

# The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 30

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, August 6, 2020



**LOOKING FOR CLUES** - Paige Cassibo does some sleuthing in the asparagus patch - also known as Hole #4 - at Forsythe Family Farms while taking part in "Greens of the Farm" - a scavenger hunt-like 'golf game' that has visitors taking a COVID-safe tour of the farm. For more on this innovative family-friendly game, see page 8.

*Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove*

## Controversial intersection sees yet another accident

by Justyne Edgell,  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A high-risk intersection in the township witnessed yet another serious accident over the civic long weekend.

Just before 8 p.m. on Monday evening, two vehicles collided at the intersection of Davis Drive and Conc. 6, where they ended piled one on top of the other, coming to rest just a few feet from the residence on the northeast corner of the intersection. One vehicle suffered severe driver's-side damage, while the other sustained a crushed front end. Four people were injured in the accident. One man in his 20s was airlifted to a Toronto trauma centre with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. The other three individuals, all occupants of the same vehicle, were

transported to the Uxbridge hospital with injuries that were not considered serious.

This particular intersection has been the subject of long discussions during recent town council meetings, as it has been the location of multiple motor vehicle accidents in the past year. Some measures have been taken to improve visibility at the intersection, such as trimming foliage, and speed limits have been reduced from 80 km/h to 60km/h. An overhead flashing light has also been added, and other discussed solutions have been to create a 4-way stop (by adding stop signs on Davis Drive) or the addition of traffic lights.

Images of the accident quickly appeared on the Connecting in Uxbridge Township Facebook page, with members of the community coming up with their own ideas for a safer intersection. Some have suggested things like

placing rumble strips on Conc. 6, leading up to the stop sign as a warning to drivers. Others suggest placing larger stop signs with built-in red lights, or the addition of speed cameras to try and slow traffic.

One post suggested that first responders in Uxbridge have "personal and family agreements not to drive along Davis Dr." Another summed up the problem with the intersection saying that the problem is "in a nutshell, poor sightlines - epic speeding - impatient drivers."

By print time on Tuesday, the investigation on what exactly caused Monday evening's accident was still underway; however, Durham Regional Police suspect that this may have been the result of one of the drivers missing the stop sign.

### Inside Your Cosmos

Testing off to a slow start .....page 3

Survey says - get active .....page 6

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## Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for August, 2020

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

VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
**2:30 p.m.**

VIRTUAL PUBLIC PLANNING  
MEETING, VICDOM SAND &  
GRAVEL

978970 ONTARIO INC.  
OPA 55, ZBA 2014-05  
OPA 2014-008

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

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

## 2019 Consolidated Financial Statements

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

## Uxpool Remains Closed

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

## 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 South, 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](mailto:jmachesney@uxbridge.ca)  
or visit [www.uxbridge.ca/weddings](http://www.uxbridge.ca/weddings)

# 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)

## NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING A PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT AND PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

This Notice is to inform you that a statutory public meeting is being held on Monday, August 10, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. concerning an application submitted by Vicdom Sand and Gravel for a Township Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment. This is the second statutory meeting with respect to this application, and is being held at the direction of Council given that the previous meeting was held in 2015.

### PURPOSE OF PROPOSED TOWNSHIP OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

- The purpose of this application is to amend the Township's Official Plan and Zoning By-law to permit a gravel pit.
- The subject property is currently designated "Countryside Area" in the Township Official Plan. This designation permits existing uses and other low-intensity development such as unserviced parks and low-intensity recreation. Mineral aggregate operations are permitted in conformity with the policies of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and amendments to the Region of Durham Official Plan, and the Township's Official Plan. A Township Official Plan amendment would place the site within Policy Area 1.9.9.1 Approved Mineral Aggregate Extraction Area; and,
- The subject property is currently zoned Rural (RU) Zone.

### LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:

The Subject Site is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Goodwood Road (Regional Road (RR) 21) and Lakeridge Road (RR 23) and is municipally known as 3900 Lakeridge Road. The site is approximately 19.1 hectares in size - 18.9 hectares to be licensed, with 15.1 hectares proposed for extraction. In addition to the pit, recycling on the site would be permitted, limited to recycling of clean concrete free of any other material, including soil, and storage of imported material would be permitted, limited to clean aggregate.

FILE. NO.:	Township Official Plan Amendment	(OPA 55)
	Zoning By-Law Amendment 2014-05	(ZBA 2014-05)
	Region Official Plan Amendment	(OPA 2014-008)

APPLICANT: Vicdom Sand & Gravel  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For further information, and to view the complete Public Planning Notice, please visit <https://calendar.uxbridge.ca> and select the Virtual Public Planning Meeting on August 10.



## Anti-Black Racism Town Hall

An Anti-Black Racism Town Hall will be held on  
Thursday, August 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The event will be live-streamed from [www.durham.ca](http://www.durham.ca)

To learn more or register to participate in the conversation about anti-black racism in Durham Region please visit  
[durham.ca/VirtualTownHall](http://durham.ca/VirtualTownHall)

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)

## 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

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.

## 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)

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phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209



## North Durham COVID-19 testing starts slowly

by Roger Varley

A new site for COVID-19 testing opened in North Durham on Tuesday, but the testing will be moving slowly for the first week.

Judith Sanders, operations manager at the site in Prince Albert, just south of Port Perry, said appointments for the test were to be held at a manageable rate so that staff at the site could "iron out the details" in debriefing sessions to determine how well the operation is working. The site is manned by a clerk, a doctor and a nurse.

She said response to the new testing site, held in the Prince Albert community hall, formerly a 19th century school, has been good. That despite the fact that there has been no official notification of the site on any social media platforms. Sanders said Durham Region Health will begin using social media "very soon."

Anyone wishing to make an appointment to be tested must first fill out an application, which is available at [covidswab.lh.ca](https://covidswab.lh.ca). The ques-

tionnaire contains 30 questions, which must all be answered. The questions ask for personal details, health history and the applicant's health card number, among other things. Sanders said anyone who does not feel comfortable posting such information on the on-line questionnaire can instead telephone the public health office, who will then provide an appointment time.

Sanders said the appointments take about 10 minutes each, during which time nasal and throat swabs are taken. She said results of the tests are made known between 24 and 48 hours after the test. She said that, if possible, Durham Region Health will contact those who test positive for the novel coronavirus. Those who have been tested can also check their results on-line at <https://covid19results.ehealthontario.ca/>.

The Prince Albert testing site will operate Monday to Thursday from 12 noon to 8 p.m. and from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

## Council annoyed with tower application

by Roger Varley

In a brief special council meeting last Thursday, councillors expressed their annoyance over a report stating that Rogers Communications intends to construct a telecommunications tower in Coppins Corners.

"My concern is that I'm the mayor and I haven't heard about this," Mayor Dave Barton said, adding he has had no communication from Rogers, CRINS (Canadian Radio-communications Information and Notification Service) or even the township's chief building officer, Brian Pigozzo.

Pigozzo countered that he didn't remember seeing anything about the proposed tower until he received a report a couple of days earlier. He said

the proposed tower would be built at the rear of the property that houses a storage unit business and would be less than 50 metres tall. He said towers under 50 metres are exempt from public hearings under telecommunications protocols.

Barton pointed out that the report does not specify the tower will be built at the rear of the property, nor does it mention the height of the tower. Ward

1 Councillor Pam Beach said that lack of notice about the report meant it was impossible for her to communicate with her constituents about the tower.

Barton said towers are "a necessary evil, but there are good ways to do this."

Council agreed to table the report until its next scheduled meeting on Monday.



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As of July 28, 2020, wearing non-medical masks or face coverings will be required in all indoor, enclosed public spaces in Durham Region.

This is an additional public health measure (along with physical distancing, hand and cough hygiene, and staying home when sick) that may prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Some people are exempt from wearing non-medical masks and face coverings – NO PROOF OF EXEMPTION IS REQUIRED. Visit [durham.ca/novelcoronavirus](https://durham.ca/novelcoronavirus) for more information.



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Toronto Street S., Uxbridge



# Our two cents

## A little frayed around the edges

On the corner of Brock Street West and Church Street is a beautiful oasis of flowers, plants and small trees set around a small wooden bridge that crosses over a small faux stream.

The display has already attracted the attention of many camera-toting passersby, but that is not unusual. Scott Rutledge of Rutledge Jewelers has been dressing up that corner every summer and winter for years, each time with a new theme that has the cameras clicking.

At the other end of the downtown retail section, the garden in front of BDO at Brock and Main is always a delight: well tended and beautifully designed. The flower beds at the front and back of the public library, tended by the Uxbridge Horticultural Society, are equally pleasing.

But it's what's in between that somehow diminishes these efforts. The downtown core is a veritable sea of unwanted growth.

Grass and weeds are growing along the sidewalks throughout the downtown area, with some of the weeds reaching waist high. Opposite BDO, the grass and weeds are running rampant along Main Street South. Across the street from Rutledge's is one of those square, concrete flower beds that run along the main shopping thoroughfare. Unlike the other boxes, this one has no tree, which might explain why that particular flower bed is almost entirely taken over by weeds. The sidewalks on Bascom Street are beginning to look like green carpeting.

The grass and the weeds are growing in cracks in the sidewalk, along the curbs, alongside buildings, in the flower beds, anywhere they can find a foothold.

This township has a bylaw on the books which states that homeowners who have a municipally-owned verge or boulevard in front of their properties must maintain those verges and boulevards and make sure the weeds are kept down. These same homeowners, of course, also have to meet property standards and can expect a visit from a bylaw officer if their yards are deemed unruly. Yet apparently these rules do not apply to the township itself.

We know that council has had to make some difficult decisions regarding the budget, which has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and they have had to tighten the proverbial belt. However, the same might be said about the above-mentioned homeowners. Could they use COVID-19 as an excuse for letting their properties run wild? We don't think so.

A lot of businesses in town continue to struggle since the lockdown came into force almost five months ago, but for merchants in the downtown area, that struggle has been exacerbated by the seemingly never-ending construction of the Brock Street culvert and the closing of sidewalks. But despite repeated pleas from our elected officials for residents to make an effort to support the Brock Street merchants, the ever-blossoming weeds and grass that are taking over the street are turning the area into something resembling a ghost town. All we're missing is tumbleweed.

Maybe we are a little optimistic, but it seems to us that it shouldn't take a couple of workers more than two or three days to make a noticeable difference. On Tuesday, we observed a woman pulling one of these waist-high weeds out of one of the flower beds as she made her way down the street. It didn't make much difference, but it is a start.



## Tension still surrounding arts committee

by Roger Varley

Shortly after Councillor Gary Ruona was removed from his seat on the Arts and Visual Enhancement Committee (AVEC) by Mayor Dave Barton in June, other members of the committee discussed whether they would all resign.

Stuart Blower, chair of the committee, recently told the *Cosmos* that Ruona did not want that to happen.

"We were all very disappointed," Blower said. "We didn't know what was going on. We felt there could have been another way to deal with it."

Since Ruona's dismissal, Blower said, "we've had some skirmishes with the mayor. We were being micro-managed to death."

In the meantime, AVEC has met with Councillor Bruce Garrod, who replaced Ruona, given him notes on what the committee has been doing and minutes of all their meetings.

"We have to find mutual, respectful

ground," Blower said.

One of the reasons given by Barton for firing Ruona (who also lost his seat on the Music Hall board and his chairmanship of council's environmental and sustainability committee) was that AVEC had overspent its budget, something Ruona denied at the time. Blower backed Ruona up, saying it was an "unfounded rumour."

AVEC's budget for 2019 and 2020 was \$3,000 each year. Blower explained that a refurbishment of the bear carving in front of the township offices, which cost \$1,500, was supposed to come out of the township's maintenance budget, as proposed by former councillor Pat Molloy. Instead, Blower said, it appears it was set against AVEC's budget, leading treasurer Donna Condon to send out an email in December pointing out overspending. The AVEC chairman said the committee had actually underspent on its budget, and in January, Condon relented on the claim of

overspending. But, Blower pointed out, Barton was still claiming overspending in April.

As it goes through the transition, AVEC's main project at this time is the installation of art boxes in the urban area. Ruona said the project "was almost there" with a few minor things to be dealt with.

"There's a lot of excitement about them," he said.

However, Blower said the committee has to "regroup and convince the township we have the boxes set."

He said AVEC's original presentation to council in October priced the boxes at \$400 each plus \$200 each for installation. As of last month, he said, the works department was balking because 4x4 posts on which the boxes are to be set were not included in the quote.

"The art boxes are moving ahead, once public works is satisfied," Blower said.

## The Uxbridge COSMOS

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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## READY FOR SUMMER? RETRACTABLE AWNINGS AND CANOPIES



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## A Blonde Moment

column by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

### Becoming a crazy cat lady

I've never much been one for cats. I always figured it was because I couldn't be around them when I was growing up. I had fierce allergies, and being around cats, whether indoors or out, made my eyes puffy, my nose run, and my asthmatic chest feel like an elephant was sitting on it. Sometimes a cat's cuteness would overwhelm me and I would just have to have a cuddle, which, if it resulted in a scratch of any sort, would end with me watching a small nick turn into a large welt that itched like crazy. Visits to friends who had cats always entailed taking along several asthma inhalers and a large dose of an allergy medication. My experiences with cats were always generally unpleasant, so I tried to avoid them at all costs, and thus, developed no affinity for them. I've always claimed that I'm a dog person, and won't completely admit that dogs and their scratches sometimes make my allergies react too. I simply have to have something fuzzy to love, and fish just don't cut it.

When living on a dairy farm, cats are part of the scenery, more or less. They provide a service in return for a warm place to call home (the barn) and an endless supply of fresh milk. Not long after moving to the farm, quite a stretch went by when we had no cats, and the vermin population got a little out of control. Eventually, a couple of older kittens were brought in, and they began to earn their keep. And they kept one another good company. Very good company. So good, in fact, that we now have so many cats and kittens, even Carol Baskin would get her fill. When I do chores, I take food with me so that while they chow down on the goodies I brought, I can get a few minutes of work done without them running the risk of getting stepped on. I think we're numbering around 30 at the moment. Yes, thirty cats, from newborns through to been-around-for-forevers.

About a year ago, one of the 30, whose name is Pumpkyn, wandered his way down to our house, and we began to feed him a little. Then a little more. Then we'd let him in to feed him. Then he'd come in, eat, and lay on the sofa for a couple of hours. Don't get ahead of yourself, though - he always goes back outside, and he's never spent the night. He's a very good mouser, and likes to present us with "gifts" every now and again. He's also managed to tell two or three feline friends about how great the humans are - the bowls we put out for food are getting larger and larger, and I'm buying more and more cat food of late.

Now, before you say "Well, you're feeding

them, of course they're coming 'round!", keep in mind that we have no mice or rats to speak of, so they must be legitimately hungry.

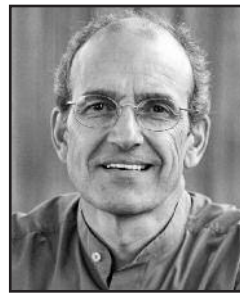
I've grown fond of Pumpkyn, and I don't mind the other cats coming around the house, and you'd have to have a heart of stone to say kittens aren't the cutest things on four legs. But a week and a half ago, I crossed a line - to Full Time Cat Mommy.

To give the *Reader's Digest* version of the tale, my youngest daughter found a newborn kitten far from where it had been birthed (we'd watched it being born, we knew it had gone missing, and she found it the next day). We hastily Googled "what to feed a newborn kitten" and dashed to PetValu to buy kitten formula. We started feeding it, and crossed our fingers that it would make it through the first few days. By Day 2 I had named it - Toby. By Day 4, I was already sleep deprived from being up every two or three hours to feed it with a tiny syringe and help it do its business. On Day 7 I was YouTube-ing videos on kitten development, and another trip to PetValu to look for a nursing kit found me looking longingly at the various shapes and styles of cat trees, and wondering which collar would suit Toby best.

As I write this, it is Day 11, and I am totally in love with a fluffy, fuzzy, ginger-coloured kitten whose eyes are just beginning to open, whose purr sends my heart soaring, and who is likely going to never, ever live in the barn. We thought originally that our ball of fluff was a he, but now we wonder if it might be a she. Doesn't really matter, although there is now discussion whether we keep the name Toby or not.

I have no clue if this is a good idea. My girls are thrilled - we lost our pup Bella in February, and to us, a house without a furry family member is, well, not really a home! My farmer husband, who is a self-proclaimed cat man, is of two minds - he loves the idea of finally having a cat in his house again, but he asks if we really need to go to such heroic lengths to save another cat when there are already so many hungry ones at the barn? He knows we do, and he wouldn't do it any differently were we not involved, but it doesn't stop him from having a business-like farmer mentality about it.

I guess my next step is to buy shares in an allergy medication company, stock up on Kleenex, and watch our little fur-ball grow. I hope the cats in the barn don't catch on, though. Otherwise, they'll take over our house and make me a crazy cat lady way before my time.



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### What COVID-19 has wrought

It was one of those break-through moments, one that a lot of us have waited for all these many weeks, since the pandemic descended on us. My wife and I were visiting with members of the immediate family, inside our acceptable bubble. I motioned to one of the grandchildren, with my arms. She looked to her mom for permission. Mom gave her the nod. Out went her arms.

"Oh, hurray!" we both sighed, "a real hug!"

It comes partly from my family background, which is Greek. Our family is pretty demonstrative when it comes to emotions - anger, joy, protest, or affection. We speak a great deal with our faces, our hands, our arms, and yes our voices. It's a Mediterranean thing, I guess. Greeks, Italians, French, Spanish are all so tactile - we touch each other a lot - sometimes poking our conversational partner, or putting an arm around a good friend for solidarity, offering a gentle slap on the back, and certainly hugging those friends and family members we love.

Of course, COVID-19 has eliminated all of that the past four months. And for those of us who use those physical gestures as part of our communications lexicon - whether Mediterranean or not - it's been very difficult to restrain ourselves. But we've done it, because we understand the warnings from public health professionals. My concern of late, however, is the impact all these changes, not just the physical distancing, may be having on those who're coming through this pandemic, especially youngsters. My daughter and I talked about it the other day.

"What was it like during the polio outbreak?" she asked.

"Very much the same," I said. "We had to stop gathering in large groups, avoid swimming pools, and we eventually got the anti-polio vaccine."

Perhaps even more than any of those preventative measures, I remember the fear during the polio scare. At the peak of the outbreak, in 1953, there were 9,000 cases in Canada, about 500 deaths. At the time, I remember my cousin being stricken with it, and requiring leg braces; one of my dad's reporting colleagues at the *Globe and Mail* became debilitated by it. Paul Martin Sr., who was Health Minister in the Louis St. Laurent government at the time, had to decide whether the mass vaccination should go ahead (his son Paul Martin Jr., later the prime minister, had contracted polio briefly). And I've learned that singer Joni Mitchell had

it when she was nine.

"Polio is the disease that eats muscles," Mitchell said.

But I don't think the polio epidemic in the early 1950s left the same kinds of psychological imprint that I sense COVID-19 will. I'm not talking about severe cases of post-traumatic stress disorder (although they likely exist). I think we need to consider the impact of the virus on children in other ways. Again, it doesn't have to be PTSD to make it noteworthy. I was thinking about some of the odd after-effects. For example, will smaller children, who've largely been prevented from gathering in groups outside of family, ever feel comfortable going to a birthday party again, attending a sports event, or entering a theatre, a concert hall or a restaurant?

On the flip side of that coin, if such venues are a long time returning to normal, will the experience be so foreign to COVID-era kids, that they choose never to consider such leisure pursuits again? And what kind of additional impact might that have on athletics, movie production and movie houses, musicians, theatre production, clubs, lounges and culinary professionals? Will the pandemic young people simply give up on trusting the idea of joining, attending, spectating or dining out at all? Or, has the pandemic rewired children to be anti-social?

How will all this affect the way young people communicate (I mean besides all the social media outlets they're using even more now)? Clearly the absence of the lower part of people's faces behind masks has left those who read lips (because of a hearing impairment) with few alternatives. But most of us do more than read lips. We read people's smiles, frowns, and nostrils to understand full meaning in conversation. With COVID protection methods we're left with eyes-only facial language. Not impossible, but different.

In other words, in the absence of what we've come to believe is normal communication, interaction and connection, has this medical event created a COVID-19 generation that will look back and ask us: "What's a concert? What does 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game' mean? Is there something more to eating out than drive-through?"

I hadn't realized how powerful a symbol of basic human behaviour the simple act of hugging a loved one really is.

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



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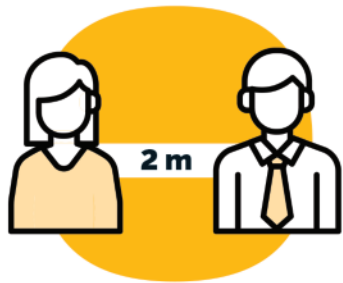
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## Survey wants help to shape active transportation plan

by Justyne Edgell,  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Exciting plans appear to be underway for those who like to “walk, wheel and cycle” around town. The early stages of Uxbridge’s Active Transportation Plan (which was approved by council in 2019) have now begun. The Active Transportation Committee has launched a survey looking for public input to develop the plan, which is meant to “encourage residents to move around the neighbourhood using active transportation methods such as walking, cycling, skateboarding, rollerblading, and wheelchair use.”

The interactive survey asks respondents how they rank different types of accessibility, where users currently find barriers to use, and for suggestions for new locations of walking and biking trails. Results from the survey will be compiled and the plan aims to be ready for implementation next year.

Some of the goals of the Active Transportation Plan are to ensure there are connected routes for all types of active transportation, provide links to key locations such as schools and major employment centres, build on the existing trail network, promote physical activity and outdoor recreation and to help the environment by encouraging environmentally-friendly transportation.

Stu Evans, a local cycling enthusiast, says he is looking forward to this plan being executed.

“I am absolutely looking forward to more interconnectivity of our trails. I ride through the trails every morning and can already get from my house in Uxbridge all the way to the Pickering Townline, with only a small stretch of

road. It’ll be great to see more trails connecting like this.”

The Active Transportation Plan also aims to lower the number of vehicles on township roadways. Avid cyclist, walker and Active Transportation Committee chair Phil Smith says that along with the environmental good, this plan will also keep residents active and provide a social benefit for the community.

“I always say when you are biking, walking and wheeling, you are travelling at the speed of people. It gives you an opportunity to pass others and say hi! You just don’t get that when you buzz past in a car,” says Smith.

To help imagine the impact, Smith challenges residents to imagine a scenario: “You are in a wheelchair or pushing a stroller and you want to get from Starbucks to Tim Hortons. Next time you’re out in town, try to find the path you’d need to take.” He says that the Active Transportation Plan will help make travels like this more accessible to all.

Councillor Willie Popp says that this plan will help people “get to their destination without turning a key.”

With the completion of the plan, the town might see things like multi-use paths, which would be asphalt paved and allow for two-directional traffic, connecting places like schools, community centre, shops and workplaces.

“I love to see more people being active, and with the recent happenings in our world, I think we can see a great indication of what the Active Transportation Plan could do for our community,” says Popp.

The survey can be found at [uxbridgeatp.metroquest.ca/](https://uxbridgeatp.metroquest.ca/)

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# Spend a day on the farm - golfing

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

What do “pivot” and “divot” have in common, besides the obvious rhyme? Forsythe Family Farms has the answer - it did one by creating a place for the other! The family-owned farm has pivoted its business (thanks to COVID-19) by adding on to the pick-your-own gardens, playground, farm market and educational programs it already features, and creating a “Green Golf Course” on its 50 acres in Greenbank. This golf course, though, won’t actually sport any divots. There are no golf clubs, golf balls or golf skills required.

“People always want to know what’s going on at the farm,” explains Leslie Forsythe, who, along with husband Jim, owns and runs Forsythe Family Farms. “But we can’t just have people wandering around on the farm, so this gets them out there in a structured way.” Guests are invited to stroll along a 9-hole course that has been carefully planned out to encompass many aspects of the farm and its fields. Each group is given a scorecard that contains a map, and a series of questions for each “hole.” The nine holes are clearly marked with golf flags, and the “fairways” are ready for walkers. Hole #1 (the Animal Barn) is a Par 5,

meaning there are five questions to answer before moving on. Hole #2 is a Par 2 - just two questions to answer on this one, and so it continues for all nine holes. Forsythe promises that all the answers are there, “you just need look and listen to find them!” Golfers are to keep track of their answers on the scorecard, and at the end of the nine holes, the cards are handed in, checked over for right answers, and prizes can be won! The course has been set up to be an activity that can be pursued during the COVID-19 pandemic. Guests can go online and choose the date and time they’d like to “go golfing,” as well

as arrange payment. Groups (maximum five people at a time) then start the course at their prescribed time, ensuring that participants can maintain appropriate physical distancing while playing.

**No golf clubs, golf balls or golf skills required - just your feet, which were made for walking. The Green Golf Course is family fun FORE all...**

Avid golfers know that one of the perks of a good game of golf is enjoying a refreshment at the 19th hole, and the Green Golf Course is no exception. Forsythe Family Farms has partnered with Uxbridge’s Slabtown Cider Co., and Slabtown will be supplying some of the prizes available to be won. With help from Central Counties Tourism, the Forsythes also managed to bring the world-renowned Angus Glen Golf Course on board as a partner, and it too will be providing prizes to participants who love to get out and bash some golf balls about.

“This whole concept was a collective new product,” says Julia Morch, project manager for Forsythe Family Farms. “Leslie and I were working together during the early part of the pandemic. Golf was just opening back up, and a brainstorming session led to adopting golf techniques to a “no balls involved” idea - it’s a new branding of an old concept!” Morch has been with the project every step of the way, from coordinating the partnerships within Central Counties Tourism to weedwhacking trails for visitors to walk along.

The Green Golf Course opens to the public on Aug. 14, and all tee times should be arranged online prior to visiting. Visit [forsythefamilyfarms.com](https://forsythefamilyfarms.com) and click on “Fun” to find details on the course and access to the complete schedule. Visitors are asked to note that this is a real farm and the terrain can be uneven. It is not a suitable activity for those with strollers or mobility issues. Sturdy footwear is recommended as well as insect repellent.



Jim and Leslie Forsythe welcome “golfers” to the first “hole” at their new Green Golf Course, which opens to the public on Aug. 14 at Forsythe Family Farms in Greenbank. The 9-hole course was created in partnership with Central Counties Tourism, Slabtown Cider Co., and Angus Glen Golf Course.

Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

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