

# The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 31

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, August 13, 2020



**A PARK OUTING** - Staff from Precious Minds play with their young charges in Elgin Park during an outing. Precious Minds is an organization that supports children, youth, and adults with developmental challenges in North Durham. *Photo by John Cavers*

## Uxpool to reopen in September for trial run

by Roger Varley

Uxbridge council voted Monday to re-open Uxpool in September, on a limited basis, for a month.

Following lengthy discussion over a report submitted by aquatics manager Caroline Clementson, council voted to re-open the pool for 30 days, after which time Clementson would provide council with a report on the number of users at the pool and the amount of revenue generated. Those numbers will determine whether the pool remains open or closes again.

Councillor Willie Popp told the *Cosmos* on Tuesday it was his understanding that the pool would remain open while council reviewed the numbers, but admitted the motion passed by council was not clear on that point. Popp was the only councillor to vote against the re-opening in a recorded vote, citing uncertainty about

numbers included in Clementson's report.

The report suggested that re-opening in September would result in a budget shortfall of about \$55,000, while remaining closed for the remainder of the year would result in a shortfall of \$29,000. This was based on the assumption that there would be fewer users allowed because of COVID-19 protocols.

Clementson said Uxpool closed March 14 and although it is allowed, "the time is not right to re-open the pool at this stage." She added, however, that many people are calling to find out when the pool is re-opening, and that it plays an important role in the community, especially for seniors seeking low-impact exercise.

Councillor Bruce Garrod, chair of the finance committee, said the township is "in trouble financially," adding the pool is needed but re-opening it is not going to be revenue neutral. He suggested that instead of opening the pool for the rest of the year, it open for 30 days, with

Uxpool staff keeping careful track of the number of users and revenues realized. That information would then be presented to council at its first meeting in October.

"If there are problems, we can shut it down in a heartbeat," he said.

Clementson responded that Uxpool has to track those numbers for the regional health department anyway and can make those reports available to council.

Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey noted there are start-up costs associated with re-opening the pool and recalling staff to work. She noted staff might have to be laid off again if the pool closes after a month.

On a related issue, Mayor Dave Barton announced at the beginning of the council session that Uxbridge had been turned down in its request for a federal government grant for the proposed new pool. But he added: "We will continue to push for funding."

### Inside Your Cosmos

Remembering Bev .....page 3

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

### Council & Committee Meetings Meeting Schedule for August, 2020

**Monday, August 17, 4:00 p.m.**  
VIRTUAL ACCESSIBILITY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**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.

### Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Township of Uxbridge hereby declares the following lands to be surplus to the needs of the Municipality; WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge deems it desirable to declare surplus and convey real property legally described as Plan 40R-29312, Township of Uxbridge, Regional Municipality of Durham is surplus to the needs of the Municipality. FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the Township Council at its regular meeting held on August 10, 2020, declared by Resolution No. 2020-06 the aforementioned lands to be surplus to the needs of the municipality. A copy of the plan showing the location of the lands is available for viewing in the clerk's dept.

Debbie Leroux, Clerk

# Uxbridge at a Glance

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

## Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to  
[Uxbridge.ca/bids\\_and\\_tenders](http://Uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders)

- Q20-08 Animal Control Vehicle Cargo Van  
Closes August 19, 2020 at 2:00 pm
- U20-21 Tree Planting  
Closes September 1, 2020 at 2:00 pm

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](http://uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders) in a timely manner.

## Tender U20-21 Tree Planting

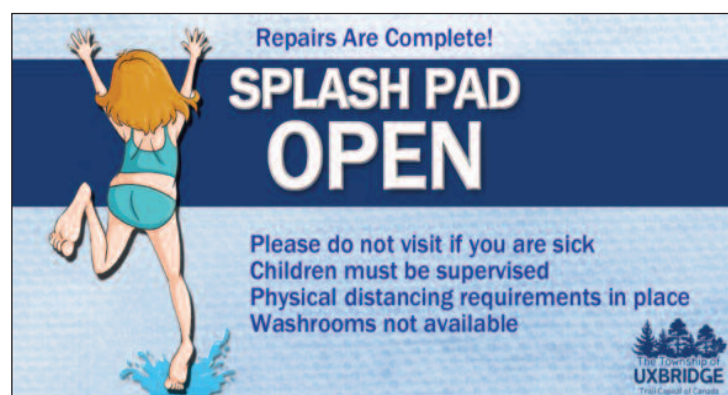
Tender for tree planting in various locations in the Township of Uxbridge. Trees must be planted by November 1, 2020.

Sealed Tenders will be received until 2:00 p.m. local time Tuesday, September 1, 2020 by:

Debbie Leroux, Clerk  
Township of Uxbridge, 51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190  
Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1T1

Lowest or any bid not necessarily accepted.

This Bid Document is posted on the Township of Uxbridge's website at [https://uxbridge.ca/bids\\_and\\_tenders](https://uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders) under Current Bid Opportunities and is available by following the registration instructions on that page. Please ensure that when you download the document, you add your company's name to the Document Takers List in order to receive any addenda that may be issued. For questions regarding downloading of documents, contact the Clerk's Department at 905-852-9181, Ext. 220.



## Splash Pad Open!

Our repairs are complete and the splash pad is now open. Physical distancing is expected and children must be supervised. Please be advised that washrooms are not available.

**Township of Uxbridge**

**Active Transportation Plan**

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](http://www.uxbridge.ca)

## Animal Care Attendant Casual Contract Position

Complete details of this position available at  
[www.uxbridge.ca/careers](http://www.uxbridge.ca/careers)

The Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter has a casual (9 month contract) position available for an Animal Care Attendant. This position will be available for a candidate who is able to work on a casual contract basis until May 2021.

The position will consist of a minimum of 1 weekday shift (Monday 9:00-5:00 p.m.), weekend shifts both Saturday and Sunday (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.), and be available for call-ins. The average work week is fifteen (15) hours at an hourly rate starting at \$17.40 per hour. Based on 2020 rates.

Resumés will be accepted at:  
Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Control Centre, Attention: Kristina Bergeron, Manager of By-law and Animal Control, 1360 Reach Street, Port Perry, ON, L9L 1B2, or by email at [kbergeron@uxbridge.ca](mailto:kbergeron@uxbridge.ca). Applications will be accepted up to August 27 at 5:00 p.m.

# UXPOOL OPENING SOON!

Lane Swim and Aquafit  
will resume in September

Look for more information  
at [www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool](http://www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool)

Uxpool is Reopening in September!  
Learn more about programs and protocols at  
[www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool](http://www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool)

**Did You Know?**

A fire permit is  
required for all  
outdoor burning

[www.uxbridge.ca/fire](http://www.uxbridge.ca/fire)



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

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



## School board releases back-to-school protocols

by Roger Varley

In a video meeting that was simulcast on YouTube on Monday evening, the Durham District School Board unveiled the protocols which will be put in place for the reopening of schools in September.

Trustees were told by DDSB staff that various measures will be in place to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus among students and staff. These include spacing desks one metre apart and keeping classrooms as free of clutter as possible. Ventilation in schools will be at maximum levels and windows will be left open when and where possible. All classrooms and other area will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

For the students, no cafeterias will be open: instead, lunches will be taken in classrooms, with all lunch waste to be taken home. There also will be increased supervision during lunch periods. Any student showing any symptoms of COVID-19 will be separated immediately, following Durham Health protocols. All students from Grade 4 to Grade 12 will be required to wear masks at all times when they are indoors. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 will not be required to wear masks, but they will be encouraged to. All staff will be required to wear masks and face shields.

There will be changes to some

classes. For example, physical education classes will be held outdoors where possible, with social distancing required. Music classes will not include any singing instruction, nor will any wind instruments be played.

Staff also told the trustees there will be no field trips that require transportation, no extra-curricular activities, and there will be no shared equipment if possible. Where equipment must be shared, it must be disinfected after every use. For elementary school students, classes will be in-school, except for those whose parents opt for on-line learning. For those attending in-school, arrival times will be staggered with students required to go immediately to their classrooms. However, for secondary school students, the curriculum will be split between in class and on-line learning.

All elementary schools will open five days a week beginning Sept. 8, but secondary school openings will be staggered.

The DDSB stressed that cleaning and disinfection will be frequent and regular. Schools will also set up traffic flows in corridors with arrows and signs.

No one will be allowed entry into any school without first making an appointment.

More information is available at [ddsb.ca/en/whats-happening/return-to-school.aspx](https://ddsb.ca/en/whats-happening/return-to-school.aspx)

## Well-known councillor and lifelong Uxbridge resident remembered

by Roger Varley

Beverley "Bev" Beach, a former long-time member of Uxbridge council, passed away at Uxbridge Cottage Hospital on the weekend. He was 88.

Known to many around the township for his gruff, gravelly voice and no-nonsense approach, Beach served as Ward 2 councillor for 18 years, finally retiring in 2006. He was the father-in-law of current Ward 1 Councillor Pam Beach, who said she "never heard him tell a lie."

The councillor said Beach broke his hip in May, at which time it was also discovered he had Parkinson's Disease. Beach remained in hospital until his death.

His son, Ed, told the *Cosmos* that the family was unable to visit him for the first six weeks in hospital because of the COVID-19 shutdown.

He said his father, a farmer, always supported the agriculture sector, served on the board of the old

Siloam school, did much community service and served on numerous boards.

"He was always doing service work," said the younger Beach. "And he was a recycler before it became the thing to do."



The former councillor was born in 1932 in the farm house his son now occupies, and was the third generation to own the farm. He stayed on the farm until he was 65, when he moved into a house in urban Uxbridge.

Former mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor said Beach was a good councillor who represented his constituents

well.

"We learned a lot from his knowledge of the history of the township," she said. "He brought colour to council."

O'Connor noted the former councillor kept his eye on the budgets.

"He put the works department through hoops when it came to purchasing equipment," she said.

She also noted that Beach was not in favour of new technology.

"He was very stuck in the old ways, a lot like me," she said.

She related a story about the time the township was switching to telephone answering technology.

"He said 'I already have an answering machine: my wife!'"

Beach is survived by his wife of 68 years, Norma, three children and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is to be interred at Uxbridge Cemetery.



# This Old NEWSPAPER?!

## The Uxbridge COSMOS Reader Contest

### WE CHALLENGE YOU TO RECYCLE NEWSPAPERS INTO SOMETHING NEW

Send submissions to The Uxbridge Cosmos newspaper. Entries will also be submitted to the Ontario Community Newspapers Association for consideration in a provincial contest.

#### RULES:

- Participants must repurpose newspaper into something creative and/or functional (anything goes - ballgown, basket, lampshade) and submit it to The Uxbridge Cosmos.

Note: While a piece created 100% of newspaper is ideal, we recognize that other materials may be necessary for framework and stability. Therefore, a piece MUST consist of at least 70%

- In addition to a brief description about the participant's creation, a series of photos or videos taken during the construction process must also be submitted.

#### CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

- Open
- Junior under 12
- Family



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Public Virtual  
Gallery Showcase

Isla Williams, a 12-year-old Standard Newspaper carrier in Uxbridge used leftover newspapers to design a custom dress



# Our two cents

## It's doggone warm out there

It is sunny, it is hot, the cicadas are singing, and we are in the thick of what is commonly known as the "dog days" of summer. One might imagine that this is because dogs can get so hot in the summer that they just lie around panting and not moving a paw. Humans can feel like that in hot, humid weather, so it fits, right? Not so.

A little research showed us that the phrase actually has very little to do with lazy, heat-stressed dogs, or even with being lazy during any of the summer months (although that's very easy to do). Dogs to figure into it, though - it turns out that the "dog days" refer to the dog star, Sirius, and its position in the heavens.

According to the *National Geographic* website, it was the Greeks and Romans who first used the phrase. The ancient Romans called the hottest, most humid days of summer *diēs caniculārēs* or "dog days." The name came about because they associated the hottest days of summer with the star Sirius, which was known as the "Dog Star" because it was the brightest star in the constellation *Canis Major* (Large Dog). Sirius also happens to be the brightest star in the night sky. The "dog days" occurred from about July 24 to around August 24, when Sirius appeared to rise just before the sun. Sirius was so bright that the ancient Romans thought Sirius added heat to the Sun's heat, causing hotter summer temperatures. Over time, though, the constellations have drifted. Today, *The Old Farmer's Almanac* lists the traditional timing of the dog days of summer as being around July 3 until August 11, in the northern hemisphere.

Now, although we know we're treading on our Nature Nut's territory, we should explain that, although the "dog days" of summer are usually the hottest, they don't have anything to do with either dogs or Sirius. Instead, the tilt of the earth explains why these days tend to be the summer's hottest. During summer in the northern hemisphere, the tilt of the earth causes the sun's light to hit the northern hemisphere at a more direct angle, and for a longer period of time throughout the day. This means longer, hotter days during the summer. Most of us already knew that part, but we're willing to bet that the "dog days" stuff is new information.

So whether you're doggin' it during the dog days, or working your heart out at home or at the office, or are lucky enough to be on holiday, we hope that you enjoy these dog days of summer. Because doggone it, before you can wipe sweat off your brow, they will be over and we'll be shovelling the white stuff once again.

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.

**nnc** National NewsMedia Council

**ocna** Ontario Community Newspapers Association

**CMCA** AUDITED

**News Media Canada** Médias d'Info Canada



## Letters to the Editor

Right now, history is in the making in our downtown. Brennan Construction is replacing the Brock Street culvert built by Thomas Love in 1898.

Brennan has the benefit of modern technology and heavy equipment, while Mr. Love had only the skills and knowledge he acquired as a stonemason in his native Scotland. His culvert would have been expected to carry nothing heavier than a horse-drawn cart. He would have had only hand tools, worked by men with few if any mechanical aids. He would be horrified but proud to learn that his simple stone arch would serve for more than 120 years, and carry loads heavy beyond his imagination.

Very soon, Tom Love's culvert will be exposed and demolished, and hopefully it will be visible for a short while for any viewer to admire and remember.

Construction of the new culvert is an event not to be missed, as it represents current technology and construction methods that one day will be as dated as Tom Love's.

I would urge a visit to the site, best with any children you might have, to witness and remember history in the making in 2020.

The new culvert will allow flood plain restrictions to be lifted that, in turn, will permit our downtown to be redeveloped. We can look forward to the creation of a very different and more appealing downtown which eventually will be a source of civic pride. The efforts of engineers and construction workers, combined with bold political decisions, are making history in our time.

**Tom Fowle**  
**Uxbridge**

I am writing to address the concerns raised in the *Cosmos* editorial of the Aug. 6 edition regarding weeds

downtown.

As CAO, I would like to thank the many volunteers and businesses for their patience and support in helping keep our gardens beautiful.

Like many municipalities and businesses, COVID-19 has resulted in Township projected 2020 operating revenue shortfall in excess of \$1.4 million. While we could have deferred capital projects or drawn from reserves to balance the 2020 budget, we made the difficult decision to balance the 2020 operating budget by significantly reducing operating costs to offset the revenue shortfall. The Township did not want to burden future generations with significant future tax increases, nor set back the Township's capital replacement/improvement program. As a small municipality, this meant temporarily laying off full-time staff in every single department, and with that decision, reducing service levels across the enterprise, which includes eliminating the planting of flowers in municipal gardens, and reducing the frequency of grass cutting and weeding, among many other operational implications.

I am very proud of the work our Township staff are undertaking in challenging circumstances to keep up with projects, municipal operations, and maintenance. We are grateful to have received federal student grants to add fully funded summer students to provide support.

Please keep in mind - with Public Health's recommendations, staff do need to maintain safe distancing, which means limiting staff per vehicle. Accordingly, to ensure our employees are kept safe, it is possible you will see multiple vehicles and staff attend a site.

We look forward to the return of our dedicated and valuable staff, and with that, restoring service levels across our entire corporation. Until

that time, we thank our residents for their patience and understanding.

**Kristi Honey**  
**Chief Administrative Officer**  
**Township of Uxbridge**

**Re: "Tension still surrounding arts committee", Aug. 6 edition**

I don't know where to start commenting on all the things wrong with the story published in last week's *Cosmos*.

As a former journalist, I was taught that if you print a quote, you have to make sure it is right. There is no wiggle room. It is what someone said, or it is not. If it is not, you don't put it in quotation marks.

I am disappointed that literally every quote that Roger [Varley] used in the article naming me as the source was represented inaccurately and was simply not a word for word transcript. It was close, but the point is, it was not my exact meaning and if my name goes on it, I deserve accuracy that I can defend.

I also have issues with the questions asked in past tense that were apparently used by Varley to apply to the present situation. My statements, reported facts and reactions concerning our then-council representative Gary Ruona's dismissal from AVEC and two other committees, were correct. But that was two months ago. To suggest that those historical comments were in any way connected to and represent the current situation, is grossly misleading and damaging to AVEC and the people we are currently building relationships with. We have moved on.

I want to make this very clear. There is no animosity or tension, as reported in your misleading headline.

AVEC is currently rebuilding with a new council representative, Bruce Garrod. Thanks to Bruce, we now

**...continued on page 11**





## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### No more on-camera for council, please

For the last few months, Uxbridge council has been holding virtual meetings, with all members (and staff and guests) sequestered in their homes or private offices, thanks to COVID-19 restrictions. Any resident watching the proceedings on video will see a multi-split screen featuring the councillors, but staff members taking part in the meeting are only heard, rarely seen.

Given the adaptations most of society has had to make because of the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual meetings were, obviously, the way to go. But, as with most things in life, the meetings are not perfect.

Often, some councillors have problems with video or audio, particularly Councillor Gary Ruona, living in the “wilds” of rural Uxbridge, which gives a good argument for rural high-speed internet. Sometimes (occasionally) the feed is temporarily lost in its entirety. Often, councillors will switch off their own cameras so that the audio from them becomes more clear, and in so doing their image is replaced with their initials. At such times, it can be difficult to determine whether there is still a quorum. And sometimes, when unseen staff members are talking, it sounds as though they are in an echo chamber.

All of these blips can make it difficult, at times, to follow a discussion, especially for the media trying to cover council meetings. And one missed word can make the world of difference in a report.

While the township staff is to be congratulated for the amount of effort they have put into making these virtual meetings work (under the leadership of new Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey, who appears to be extremely tech savvy), perhaps the time has come for council to return to chambers. Yes, it's nice to watch the proceedings while sitting in pajamas with a cup of tea at hand, but nothing beats observing council in person.

With the next regularly scheduled meeting a month away, it would seem there is ample time to revamp the council chamber to enable council to resume sitting while still observing the two-metre rule. It might be necessary to keep the public away, but

they can always watch the proceedings on council's live video feed. I think there would be ample room in the chamber to accommodate the staff that needs to be on hand, as well as allowing councillors not to sit shoulder to shoulder. Any media personnel could be placed at acceptable distances within council chambers, or still watch the proceedings online.

It would also make it easier for the media, and members of the public, to ask questions. We can still ask questions on the virtual feed, but often it becomes frustrating when there are delays in the audio. After all, would you rather talk to someone face to face or on Zoom?

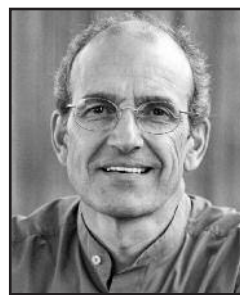
If they put the recommended protocols in place - hand sanitizer, face masks, etc. - there shouldn't be any more risk to the participants than in taking a meal on one of the downtown patios.

As reported elsewhere in this newspaper, our schools are preparing for the return of students in September, at which time there will be hundreds of children and youth brought back into the classroom. If the powers-that-be consider such a move to be safe and acceptable, how difficult could it be to arrange for about 20 people to gather in the council chamber?

Eventually we have to begin taking small steps to returning to what we once knew as normal. Such small steps can give the general populace a small measure of hope that things are taking a turn for the better and so make it a little easier to deal with the pandemic that has overturned just about everyone's lives. For example, the opening up of the aforementioned restaurant patios almost gave me a new lease on life. Once again, I was able to sit outside, drink a cup of coffee and watch the passing parade. It lifted my spirits enormously. And each new step, no matter how small, adds to that lift. Each step tells me we will eventually get through this painful time.

It seems to me that seeing council back in action in their usual arena might be one of those welcome small steps.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### You think you invented social media?

A soldier with circular spectacles, corporal's stripes on his sleeve and khaki shorts on walks toward a stationary camera. He smiles as he acknowledges the commotion around him. Glasses clink. There's a general hubbub of voices in friendly conversation. He's in a military pub – circa 1940s – and stops in a kind of selfie-framing attitude and speaks right to camera.

“Hello, Joy. How's this for a wartime miracle?” he begins. “And a novel way of saying, ‘I love you.’”

The clatter continues behind him, as the corporal admits he probably looks a bit different to his lady love, Joy.

“How ever I look,” he continues, “I'm still the same in heart and mind and longings, and full of appreciation of your own grand affection.”

The corporal is one of the hundreds of thousands of British soldiers in the final days of fighting the Japanese Imperial Army in Burma, at the end of the Second World War. And his on-camera testament of affection to Joy is one of a string of greetings on a piece of black-and-white motion picture film discovered recently during a renovation at the town hall in Manchester, England. These three minutes of film, without a single edit, present young soldiers, each stepping up to the lens of the camera one after another to pass along wishes to loved ones back home in England.

Tomorrow marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. In Europe, the Italian fascists and Hitler's armies had capitulated on May 8, 1945. Three months later the U.S. Army Air Force dropped atomic weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in Japan, on August 6 and 9 respectively. Then, on August 14, 1945, USAAF B-29s bombed Tokyo with thousands of leaflets, calling for Japan to surrender. Emperor Hirohito announced the war was over. (Japan surrendered officially aboard the USS Missouri, in Tokyo Bay, on Sept. 2, 1945.)

It would still be many months before British troops in Asia were repatriated. So, as a morale booster, BBC presenter, Maj. Jack Frost, came up with the idea of using mainstream media – a motion-picture camera and a full magazine of film – to let the men at the front pass along their thoughts in an unedited, stream-of-consciousness kind of wartime movie postcard. The film was posted on YouTube by British journalist Sophie Atkinson. After the corporal

expressed his love to Joy, he handed it off saying, “Here's Bob to say a few words to Mrs. Martin...”

“This is indeed a great pleasure to be able to speak to you in this manner,” Bob Martin said. All quite formal in his articulation, but a bit tongue-tied, he finishes with a traditional, “God bless you all. Now, here's Frank with a message for those at home...”

Another bespectacled soldier, this one taller and older than the others, greets wife and brother and assures them all, “I'm feeling fine and having a good time out here.”

In truth, British troops in what was then Ceylon and Burma, as well as Malaya and Hong Kong – defending British commonwealth populations in south-east Asia – not only endured tough jungle fighting, but, as a consequence, tropical diseases, such as malaria, pellagra and dysentery. Most spent six years there, either fighting an entrenched enemy or surviving in Japanese POW camps. But the soldiers on the film, while rather thin and worn, still smiled for the folks at home.

“Hello, Ivy, darling,” began a soldier named Eddie. “I trust that you and Terry are in the best of health. I am O.K., so don't worry about me. Thank your mother and father for the nice parcel they sent me.” (Notice he didn't say ‘mum and dad’; he knew the camera was running). Then, he offered one of those rare wartime coincidences you only hear about, but it really happened.

“Who do you think I heard from the other day?” Eddie continued. “My brother, Bert! I hope in a few days' time to be seeing him.”

One of the last of the troops to step forward to Maj. Frost's camera was the youngest. Cpl. Marshall saunters to his spot in front of the lens, film still running, and speaks.

“Hello, Dad,” Marshall begins. “I hope you and the family are doing all right. You can see for yourself how fit I am. Can't say very much to you.” Then, he lifts his empty glass as if he were in a local pub, and finishes, “Guess I'll just go and get the old glass filled up again.”

So, the next time any Millennials, or Baby Boomers, suggest they invented social media, remember Maj. Jack Frost's film clip from Burma from the 1940s, when soldiers behind the front lines 75 years ago came up with a selfie for the folks at home. LOL.

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



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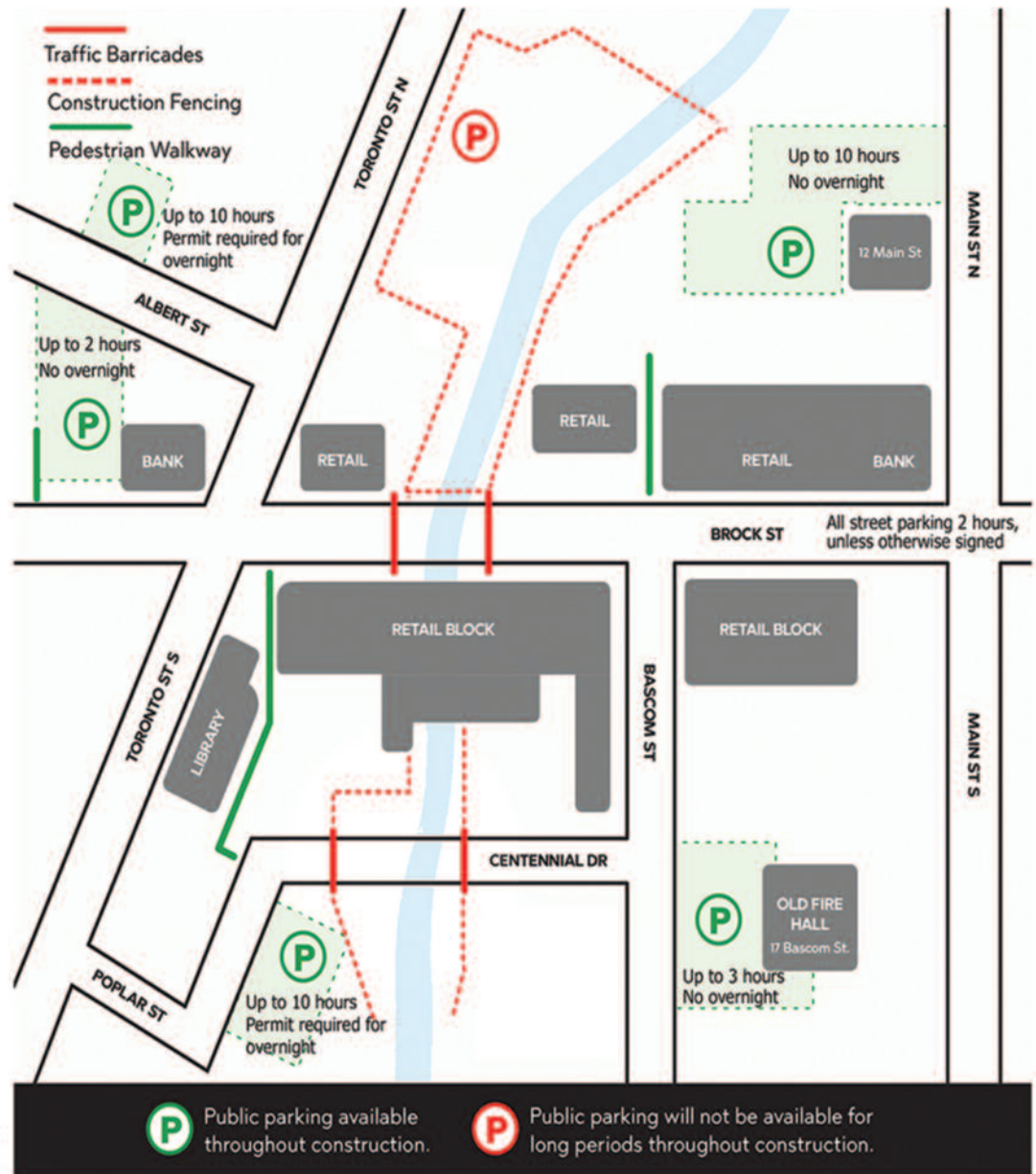
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# Youth Centre writing contest hoping for ‘out of this world’ submissions

The Uxbridge Youth Centre is holding a writing contest for youth ages 11 and up, and a \$25 gift certificate from Blue Heron Books is the prize!

Aspiring Shakespeares are encouraged to visit the Youth Centre’s website, [uxbridgeyouthcentre.com](http://uxbridgeyouthcentre.com), and go to the Program Calendar (although the Centre is closed due to COVID-19, online activities are still available). On the calendar, find the “Pick A Prompt” writing activity, and click on it. Participants will then roll a virtual die to determine their writing topic. Once the elements of the story have been determined, writers can then decide whether they would like to submit either a one to two page short story, or a poem. The finished piece should be sent as a Microsoft Word document to [info@uxbridgeyouthcentre.com](mailto:info@uxbridgeyouthcentre.com)

The contest opened on August 11, and features the new “Outer Space” themed Pick A Prompt activity. The contest runs until August 18, after which organizers at the UYC will judge the submissions. The winner will receive a Blue Heron Books gift certificate, and their submission will be published in an upcoming edition of the *Uxbridge Cosmos*.



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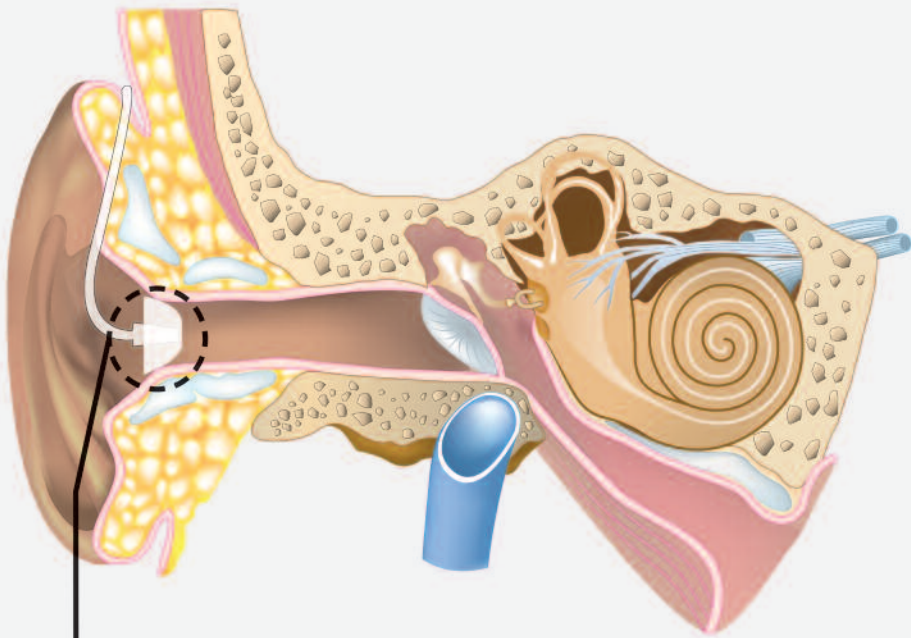
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## Cosmos adds to provincial award collection

The *Uxbridge Cosmos* recently added two more accolades to its growing collection of plaques and awards, picking up two top three placements at the 2019 Better Newspaper Competition Awards.

The newspaper received a second-place award in the Community Service category for its coverage of the 2018 provincial election, out of nine entries from across the province. It also received a third-place honour in the Health & Wellness category for a feature article entitled "Dementia with Dignity: How one local retirement community cares for those living with cognitive decline" (published Feb. 7, 2019). The piece was written by newspaper owner/publisher Lisha Van Nieuwenhove about the Memory Care neighbourhood at Douglas Crossing, a local retirement community. That piece was chosen as part of the top three out of 59 entries from across Ontario.

The Better Newspaper Competition, or BNCs, as they're better known throughout the industry in Ontario, is an annual competition run by the Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA), of which the *Cosmos* is a member. Submissions for this year's competition were made in late 2019, and finalists were announced on February 14, 2020. An awards ceremony was scheduled

to take place in April, as the culmination of an annual convention, but was postponed due to COVID-19. Organizers finally decided to hold a virtual ceremony on July 24, and placements were announced then.

The *Cosmos* has won other BNCs - in 2017, it received first place in the Best Rural Story category; in 2018 it won first place for Community Service, and Lisha Van Nieuwenhove garnered a third place plaque in the Humour Columnist of the Year category.

The *Cosmos* has also been nationally recognized, winning a second place honour for Outstanding Community Service in 2019 at the Canadian Community Newspaper Awards. That series of awards is managed by News-Media Canada.

The *Uxbridge Cosmos* was founded in 2005 by then-Uxbridge resident Conrad Boyce, and celebrates 15 years of continuous publication this September. Van Nieuwenhove took ownership of the *Cosmos* in 2013, and made it a member newspaper of the OCNA, News Media Canada, and other industry-related organizations.

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# Young Uxbridge musician makes CBC Top-30 list

by Roger Varley

Uxbridge teenager Duncan McDougall has added another accolade to an already impressive list: he has been named as one of the CBC's top 30 Canadian classical musicians under the age of 30.

McDougall, 17, is one of only four teenagers to make the list. The young violinist, who has a passion for chamber music, explained that he did not have to fill in any applications or audition to be named to the list.

"The CBC goes out and finds us," he said Tuesday. "I got contacted in May to be included."

"I think it's amazing," he said. "I was so honoured. It's definitely something I can put in my resumé!"

McDougall's resumé is already longer than most 17-year-olds. He is a scholarship student at the Royal Conservatory of Music's Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists and has won numerous awards and scholarships, including the grand prize at the 2017

Chinese Cultural Centre (CCC) Music Festival. He made his first appearance with an orchestra in 2016 when he played with the Greater Toronto Philharmonic Orchestra, has since played with other orchestras and serves as co-concertmaster with the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Here at home, McDougall was one of two recipients of the Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust Award this year.

McDougall was supposed to be heading to Los Angeles this fall to begin his undergraduate studies at the prestigious Colburn School. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, McDougall said he will be doing his studies on-line until January. He said he hopes to be able to travel to Los Angeles at that time.

The young violinist, who turns 18 at the end of this month, said it doesn't bother him travelling so far from home, noting he spends most summers away from home at music camps.

This summer, of course, was differ-

ent because of the novel coronavirus. McDougall said the lockdown prevented him from going to Toronto to school and all his summer programs and performances were cancelled.



Duncan McDougall, 17, was recently named as one of the CBC's top 30 Canadian classical musicians under the age of 30.

Photo by Stuart Lowe

# Uxbridge Library keeping doors closed a little longer

by Justyne Edgell,  
Local Journalism Initiative  
Reporter

As more business and services open post-COVID lockdown, the Uxbridge Public Library is remaining closed to the public for a little longer.

In a report made to council on Monday, director of community services and interim library CEO Amanda Ferraro relayed that the Library Board has decided to continue with providing curbside service and limited computer access, at least until the end of August.

The library's outreach coordinator, Corinne Morrison, says that the decision to remain closed to the public is only an effort to keep everyone safe, "especially as our building is older and our stairways are narrow, social distancing is almost impossible in some spaces."

Morrison also pointed out that if people came into the library, all books would need to be quarantined after being touched and this would keep many books off the shelves.

The curbside service and limited computer access are available Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone with a library card can reserve books through the Uxbridge Library website or over the phone. Once a reservation is ready, patrons are notified and instructed to go to the back entrance of the library for curbside pickup. All books are re-

turned through an external drop-box, are separated by library staff and quarantined for three days.

There is also one computer, which must be reserved a week in advance, for those who are in need of computer and internet access. The computer is sanitized after each use.

For those who work during the day and wish to be able to benefit from the curbside library: "We're looking at possibly opening one evening a week to serve those who aren't able to make it during our current hours," says Morrison. The board is also exploring the idea of a phased reopening when the need for quarantining books is no longer a worry.

Originally releasing 100 books a day, curbside service book numbers have now increased to about 175 books per day, and the library says has received positive feedback about the curbside program.

"People seem to be really grateful that we're providing the curbside service," says Morrison.

Additionally, the library has three students on staff who are creating daily YouTube videos, where children can follow along with DIYs, crafts and games. They are also running the Summer Reading Program by weekly Zoom call.

All Zephyr Library patrons are encouraged to use the curbside pickup at the Uxbridge location, as the Zephyr Library remains closed until further notice.

For more information about the services and alternate programming

offered by the Library, visit them online at [www.uxlib.com](http://www.uxlib.com)

## Culvert costs on the climb

In a report to council, treasurer Donna Condon said the estimated cost of the Brock Street culvert is now \$25.5 million. The report said the estimate in 2018 was \$17.6 million and in 2019 it was \$23.7 million.

Condon said that, based on the latest estimated, she is seeking council's approval to request the region of Durham issue debentures in the amount of \$3.5 million in the fall of 2020.

"It is anticipated that this will be the final debenture requirement for this project," she said.

She said that, depending on interest rates, financing charges would cost the township between \$470,000 and \$495,000. Her report also noted that the region designated \$2.5 million to the project earlier this year, matching their original contribution.

Garrod noted that the culvert project is "a complex issue with ongoing unknowns." Barton offered that "we're doing everything we can to keep the costs down, but there certainly have been surprises along the way."

Council voted in favour of giving Condon approval to seek the debentures.

## COSMOS CROSSWORD

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**Across**

1 Civil rights activist Parks

5 Horror writer, Edgar Allen

8 Luxury cars

12 Ready for business

13 Peculiar

14 PC monitor symbol

15 Tropical Asian plant

16 Lawn

17 Mother of the Titans

18 Sounding church bells a certain way (2 words)

21 "\_\_\_ make me feel brand new" The Stylistics

22 An oily fish

23 Shake

26 Lives

30 Intend

31 Word of success!

32 Matt Damon character

36 Rotten apple (2 words)

39 Gain victory

40 Freudian word

41 Geometric shape

48 Flair

49 Global finance group

50 Nightclub dancing (2 words)

51 No longer working: abbr.

52 Military address

53 Jewish month

54 Level top of a mountain

55 Tackle

56 Home paper

**Down**

1 College-based military training

2 Brilliantly colored fish

3 "Buona \_\_\_" (Italian greeting)

4 Alias

5 Hypocrite

6 Smell

7 Swirled

8 Move to and fro

9 Type of berry

10 Help, financially \_\_\_ on

11 Hurdle

19 Gunk

20 Just produced

23 File folder feature

24 Brazilian town

25 Relative of an ostrich

27 Heavy-duty cleanser

28 Journey segment

29 Hang down

33 "Hotel \_\_\_" film

34 Squat

35 Sign up

36 A bell tower

37 In times past

38 Chased

41 Hair curler

42 Sheltered

43 "Darn it all!"

44 Arab ruler

45 Part

46 Pr\_\_\_, Czech Republic city

47 Influence greatly



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# Mayor's golf tournament now a go

COVID-19 may have put a stop to many events, but the annual mayor's charity golf tournament will tee off on Friday, Sept. 25.

Confirmation of the date for the charity tournament was made in a brief report to council on Monday. Each year, the township organizes this tournament to raise money for what is commonly called the "Golf Fund" - proceeds from the tournament go into this fund, and are redirected towards community groups and individuals in need of financial support, upon request.

This year's tournament was origi-

nally scheduled for July 17, but due to COVID-19, it had to be rescheduled.

The tournament will take place at Wooden Sticks Golf Club. According to the report, which was prepared by clerk's assistant Laura Rupprecht, the organizing committee "has had considerable discussions with Wooden Sticks to ensure that this year's event is safe, enjoyable, and successful. Due to the current climate, participants will see several changes to this year's event, including tee-off times instead of a shot gun start, and a set menu rather than a

buffet. On-course contests will still be offered including a Putting Contest and a \$10,000 Hole-in-One."

The report also noted that sponsorship opportunities are available for those who may not be able to play but still wish to support the tournament and the Golf Fund.

## CHISHOLM, Kevin Joseph

*Uxbridge, Ontario  
(formerly of Markham  
and Toronto, Ontario)*



It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the death of our beloved Kevin. Kevin passed away peacefully with family by his side on August 3, 2020, at Providence Healthcare, Toronto.

Born in Heatherton, Antigonish County, on January 16, 1947, Kevin was the son of Mary and A.W. (Bill) Chisholm (deceased). He is survived by his devoted wife Helen (nee Whitley) of 48 years, and his children Caroline, Jeff (Tiffany), Todd (Brigid), and Leanne (Matthew), and his much-loved grandchildren, Sarah, Alex, Kieran, Grady Bennett, Marin, Maggie, Claire, Eleanor and Cecelia. Kevin was the second eldest of 10 children and is survived by Bob (Andrea), Jack (Debbie), Fr. Greg, Jerome (Carol), Paul (Ann Marie), Bernie (Debby), Mary (Peter), Jimmy and Janet (John), beloved Aunt Almira MacPherson and a multitude of treasured nieces, nephews and cousins.

When Kevin was a young child, the family left his cherished Nova Scotia and moved to Toronto. When Kevin was in high school, walking home from hockey, he came to the aid of a motorist in need and was struck and seriously injured. His leg was amputated. At the time of his accident the headline in a Toronto paper read "Good Samaritan Seriously Injured." This athletic, sports-crazy kid never uttered a bitter word about his fate. He turned his focus instead to sports and recreation programming, eventually becoming a Recreation Manager for the Borough of East York. He was also a member of the coaching staff of a lacrosse team that won the Mann Cup, was an avid swimmer, and a lifelong Leaf's fan.

Kevin's own mother died when he was only 14 years of age. Kevin took on significant responsibilities early in life, becoming a pillar of his family and community. Though he faced his share of challenges, he never wavered in his faith, which guided and supported him throughout his life. Kevin involved himself in his church and community organizations, with a special focus on helping the disadvantaged. He was a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus, rising to the ranks of the fourth degree.

Music was part of Kevin's DNA. He sang in church choirs throughout his life. Kevin's greatest source of pride, however, was his family. He revelled in his children's accomplishments and doted on each of his 10 grandchildren, who loved to see their Grandpa (with his silly "duck-talk") walk through the door.

He will be missed for his smile, his laughter, his voice, his jokes, and his kind heart. May he rest in peace; he touched so many and we were all so blessed to have him in our lives.

Visitation took place at the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Uxbridge (905-852-3073) on Sunday, August 9, 2020. A private family Mass of Christian Burial will take place at the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, followed by interment at the Sacred Heart Cemetery Uxbridge. If desired memorial donations to the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Uxbridge would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences can be made at [www.lowandlow.ca](http://www.lowandlow.ca)

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THE NEWS

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## ...Letters, from page 4

have a clearer understanding of the various facets of our project that need attention as we move forward with mutual respect for each other.

We looking forward to working

with Bruce, the council and public works in order to install our "Mini Art Gallery" project in the spring of 2021.

*Stuart Blower  
Chairman, AVEC*

## BEACH, Beverley Wallace "Bev"

*Jan. 31, 1932 ~ Aug. 8, 2020*



It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of our beloved Husband, Father, Grandad, and Great-Grandad on Saturday, August 8, 2020. Just two weeks shy of their 68th wedding anniversary, he leaves behind his cherished wife Norma (nee Jordan); their children Edward (Pamela), Joanne Burnett (Joseph), Marilyn Burch (Roger); grandchildren Vanessa (Mark Shiers), Candice, Darren (Jacqueline), Danny, Kelly, and great-grandchildren Kylar, Evan, Ava, and Morgan.

As a life-long resident of Uxbridge Township, Bev took great pride in operating the family farm and was also proud to serve his community as the Ward 2 Councillor for 18 years. His commanding presence and colourful stories, as well as his unwavering dedication to both family and the community will be deeply missed.

A special thank you to all the staff at Uxbridge Cottage Hospital for their care.

A private family graveside service will be held, at which time he will be laid to rest in the Uxbridge Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, P.O. Box 388, Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). If desired, donations in his memory may be made to the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Foundation or Community Care Uxbridge. For online condolences, please visit [www.lowandlow.ca](http://www.lowandlow.ca).



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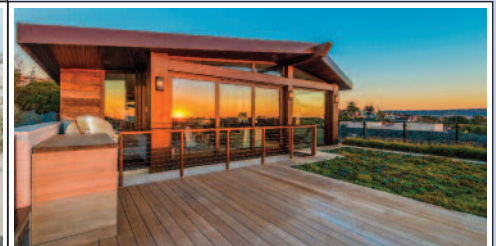
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