to be opened up, the fundamentals are definitely being affected.

The other variable, the effect of which is difficult to project, is consumer perspective. In a recent news

cast it was reported that a survey was conducted of Canadians with some interesting, but not surprising, results. It was reported that 45 per cent of Canadians regret they did not save more. Having liquid savings for these unforeseen times and circumstances is certainly a smart move.

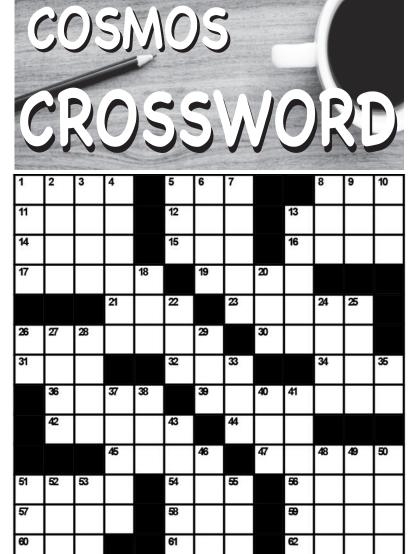
Thanks to COVID-19, Canadians are currently holding on to cash due to uncertainty with jobs, government support and future needs, which impacts today's lower interest rates.

The survey also reported that 56 per cent of Canadians realize that they are spending too many dollars on things they do not really need! Will that change in perspective affect the daily lives of families in the months and years ahead? There would be some impact on the economy if retail sales are reduced because consumers...56 per cent of them...become more discretionary in their spending habits.

The survey also indicated that many of the respondents are currently holding on to cash due to uncertainty with jobs, government support and future needs. That is having a meaningful impact on today's lower interest rates.

What does all this mean for us? Be assured that money managers have been factoring in these and many other considerations. They are actively analyzing opportunities available to them as they choose the most appropriate investments for the funds under their management. Although it is always a good idea to review your investment plan in relation to your anticipated future financial needs, there may be few reasons to make drastic changes to your strategy. Your advisor will be able to analyze and suggest any adjustments needed to continue your forward movement while at the same time helping to manage volatility. Call them if you have concerns.

As Canada's economy begins to move forward, economists seem somewhat surprised at the growth and momentum building within markets and consumer confidence. Let's keep that going by doing our part to control the spread of this pandemic. And let's not be afraid of these changes to our perspectives on saving, spending and family life. These adjustments could very well build long term strength in our economy and your financial future!



- 1 Jackman or Grant
- \_\_imatum 8 Fourposter, e.g.
- 11 Stew cooker
- 12 Animal park
- 13 Military group
- 14 Flip out
- 15 Ruffle
- 16 Give the slip to
- 17 The Bucs stop here
- 19 Amphibian creature
- 21 Age
- 23 India's first P.M.
- In an off the wall manner
- 30 Ill-mannered individual
- 31 Quirk
- 32 Green color
- 34 Before now
- 36 Clarified butter of India
- 39 Slight
- 42 Pitch
- 44 Thai language
- 45 Techie
- 47 Despicable fellow
- 51 Basilica part
- 54 Big Vegas poker hotel 56 Flyers' org. abbr.
- 57 Efficient person
- 58 Lodging
- 59 Queen Elizabeth 2, e.g.
- 60 End letter
- 61 Squeeze (out)
- 62 A long, long time

#### **Down**

- 1 Emcee
- 2 Elbow bone
- 3 Motley Crue's genre, with rock
- Come to pass
- 5 Submachine gun
- 6 Desolate
- Arcade coin
- 8 Buddy (sl.)
- 9 Medical emergency teams
- 10 One way to change color
- 13 Even if, briefly
- 18 Breathe
- "Charlotte's \_\_\_\_" 20
- Matterhorn, e.g.
- The Long and Winding \_
- Impulse
- Very popular person 26 Approaching 27
- Yearn for
- Survey choice
- Pledge of Allegiance ender
- French for gold
- In wait 37
- 38 Holiday lead-in
- Frequent a restaurant
- In no way
- Spooky 43
- 46 Hose problem
- 48 Sound comeback Shower
- 50 Daddy-o
- Woodworker's tool
- "The Raven" writer 53 Notice
- 55 Air Force \_\_\_



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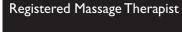
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Classifieds are \$15/week up to 25 words; \$0.20 per additional word (plus HST). Payable in advance by cash, cheque, debit or credit card. Contact Lvann@thecosmos.ca or 905-852-1900 Deadline: Tuesday, 12 noon. Ask about online link possibilities, too.

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# The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

# May the bluebird of happiness...

If you take a walk in the Countryside Preserve, pay attention to some bird nesting boxes in the meadows. These are home to several different species of birds: swallows, wrens and bluebirds. All these birds nest in cavities in trees but are unable to excavate their own holes. They need woodpeckers or natural decay to provide something suitable. They also nest in open areas, not forests. Old wooden fenceposts are ideal, but with many being replaced by metal poles, these birds have fewer options.

They face an additional challenge from two bird species that were imported here. House sparrows were brought from England in 1851 and the starling came from Europe in 1890. Both have been very successful in North America. These imports also nest in holes in trees and eat the same type of food as the native birds. It's created tough competition for decreasing nesting sites. Bluebirds are the most threatened of these native species.

These beautiful thrushes look like small, bright blue robins with rusty throats and breasts, and white bellies. The females are brown with blue in their wings and tails. The young are greyish with a spotted breast but that same bluish hint in the wings and tail.

About two thirds of their diet consists of insects, including grasshoppers, crickets, flies, and beetles. The remainder is made up of wild fruits and berries, earthworms, spiders, millipedes, centipedes, sow bugs, and snails. They feed by perching on a branch or fencepost and swooping down to catch insects on or near the ground.

Bluebirds may raise more than one

family a year. Construction of the nest is done primarily by the female, and takes about 10 days to complete. She builds in abandoned woodpecker holes, other cavities, or nesting boxes. Nests are cup-like and made from grass, feathers, stems and



Female Eastern Bluebird in the cedars at Carden Alvar, near Kirkfield, Ont. Photo by Jean Doucet

hairs. Three to seven light-blue eggs are laid, and they take about two weeks to hatch. They're fed a diet almost entirely of insects by both parents. The young will leave the nest



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15 to 20 days after hatching. Some young from the first brood may stay around and help to raise their younger siblings.

The meadows of the Countryside Preserve are home to many different birds, including those that make their homes in these artificial tree cavities. With the fine summer weather, it's a perfect time to take a walk and enjoy some exercise while respecting social distancing. Take binoculars if you have some for close up views of all the beautiful sights that await you there!

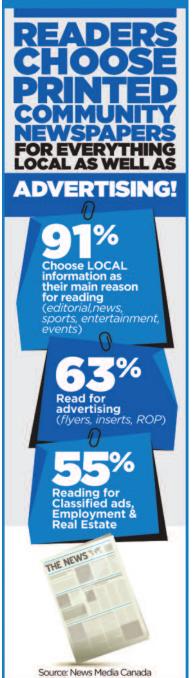
Special thanks to Lloyd W. for reaching out to tell me about the bluebirds that have moved into the nesting box he built recently.

"What amazes me is that it took me nearly 93 years to see my first Eastern Blue Bird. I hope that they keep coming back."

It's never too late to see something wonderful outside - I hope you and your neighbours enjoy watching this lovely little bird, Lloyd.

If any Cosmos readers are interested, I can send plans to build your own nesting box. It's too late for this year, but, next spring, you could be landlords of a family of birds in your own backyard or rural property!

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



#### Town taxes and trucks, from page 4

truck turns up, parks, lights up and spends a couple of hours measuring things and marking stuff on a clipboard...risk assessment to check that a child's play frame is safe for workers?

Finally, on the 24th, yet another truck arrives with two people in it, who light up the roof, don the yellow vests, grab a bucket and remove the warning tape and COVID closure sign to reopen the park.

In one week we have witnessed a comedy of a whole fleet of town vehicles, three tanks of fuel, six "workers," three buckets, two clipboards and five sets of flashing lights! Why does it take a budget of several hundred thousand dollars to do a job a 10-year old school child could have done alone as a play

activity? Why was it suddenly necessary to replace fourmonth old tape for six days?

> Dave Brewer Uxbridge



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**Gwen Layton** 





Dale O'Neill





**Chris Larmer** 



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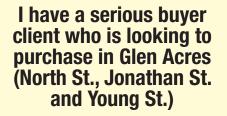


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# **Anti-Black Racism** Town Hall

Thursday, August 6 • From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Learn more and register: durham.ca/VirtualTownHall

#### **PANELISTS:**

Regional Chair John Henry

**Durham Regional Police Chief Paul Martin** 

Celina Caesar-Chavannes, Consultant and Former Member of Parliament

David Mitchell.

Assistant Deputy Minister, Youth Justice Division of the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Ann Marie Morrison,

incoming President for the Black Student Success Network, Durham College

Moderated by Sean Mauricette, Award-winning Motivational Speaker, Artist and Youth Worker

A conversation with the community about how **Regional policies and** programs can help address systemic anti-Black racism in our community.