

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 26

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, July 9, 2020



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THE LAST POST, FOR THE FIRST TIME - Uxbridge Legion trumpeter Doug Hoyle plays the Legion's new bugle at the Uxbridge Cemetery Decoration Service on June 28. The instrument was commissioned specifically for ceremonial use by the Legion. For more, see story on page 11. *Photo submitted by Jack MacQuarrie*

Uxbridge a no-water world until well repaired

by Roger Varley

No more watering to make that grass green - a watering ban has been put in place for Uxbridge by the Region of Durham because of technical problems at one of the township's wells.

Mandatory restrictions have been imposed on watering lawns, washing cars, cleaning decks and driveways and any unnecessary water usages indoors and outdoors. The region said Monday that the restrictions are needed to maintain adequate water levels to deal with fire protection and other emergencies.

Public Works director Ben Kester said on Tuesday the problem involves a pump at the well. Noting that the region is responsible for managing the wells and all water in the region, Kester said he was told the region has the parts needed to repair the pump and the restrictions

should be lifted in two or three days (they could be lifted by press time). He added that township staff will continue watering flower beds and hanging baskets with water drawn from a well at the public works yard. However, street sweeping would be put on hold until the restrictions are lifted.

An immediate victim of the water ban was the splash pad at the arena. Opened on Friday, July 3, the splash pad was closed on Monday. However, when it opened, users were not required to book a time and there was no supervision by township staff, although the *Cosmos* was told a couple of weeks ago that such requirements would be in place.

Recreation director Amanda Ferraro said that the regional health department had only recommended such requirements and checks with both Durham and York regions showed no splash pads were requiring on-line bookings.

"We're relying on residents to be responsible to keep the pad open as long as possible," she said.

She said she hoped people using the pad would not linger too long so others could enjoy the water. She noted that the arena washrooms are not open at this time, a situation that would cause people to limit their time at the pad.

As for Uxpool, Ferraro said the logistics of sanitizing all areas of the pool make it difficult to open it to residents.

"If it was an outdoor pool, it would be so much easier," she said.

She acknowledged that operating the pool by limiting the number of users at one time to a half-dozen or so would be a revenue loss, but stressed that safety was the first concern. She noted that many indoor pools in the region have put off possibly opening to the public until August or September.

Inside Your Cosmos

Mandatory maskingpage 3
Rancour over Ruonapage 5

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for July, 2020

Monday, July 13, 10:00 a.m.
VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING
11:30 a.m.

VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING – ZBA
2020-01 MILL RUN

Tuesday July 14, 7:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, July 15, 7:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL COMMITTEE OF
ADJUSTMENT MEETING

Until further notice, all Council and Advisory Committee meetings will continue to be held virtually. Visit Uxbridge.ca to view calendars.

Public Participation

The Township of Uxbridge is committed to facilitating public participation, especially while our meetings are taking place electronically. You can now submit your questions and comments related to items on the agenda in real time during Council and Committee meetings. Check out our Public Comments feature through our website at Uxbridge.ca/agendas by selecting the meeting from the calendar and viewing the HTML agenda. If you have any questions about how to participate in our electronic Council and Committee meetings, please contact Josh Machesney, Deputy Clerk, at jmachesney@uxbridge.ca

Temporary Road Closures

Visit Uxbridge.ca/roads for updates

- Planks Lane closed from Nelkydd Lane to Third Ave. South until September 4.
- Lane Restrictions on Brock St. E. from Fourth Ave. to east of Nelkydd Lane for installation of curbs.
- Concession Road 6 will be closed to traffic from Regional Road 8 to Bolton Street.
- Brock Street West between Toronto and Bascom Streets will be closed until late September.



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

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

From The Tax Office

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DOWNTOWN UXBRIDGE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Bids & Tenders

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

- U20-20 Cleaning and Relining of Culvert – due July 14, 2pm
- U20-19 Catch Basin Cleaning – due July 14, 2pm
- U20-15 Design/Engineer/Proj.Mgr. FOU Baseball Diamonds – due July 15, 2pm

All bids must be received by the Township by the deadline stated. Bids may be delivered electronically via the Township's website or in in-person at the Township Office located at 51 Toronto St. South. Public tender openings are not happening at this time. Bid results will be posted at uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders in a timely manner.

Township of Uxbridge Bans All Open-Air Fires

Dry conditions prompt fire restrictions

Effective July 6, the Township of Uxbridge has imposed a fire ban on all open-air burning. Dry conditions caused by current and forecasted weather patterns make burning unsafe at this time.

Open air burning includes the use of burn barrels, outdoor fireplaces and cooking fires, as well as fires in pits. Residents may still use a barbeque. Portable outdoor fire appliances are not approved for use in Uxbridge at any time.

All persons in the Township of Uxbridge who wish to burn must obtain a permit to have an open fire and follow the requirements listed on the back of the permit. One of the requirements is to call 905-852-9038 every time they wish to burn to ensure burning is permitted.



Service Updates

Visit uxbridge.ca/news for updates

Reopenings:

- **Township of Uxbridge Cooling Centre.** Residents requiring respite from the heat can make an appointment to visit Town Hall during regular working hours. Limited spaces available. Please call 905-852-9181 to make an appointment Monday to Friday, 9:00am - 4:30pm.
- **Water Sample pickups have now resumed daily at 9:30am.** Access to sample bottles and water drop-offs is only available via the front main double doors.
- Uxbridge Public Library is offering 'Curbside Pickup' Tuesdays through Saturdays 10am-4pm. Items may be placed on hold and picked up at the rear entrance via social distancing wait spots. Contact www.uxlib.com or 905-852-9747 ext. 2 to leave your name, library card number and up to 3 items on hold.



Attention All Pet Owners!

Please help keep our community clean by picking up after your dogs, and keeping them leashed at all times other than when visiting the off-leash dog park. Not only is it the responsible thing to do, it's also the polite thing to do. Let's continue to keep Uxbridge a clean and safe environment we can all enjoy!

Uxbridge is now issuing Marriage Licences and performing Civil Ceremonies!

Purchase your marriage licence at the Clerk's counter of the Town offices, 51 Toronto Street S., via main front entrance.

Ceremonies available outdoors or within Council Chambers.

Licences \$125; Ceremonies \$275+HST.
Book your ceremony with Josh at jmachesney@uxbridge.ca or visit www.uxbridge.ca/weddings

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.

Masks mandatory in Durham starting Friday

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Durham Region's top man announced Monday that, starting this Friday, July 10, the use of non-medical masks or face coverings within most public and enclosed indoor spaces will be mandatory.

In a statement issued by John Henry, Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer for the Region, details and parameters for the wearing of masks were given. According to the statement, these instructions were issued by Dr. Robert Kyle, Durham Region Medical Officer of Health.

Non-medical masks or face coverings will be mandatory for all community members, with the exception of those who have health, respiratory and sensory issues; various disabilities; are unable to remove the mask without assistance; children under the age of two; or other valid reasons.

Face coverings will be mandatory in all commercial establishments, which includes, but is not limited to: retail and convenience stores; malls; enclosed farmers' markets; libraries and community centres; and business offices open to the public.

These instructions also require business owners to implement a policy for the use of non-medical masks or face coverings; and to use discretion, under that policy when deciding whether to refuse entry when people are not wearing a face covering.

"You do not need to wear a non-medical mask or face covering at home with your immediate family members; while eating on a restaurant patio; or in the workplace where other standards apply, such as the Occupational Health and Safety Act," said Henry.

Henry also said that the statement is intended to "provide clear direction to businesses and individuals, with respect to their obligations under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. At this point, non-medical masks or face coverings will be required, while the provincial emergency orders remain in force."

"We intend to enforce this policy in 'good faith'; using it as an opportunity to educate people on the use of face coverings, combined with other recommended public health practices, to help keep our community - and each other - safe," said Henry.

As of Tuesday, July 7, Uxbridge had 105 reported and confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the township.

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

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

To learn more about non-medical masks and face coverings, visit durham.ca/novelcoronavirus

VBS continues to move on down the track

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Nothing about Summer 2020 is as usual, so neither should a "traditional" Vacation Bible School, or VBS. The Uxbridge Baptist Church has been working to ensure that its community can still run and benefit from a VBS program, and recently announced that this year, VBS is going online.

This year's VBS theme is "Rocky Railway 'Where Jesus' Power Pulls us Through,'" and the first session is July 8.

"VBS is an awesome way to help children connect with each other and learn more about Jesus," says Kathy McIntosh, the Baptist church's community/children's pastor. "Although this year may look different, we be-

lieve that this experience will engage your child(ren) this summer!"

There is no cost for VBS, and it includes crafts, games, weekly challenges and Bible lessons. Following the video, children in various age groups will have organized Zoom calls to connect with other children in the program (this is optional but encouraged). Age groups are ages 4 - 6; 7 - 9; and 10 - 12.

Each Tuesday, parents need to pick up a package from the church which includes all the craft supplies and a snack for kids to enjoy while participating.

Summer interns Brooke Weir and Todd Winder have been busy recording the various segments for VBS, with the first segment "dropping" at 9 a.m. on July 8, and continuing

each Wednesday through to August 5. Participants do not have to attend for all five weeks.

This is an initiative of Uxbridge Baptist Church on its own to continue serving the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is a privilege to be able to serve the children and our community during these unique times, says McIntosh.

Email uxbap.vbs@gmail.com to request a registration form.



Uxbridge Baptist Church summer interns Brooke Weir and Todd Winder get ready to present an online version of Vacation Bible School. *Submitted photo*



Message from the Publisher

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

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

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

The Uxbridge
COSMOS

Lisha Van Nieuwenhove
Publisher/Editor

Our two cents

It's for your own good

Don't do this. You can't do that. Don't even THINK about doing that other thing...

It would seem that we are living in a time where directives are coming at us fast and furious, and all that we, the poor masses, can do is stand back, listen to and take heed of our leaders, hoping all the while that what they are dictating really is in our best interests. Take, for example, the pandemic. It has ensured we stay away from friends and family, kept us in our houses for months on end, prevented many of us from going to work, and, most recently, added a new fashion accessory to our wardrobes. As of this Friday, the region has issued instructions "to ensure the mandatory use of non-medical masks or face coverings within most public and enclosed indoor spaces." Until the provincial state of emergency is lifted, our masks need to be as important to us as our underwear. If only they were as comfortable! Granted, some people don't like to wear underwear, either, but that's their preference. Right now, no mask is not an option.

For the next few days, at least, it's not an option for Uxbridge residents to randomly hose down their driveway or water their lawn. A major town well has broken, and until the region fixes it, there's a water ban on, so no non-essential indoor or outdoor water use is allowed. Sadly, that also means the splash pad at the arena isn't working, and that is not welcome news during an extended heat wave.

These sunny, hot days have also baked the earth, turning grass brown and slowly withering crops in the fields. Everything is as dry as dust, which means, of course, a fire ban is in effect again. No campfires, no rubbish-burning - lighting a match outside right now could be catastrophic.

No one likes to be told what to do, and there have been, and will certainly continue to be, those who rail against the authority, saying it's their right to not wear a mask when they go into Zehrs. That it's their right to water their garden after dinner. That it's their right to have a campfire in their own backyard should they choose to do so. Well, sure. Canada is land of the free, after all, and we enjoy many rights. But with rights come responsibilities. It is, right now, every single person's responsibility to ensure that they are doing their part to not pass along COVID-19. It is every resident's responsibility to not use water unnecessarily so that every person in town has access to water for a shower or to prepare a meal. It is everyone's responsibility to abide by the fire ban so that no lives are lost, no property is damaged, and our firefighters aren't stretched to their limit stomping out people's stupidity.

This, too, shall pass. In the meantime, let's just do as we're told.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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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.

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Letters to the Editor

I noticed that Uxbridge Council awarded Citizen of the Year Awards to Reachview, Douglas Crossing and Uxbridge Hospital for their fights against COVID-19, but failed to include Butternut Manor staff, who managed to keep COVID-19 out of this LTC home.

Hats off to the staff at Butternut. You actually win first prize for managing to have no cases.

Nancy Emo
Uxbridge

I love our town. Through this pandemic and the crisis - both social and economic - that has ensued as a result, I have seen countless examples of our community pulling together to support its citizens, its local businesses and its vulnerable. Uxbridge Helping Hands on Facebook, the Uxbridge Strong campaign, incredible food bank fundraisers, initiatives to show our love and support to recent graduates, ingenious entrepreneurial campaigns to keep our small businesses afloat name only a few touching and inspiring measures that have kept our community thriving and strong in these extraordinary times. And I am not surprised; Uxbridge always shows up.

I put forward one more easy, cost-effective, kind, highly visual act you can partake in to continue to show your support for our community: wear a mask. Are they uncomfortable? Yes. Would I prefer not to wear one? Yes. Has it taken methodical and consistent work to get my 4 year old to wear his? Ohh, yes. Do I continue to wear one any time I am in a public indoor space, or when I'm not sure I can maintain generous social distancing? YES.

To me it is such a simple way to demonstrate my support and respect for this town and all its citizens. It communicates to my local businesses that I want to be able to patronize

them while prioritizing their safety. It tells the frontline workers that I respect the risky work they do and I want to do my part in limiting their inevitable exposure to the virus. It is a way that I can ensure that we get back to our wonderful (though perhaps new) normal as soon as possible.

I know such wearing a mask is new, scary, uncomfortable and sometimes frightening. But all I have to do is look at it as a way for me to show up for Uxbridge, and all of a sudden, it doesn't seem so bad.

Let's all show up for each other, and wear a mask.

Jennifer Carroll
Uxbridge

We moved up to Leaskdale in 1989 in a house right on Durham Rd 1. We knew this was a big aggregate area with many gravel pits near by, but were young and never considered the truck traffic going by our house. We just loved the area and wanted to raise our two sons here.

The truck traffic is heavy all week, and on the weekends, cottagers keep the road busy.

We could have sold our house and moved, but we accepted that this is the area we live in.

The pits have been around Durham Region since the 1950s and employ many people in the area.

I'm surprised that Goodwood thinks they should have a bypass built around there town. If that's the case then Leaskdale and Sandford need a bypass as well, as they see high volumes of truck traffic.

But let's use our heads here: we can't have bypasses built around every small town due to truck traffic. It would cost the taxpayers way too much money. For the most part, the cars and trucks travel in a safe manner through our small town, but you always have a few drivers in cars and trucks that just can't seem to obey

the law. This problem should be addressed by DRPS. Also let's face it - if you got it, a truck brought it.

Michelle Blaney
Leaskdale

Re: June 4 & June 11 editorial

I have been reading, with increasing sadness, some of the letters in the *Cosmos* over the last few weeks. It appears there is (amongst the selected letter-writers at least) very little appetite for rapprochement. Even when an olive branch is extended, some folks would prefer to see it as yet another stick poked in their eye.

None of us has any control over the circumstances of our birth: we are, literally, who we are. The only control we have as adults, it seems to me, is the manner in which we each choose to react to our unique circumstances. When someone sincerely and earnestly offers respect and support, whether we want it or not, whether we like the person or their politics or not, or the way they phrased it or not, surely our response, whether to accept, decline or ignore their offer, can be voiced without resorting to disparagement and disdain? The veneer of civilized debate has worn perilously thin these past few months - perhaps unmasking yet another unanticipated side-effect of COVID-19.

Chris Clark
Siloam

Re: Councillor cut from key committees, June 25

I do not understand why this issue was handled in a council meeting and not in camera. To centre out an elected councillor this way is not right. We elected a mayor, not a king or dictator.

...continued on page 9



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

A cairn for the community

In the last edition of the *Cosmos*, the Township of Uxbridge ran a graphic on their pages at the front of this newspaper honouring the community's frontline health-care workers for their dedication during the COVID-19 crisis, calling them "Citizens of Distinction."

A fitting and timely recognition, to be sure, but unfortunately one that will eventually end up in a paper recycling bin. Maybe something a little more tangible would be in order, something I proposed to two members of council a couple of weeks ago.

No doubt most of you have seen, somewhere on your travels around town, the small rocks and stones that have been placed at various locations as a way of thanking our frontline and essential workers. There's a whole collection of them - more than three dozen - in a corner of the Cenotaph. Some of the rocks are painted in bright colours, some have two or three-word messages on them, some have maple leaves or faces painted, but they all have the same purpose: to unite the community during this on-going pandemic. I imagine that, at some point, the works department will start picking up these stones, at least those that are on municipal property. But what will they do with them?

I suggest that they could all be collected - eventually - and turned over to the Arts and Visual Enhancement Committee (AVEC) with the idea of having our arts community figure out a fitting way to put them into some kind of artistic commemoration. It could take the form of a cairn, a wall, a small pathway or whatever form this community's artists come up with.

It would seem obvious, should anyone decide the idea has merit, to place such a memorial on the grounds of the Cottage Hospital. As such, it would serve as a long-time reminder of the work and dedication of our health providers, but could also be a commemoration of the work of other essential workers, a tribute to those who have died in the community as a result of COVID-19 and an acknowledgement of the way ordinary residents of Uxbridge

have risen to the challenges set by the almost four-month-long-and-counting shut-down. It would also serve as a constant reminder of the way society can quickly be overwhelmed if governments hesitate to take necessary steps when the next health crisis comes around. Not only that, but it would show those who painted and placed the rocks that their mini tributes did not go unappreciated.

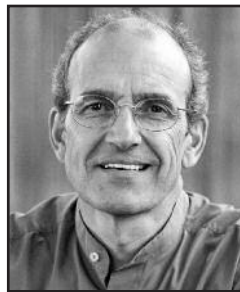
If not at the hospital, how about at the Cenotaph? The Cenotaph is there to honour those who risked or gave their lives to protect their country in times of war. Surely our health-care providers have risked and given their lives in an effort to protect their country in a war against an unseen enemy. Failing that, the museum grounds would also be a likely candidate for such a project.

If anyone picks up on the idea, there are a whole lot more stones and rocks that have been placed on private properties. Maybe the owners of those would consider donating their efforts to the pile that will eventually be collected.

Of course, the immediate reaction from the township will likely be that, with severe budget restrictions resulting from the crisis, we can't afford such a memorial. Maybe so, at least not yet. But that does not mean the rocks should just be picked up and disposed of. They could be stored at the works department yard for as long as needed before proceeding with an artistic project. Besides, I could be wrong but I doubt the project would be as expensive as the six art boxes the township plans to place around the urban area at \$750 per box.

If such a project was undertaken, it would not just be the work of our artistic community: it would be the work of dozens of everyday people, children included, who took the time to create these little stones of solidarity in an effort to lift our spirits and bring a message of hope. It seems to me that a community cairn would be a way of honouring all the residents of Uxbridge for their efforts during this trying time.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

New normal or B-Western?

Some friends and I got together this week. We were abiding by the no-more-than-10-in-a-bubble rule. Actually, there were only about five of us, and we weren't even in the same neighbourhood. We'd gathered - as so many of us do these days - for a Zoom chat. After we'd caught up on all the latest, somebody sighed and wondered when we might all gather at a favourite watering hole again. There was a pause.

"Geez, I wish things were back to normal," one friend said.

There was general agreement that sitting face-to-face, having the chance to give hugs to family and good friends, or enjoy a cool one on a patio together really would be great to have back. Later, however, when the video conference call ended, I thought about getting back to normal. And the more I considered it, the more I concluded there's a great deal about the old normal I'd rather not return to.

I feel pretty certain that the poor standard of care or inappropriate state of safety and security that COVID-19 has revealed in some of Canada's long-term-care or seniors' centres, over the past four months, is nothing any of us wants to see repeated. Too many people in too few rooms and no fall-backs when the virus entered those facilities, left too many of our elders dead. According to statistics released in May, 82 per cent of all COVID-19 deaths in Canada occurred in facilities providing long-term care. The combination of care based on: a mixture of public and private funding, a wild array of providers, systems for-profit and others not-for-profit, some paid caregivers and others unpaid, or unionized versus non-unionized workers, with wages all over the map, says Dr. Samir Sinha, at the National Institute on Aging, has taken a deadly toll. To let such chaos continue is not normal, but abnormal ... if not abusive.

Another tradition pre-pandemic we could do without is the shaky state of child care in Canada. We've learned that the virus has hurt working women more than men. In April, before we started re-opening the economy, two million Canadians were out of work - 16.9 per cent of them were women while for the same period, February to April, only 14.6 per cent of men lost jobs. So, with recovery underway, we'll be relying on child care to allow women to return to work; but, among other things, physical distancing precautions have reduced child-care spaces drastically. Add to that, women contribute the majority of household purchasing power, or 57 per cent of national

GDP, and economist Armine Yalnizyan says more and better child care is paramount.

"Without a 'she-covery,'" she said on CBC Radio, "there is no recovery."

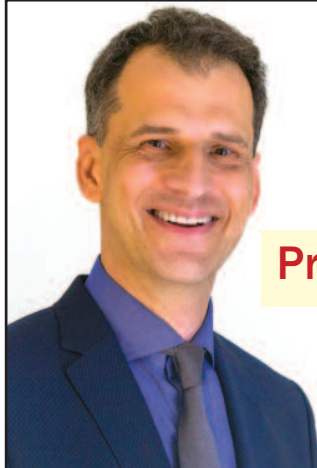
I have to say my eyes were opened to a change the present provincial government announced, this week, that a lot of us would recognize as progress away from stereotyping, profiling and racializing, a.k.a. the old normal. The education ministry revealed its plans to eliminate streaming. I'm sure we can all remember that moment back about Grade 9, when the high school guidance counsellor or vice-principal forced us to choose either an applied-study route or an academic-study route. That decision - forced upon 13-year-olds in Ontario - would determine whether they pursued liberal-arts study and potentially a university degree, or practical training and an applied certificate or apprenticeship. Not to cast aspersions on either path, but how many 13-year-olds have the maturity or foresight to make that kind of decision? And how many young lives - from largely visible minorities or low-income families - have our schools channelled wrongly because somebody arbitrarily said: "You'd do better to get a trade." That kind of normal we can certainly do without.

Indeed, the idea is frowned upon in most of the world's democracies. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, representing developed nations has urged that students not be separated into different tracks until they reach the higher grades. One of Toronto's school boards admitted that nearly half of black students ended up taking applied courses, as opposed to 20 per cent for non-blacks.

There was one other part of the post-pandemic world my friends and I chatted about the other day during our new normal Zoom chat. We talked about the pros and cons of Toronto's new edict that requires people in the city to wear masks in public places - stores, museums, transit, etc. And one of my friends illustrated why this whole moment in time looks and feels so awkward. He described a trip - wearing masks - to the grocery store.

"My wife and I joined the line-up to the cash," he said, "and there were a dozen people all looking as if they were ready to rob a stage." Yes, life in the pandemic has begun to look like a B-Western. And there are a lot of low-budget Westerns I'd rather not find myself reliving.

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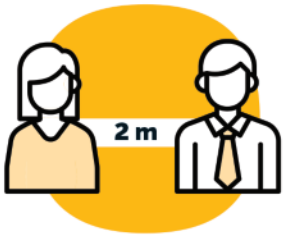
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Turning snorkel masks into medical-grade PPE

by Justyne Edgell,
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter

Uxbridge's Adam Ruppel, an entrepreneur in the event space, is now known to be one of the first in Canada to turn the full face snorkel masks into medical-grade face masks, to be used during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the pandemic hit, Ruppel claims he could foresee that there would be a mask shortage and wanted to get involved. He thought that full face snorkel masks would be a great solution, so Ruppel teamed up with Jeremy Hannan, who invented the Cobra Mask, a full face

snorkel mask, and started a GoFundMe to raise money and get masks made.

"I never originally imagined them to be used by doctors. I was thinking more for senior care, as my wife was visiting my father-in-law, who is higher risk, but ultimately the medical field needed them as well" said Ruppel.

Once altered, the snorkel masks are reportedly 99 per cent filtered, which is even better than the 95 per cent filtration of the N95 masks. The full-face seal of the mask protects against the risk of infection. It stops splatters, germs, and bacteria from reaching the wearer.

Hannan also partnered with David Follett and created CanCov Medical, a company that makes custom ergonomic products with SMART protective technology. Along with the engineered snorkel masks, CanCov Medical creates technology like UV sanitization systems, facial recognition thermometers, touch-free sanitizer dispensers, copper door handle coatings and air purifiers.

"Our goal is to have your office completely clean from the front door to the back door," says Hannan.

Ruppel and Hannan's masks are now being used by many doctors and dentists, who are comforted by the full-face protection that they offer. They have also donated a shipment of masks to hospitals in Haiti.

To follow along or to support the mask fundraiser, visit Help Fix Ontario's Mask Shortage on Facebook.



The CanCov medical mask was partially invented by Uxbridge entrepreneur Adam Ruppel. The mask is a fully sealed dual filtered mask created to assist medical staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo from cancovmedical.ca

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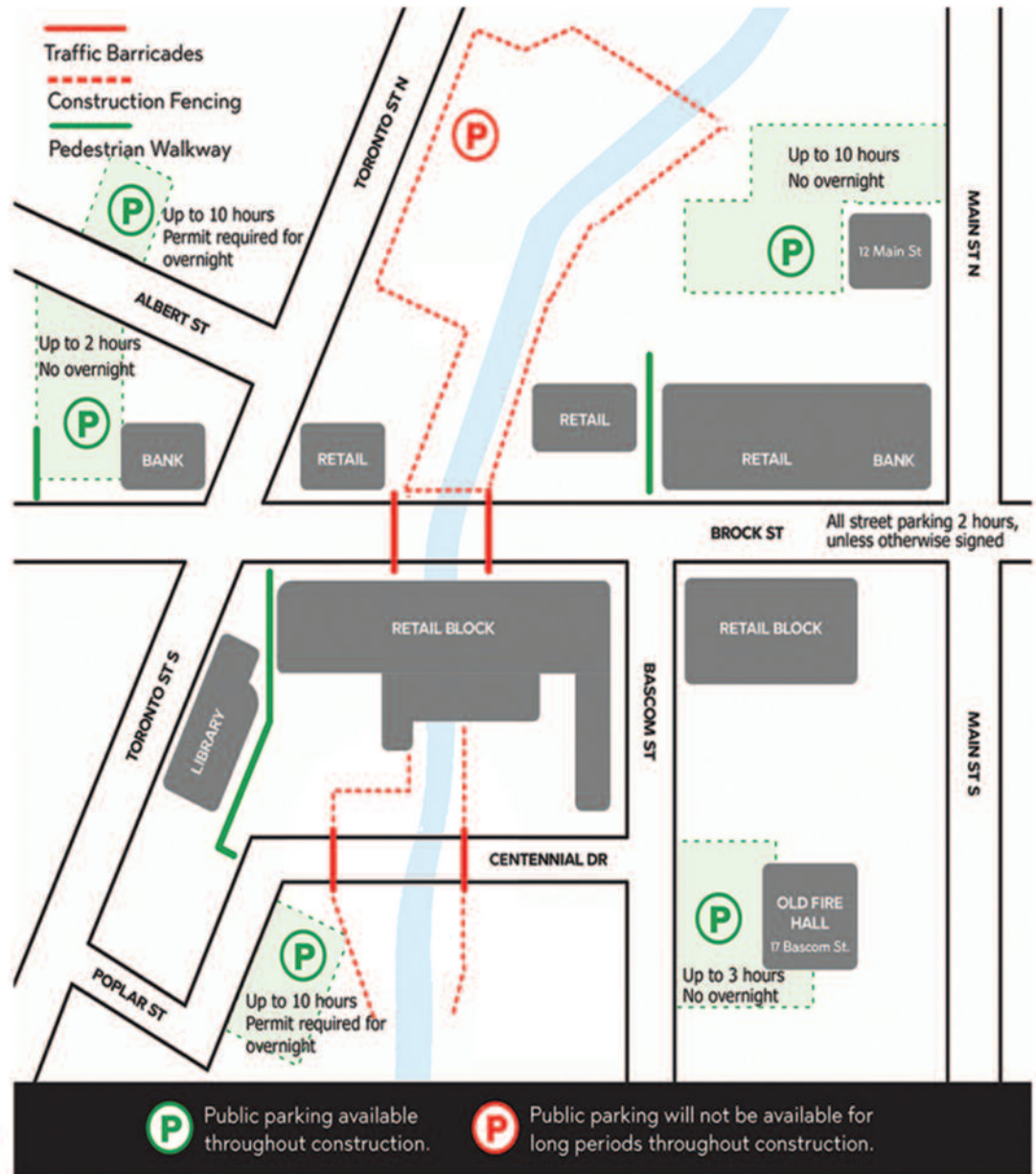
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UMST bestows two scholarships in midst of pandemic

by Kathy Normandeau

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, most musicians were blindsided by having their performance opportunities locked down. This affected not only professional top name bands but grass roots students looking to audition for music schools and scholarships. Canadian courage and ingenuity prevailed and auditions and examinations happened and scholarships were awarded.

This year, the Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust (UMST) had two

very special musicians apply who will make a big difference in music, not only here at home, where we have already benefited greatly from their efforts, but globally where they will study, work and volunteer.

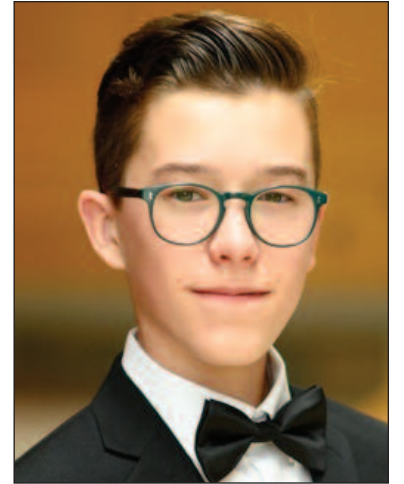
Congratulations to Jenna Lawrence and Duncan McDougall!

Jenna Lawrence has been accepted at Western University to study for a Bachelor of Music with an honours in composition. Duncan McDougall has been accepted at the Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles, California, for a Bachelor of Violin Performance. He has already

demonstrated his aptitude for business and music in his assistance to the UMST over the years.

I wish to thank the Uxbridge community, for the support and encouragement. Our UMST has now supported 63 students for a total of \$86,950 over 21 years. We would not have any scholarships to give away without your attendance at our concerts and generous donations.

Please visit uxbridgemusicscholarshiptrust.com to donate. Our 20th anniversary CD, which features 11 of our previous winners, is available for a suggested donation of \$20.



USS students Jenna Lawrence and Duncan McDougall are the 2020 recipients of the Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust award. Submitted photos

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Some people are exempt from wearing non-medical masks and face coverings. Visit durham.ca/novelcoronavirus for more information.



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Letters, from page 4

I would like to know who is picking up these committees and the money that goes with them, as well as who decided who got the jobs.

I spoke to the mayor and he told me that Councillor Ruona was aware of the changes, but it certainly did not seem that way watching the meeting, and thank you two the councillors who voted against it. He was elected in Ward 2, it is his job. This certainly has a Trump-type treatment.

June Archibald
Chair, Zephyr Community Centre, and a very unhappy resident

I was shocked and disappointed when I heard that council had passed a resolution to remove Gary Ruona from AVEC (the Arts and Visual Enhancement Committee).

Councillor Ruona has steadfastly supported AVEC and all of our projects through out his term as our council rep. He has diligently gone above the "call of duty" in supplying council with all of its current requests for multiple quotes, construction information, project plans, and has even conducted a survey of interested business owners amicable to having the art boxes at their downtown sidewalk locations.

I only have good things to say about Councillor Ruona and his dedicated efforts to help the AVEC make sense of the constant and unnecessary oversight requests by council in the form of continued explanations and repetitive demands for previously supplied information concerning our "Mini Art Gallery Project," to the point that we were so micro-managed we were told we could not spend any funds from our own donated reserves, to get the project started and promoted.

In the past, the AVEC has successfully accomplished the "Uxbridge Story In Stone," now standing in front of Uxbridge Town Hall. We have refurbished the Ron Baird statue called the "Hummingbird" and initiated its relocation to the Rotary Skateboard Park. Last year we completed a unique walking, riding/driving online public art tour for the town through the board of tourism, and we helped the late Gerd Untermann refurbish his weather worn "Sprit Bear." We have dedicated volunteers who know what they are doing.

I have no idea why the mayor believes "communication" was an issue with our committee, he has never directly communicated any concerns to me as chairman of the AVEC.

We were looking forward to working with Gary to present Uxbridge with a pilot project of "Mini Art Galleries." Unfortunately the current epidemic has changed a lot of plans. Last week, our budget allocation was cancelled for this year in order to help the town deal with its own budget shortfalls, essentially resetting the project, so we must start again.

Thank you, Gary, for all of your

hard work and devotion to our committee and its projects.

Stuart Blower
Chairman, AVEC

I was shocked to read of Mayor Barton's tawdry behaviour during the June 22 council meeting. I had thought such disgraceful behaviour by a mayor impossible at a time when most are endeavouring to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others during this pandemic. To publicly humiliate a subordinate, whether in business or council, is unprofessional and immature. For Mayor Barton to publicly attack Ruona without warning and without explanation is mean-spirited and frankly, a little juvenile.

For it's been fairly obvious from the start that Barton dislikes Ruona and I find that curious. Barton seemed to dismiss Ruona's research on tiny houses out of hand, and has thus far failed to move forward with Ruona's desire to determine value received from the region for 60 per cent of our tax base, an issue that remains outstanding, in my view.

Most disappointing is the fact that only Councillor Snooks had the spine to vote against this deplorable resolution. Shocked and embarrassed perhaps, but the other councillors have proven themselves a cowardly lot. They should be ashamed of themselves. How naïve to hope a new mayor and new councillors would end this sort of backbiting, time wasting, egomaniacal nonsense.

MK Maynard
Goodwood

Stunned and embarrassed indeed.

What an embarrassing turn for our town council. That the mayor appears to have had back room dealings to remove a fellow councillor from three positions and other councillors seemingly having participated in this 'you scratch my back' behaviour is such a disappointment and completely unacceptable. In an appalling lack of decency, Councillor Ruona appears to have been given no prior warning of what was about to occur, nor was any explanation offered.

How exactly does removing Councillor Ruona from three committees "meet the growing needs of the township and its residents?" Councillor Popp now sits in eight committees - does Ward 4 not require as much attention as Ward 2?

Is it really too much to expect that our town councillors might exhibit some moral and ethical leadership in the course of their governance? The cowardly manoeuvring here is so utterly distasteful.

Heather Thompson
Uxbridge

I have just read the June 25 edition of the *Cosmos* and was shocked to read that Mayor Barton had taken it upon himself to dismiss Councillor Gary Ruona from three committees with no apparent reason. It was equally regrettable that with the exception of Councillor Todd Snooks, no one objected to this apparently arbitrary

decision on the part of the mayor. What is the mayor's agenda here?

Councillor Ruona said that the mayor didn't like him. I think he may be right. Ruona has been a strong advocate for his constituents at Wagner Lake on a number of issues, such as access to the lake and the misnamed "boat launch." It is a well known fact that Wagner Lake and its issues have been a thorn in the mayor's side for a number of years.

Is he punishing Councillor Ruona for standing up for his constituents? This whole episode is leaving a very nasty taste in my mouth.

The mayor was unable to give an acceptable answer to the reason for his actions in removing Ruona. Mayor Barton, if you did this for personal reasons, shame on you!

The mayor also indicated that "there are no immediate prospects of Uxpool reopening in part because of severe budget restrictions brought about by the pandemic."

I am one of the many seniors in this town who depend on the pool for much needed exercise. Little enough is available for seniors in that regard since most of us don't use the bike trails or the skate park. I'm sure that it would be possible to safely and economically open the pool with restrictions limiting number of swimmers, times of use, etc. Apparently the mayor has other priorities.

The last time I wrote a letter to the *Cosmos* discussing more funding for bike paths, I received an angry phone call from Mr. Barton requesting that in future I should contact him before sending another letter! To put it mildly, I was shocked. The last time I looked this was still a democracy.

Is our mayor getting too big for his boots??

Susan Elsworth
Sunderland

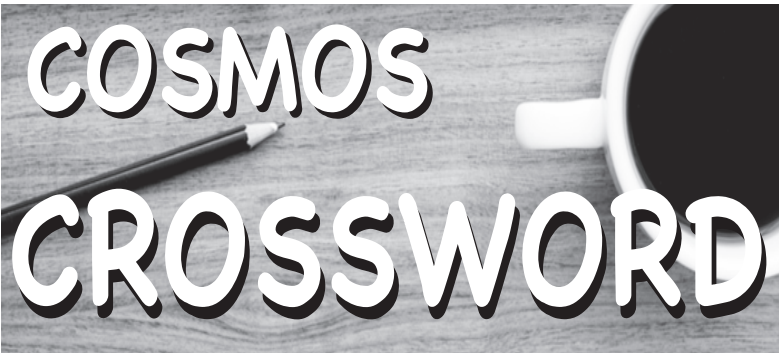
Most employers know that any manager who publicly humiliates an employee is not only wrong to do so, but might qualify for termination himself. Such behaviour speaks to a considerable lack of confidence, experience and communication skills.

I don't know what awful sin Ruona might have committed to cause the mayor to behave so abominably, but surely he did not deserve a public dressing down. Perhaps it is Mayor Barton who needs to be removed from his position, given his careless disregard not only for Ruona but his other colleagues, who were clearly embarrassed by Barton's pronouncement.

That raises another question: did Barton inform Ruona's colleagues before the meeting? Was there a meeting before the meeting to determine whether Barton had sufficient support for his anti- Ruona resolution?

Barton has some explaining to do, and then he needs to sign up for formal training in interpersonal skills, because he clearly has none.

Mark McGhie
Goodwood



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Across

- 1 Hardened
- 4 ____ humbug!
- 7 Cry of a crow
- 10 Jot
- 12 Led Zeppelin album
- 13 Hawaiian tuber
- 14 Labyrinth
- 16 Bullets and such
- 17 Clay first name
- 19 Coldly
- 22 Building details
- 25 Boxer's attire
- 26 Good form
- 28 ____ bandage
- 29 Replay of a TV show
- 30 Legal thing
- 32 Decanters
- 34 Scarf material
- 35 Adult insect
- 36 Hindu loincloth
- 37 Shaken, not stirred
- 40 Japanese rice wine
- 43 Country governed by a king
- 47 Reed instrument
- 48 Newt
- 49 Flightless bird
- 50 Skater Babilonia
- 51 Batman is part of one
- 52 Urchin

Down

- 1 Military acronym

- 2 Time of arrival, for short
- 3 Little guy
- 4 Career descriptions
- 5 Sights
- 6 Flower
- 7 Eccentric wheel
- 8 Usher's offering
- 9 Seek the affection of
- 11 Twin crystal
- 13 High-voltage gun
- 15 Islet
- 18 Once ____ a time....
- 19 Retirement nest egg, hopefully
- 20 Spherical bacteria
- 21 Steel joist or girder
- 23 Piece of bric-a-brac
- 24 Refine
- 26 Distorted
- 27 Before, to Byron
- 29 Indian music
- 31 Water ____
- 33 China grass
- 34 Bake, as eggs
- 36 Some trial evidence
- 38 Soybean extract
- 39 Gung-ho about
- 40 Lush
- 41 Legal group, briefly
- 42 Colorful carp
- 44 Mid west city, for short
- 45 Skirt line
- 46 Talk loudly



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Uxbridge Legion gets to toot its new horn

By Nancy Melcher

The Uxbridge Legion has a brand-new bugle, thanks to an initiative spearheaded by Navy veteran, professional musician and Goodwood resident Jack MacQuarrie. The new bugle will be used for official ceremonies, replacing the trumpet.

"There's just something about the sound of a bugle – it's more mellow than a trumpet," says MacQuarrie said. "It was important to me that the Legion had a bugle for ceremonial occasions, such as when we gathered to celebrate Fred Barnard."

The Legion's trumpeter, Doug Hoyle, is excited to play the new instrument.

"Although the mechanics of playing a bugle and a trumpet are similar, there are some subtle adjustments that need to be made to make the bugle perform properly," says Hoyle. "I am still learning about this specific bugle. The main benefit of having a bugle is honouring our military traditions. These calls were written for bugle and I feel that performing them on a bugle illustrates our respect for the many sacrifices that have been made for us."

Legion president Sherrill Hodgson is excited to hear the new bugle.

"I like the idea of having a bugle being played. It is the traditional instrument to be used for *The Last*

Post."

The funds to purchase the bugle came from Legion member donations and activity funds. It will be played on Remembrance Day, at other Remembrance services, funerals of veterans, on Decoration Day at the Uxbridge Cemetery and other special events, providing the bugler is available!

This particular bugle was made by Ewan Divitt, a brass instrument technician in Toronto. He's a custom trumpet maker, and he made all the pieces by hand, except the bell, or end of the bugle, which came from the USA.

"Every time I make a bugle, I learn a bit more about the process and get better at it. I made the mouthpiece receiver so it would fit a trumpet mouthpiece, so anyone who played a trumpet could try the bugle," says Divitt.

Divitt also explained that he experienced a challenge with the silver plating of the instrument.

"I had to make sure everything was absolutely right before it was plated, including the engraving. I was worried that the tuning slide might not fit properly, but in the end it's fine and fits tightly."

The bugle is engraved with: "Royal Canadian Legion Branch 170, Uxbridge / Remembering Fred Barnard / Queens Own Rifles."

The sound of a bugle is distinct and owes its tone to its design. Dating back to the fourth century, they were originally made from animal horn. The tone was produced by the player pursing his lips against the cut-off narrow end of the horn and making a buzzing sound, which the horn amplified.

Over time metal replaced animal horn. It's a conical tube from bell to mouthpiece, gradually tapering in size, and shaped into a coil for ease of use. Five notes may be reliably played on a bugle, the different tones produced by changes in the shape of the player's mouth and lips. By comparison, a modern trumpet looks similar but has valves, thereby producing a wider range of notes.

Because the bugle plays fewer notes and requires more effort with the mouth very few brass players choose to play it, favoring the wider range and ease of the trumpet. MacQuarrie learned that a modification could be made to enable a trumpet mouthpiece to be used in a bugle.

Jean LeBlanc



The family of Jean LeBlanc (Elma Jean Magna Tremblay) is sad to announce her passing on June 23, 2020, peacefully with her family by her side at home, in her 81st year.

She was the beloved wife and best friend of Raymond LeBlanc. Mother and friend to Guy (Kim) LeBlanc, Giles (the late Barb) LeBlanc, and Gisele (Paul) Lightfoot. A cherished Honey to her three grandsons: Christian LeBlanc, Julian LeBlanc and Luke Lightfoot. Daughter of Phillip Tremblay (deceased 1955), and Desneige (Lelievre) (deceased 2010). An amazing sister to Deacon Philip Emery Tremblay C.R. (deceased April 2020) and Rod (Carole) Tremblay. A loved aunt to many, many nieces and nephews. Will be missed and remember fondly by her many sister and brothers-in-law.

Loved by all who met her, she was a loyal friend. She was an amazing woman who touched everyone she met. A special thank you to Dr. Natalie Munn - your care and compassion made it easier for the family.



In lieu of flowers, donations to the liver foundation would be appreciated by the family. Plans for her service will be announced at a later date. Online condolences are welcomed at www.manganfuneralhome.com

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Winter fair will be 'royally' missed

by Justyne Edgell,
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter

For the first time since World War II, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is taking the year off. On June 24, the Royal's board of directors made the decision to cancel this year's event due to ongoing concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Ultimately, our decision is grounded in our commitment to help ensure the health and well-being of our community at large" stated Charlie Johnstone, the Royal's Chief Executive Officer, in a press release.

For many Uxbridge farmers, the Royal Winter Fair, or the Royal, as it's known, is the highlight and the end of the fall fair season.

Marina Branekov, owner of Sherwood Acres, a horse boarding and training facility on Conc. 6, says she is heartbroken to not be able to compete at the Royal this year.

"It's a very prestigious goal to have earned enough points in previous competitions to be able to compete at the Royal. And we can't stop due to COVID, which means people are losing money and horses can't be campaigned to prove worth. So many riders are disappointed," she says.

Apparently it's not only the competing that will be missed. Another important aspect of the Royal Winter

Fair, say participants, is the social community that it creates. Branekov refers to the group outings to find equipment deals, stall decorating competitions and fun fashion shows that will be absent this year.

"There are so many social aspects. The horse community is small, everyone knows someone," says Branekov.

Dairy goat farmer Cam Stuart says that since Royal has been cancelled, he now has no prep work to do with his animals. He does, however, say he will greatly miss the opportunity to educate attendees about farming.

"There's such a disconnect between those living in towns and cities versus those in the country these days. The Royal provides a great opportunity for education about farming and it gets people interested in all we do" says Stuart.

Robert Ashton of Kefay Farm, a cow dairy farm between Uxbridge and Epsom, says he will really miss telling their farm story directly to the public this year.

"This is much needed and important, as it gives the public a face to the farm and a direct link to where their food comes from. There really are people who think food just comes from the store!" says Ashton.

The Royal Winter Fair plans to "Bring the Country to the City" next year, from November 5 to 14.



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