

# The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 32

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, August 20, 2020



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**WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T DROP IT!** - Onlookers watched in awe as a house arrived at the corner of Bascomb and Poplar Streets in two halves last Wednesday morning. Crew ensured that, when the two parts were lowered onto the foundation, all the corners matched up perfectly and the pieces were ready to be seamlessly joined to make a new home.

*Photo by John Cavers*

## Province to spend half a million helping Uxbridge

by Roger Varley

"This is an incredible moment for the town."

So said Mayor Dave Barton last Thursday when it was announced that the township will be receiving over \$500,000 in funding from the Ontario government.

Battling against noise from the Brock Street culvert construction and a barking neighbourhood dog, Pickering-Uxbridge MPP and treasury board president Peter Bethlenfalvy told a small crowd gathered outside the old fire hall on Bascom Street that the funding will come from two different grants. In the first grant, Uxbridge coffers will be increased to the tune of \$489,000 as its share of the \$14.5 million grant the province has awarded to the Region of Durham as part of the government's COVID-19 emergency assistance package to

Ontario municipalities. The region will also be given an additional \$8 million for transit.

Under the Rural Economic Development fund, administered by Agriculture Minister Ernie Hardeman, who was also on hand for the announcement, the township will also receive up to \$100,000 for its downtown revitalization project. Hardeman said the funding is intended to make sure "your economy is alive and well." However, neither the township treasury department nor Bethlenfalvy's office were able to say exactly how much Uxbridge will actually see of that ear-marked \$100,000. Bethlenfalvy's office offered only that "it depends on what the money is used for."

Regional Chair John Henry said the amount each Durham municipality receives from the \$14.5 million is calculated by the number of households in each municipality. In Pickering-

Uxbridge, the township receives \$489,000, while Pickering will be richer by \$1.96 million.

Henry said the funding comes with "almost no strings. This will cover a lot of COVID-19 expenses." He also welcomes the \$8 million for transit, noting that the majority of the region's layoffs were in transit and that Durham Transit has been running fare-free because buses are entered through the rear doors.

The funding is intended to help municipalities facing budgetary shortfalls due to the pandemic. Uxbridge council recently released figures showing the township faces a shortfall of over \$1 million. The funding is described as Phase 1 of the government's aid package to municipalities. Up to \$695 million in additional funding will be available in Phase 2 for

*...continued on page 3*

### Inside Your Cosmos

If you can dream it, they'll build it . . .page 4

Looking for the Fair-est window . . . .page 6

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### Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for August and September, 2020

Monday, September 7  
LABOUR DAY  
NO COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 14, 10:00 am  
VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 21, 10:00 am  
VIRTUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 28, 10:00 am  
VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING

### Proclamations for the Month of August

Flight of the Monarchs Day  
August 22, 2020

### Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to

[Uxbridge.ca/bids\\_and\\_tenders](http://Uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders)

#### • 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.

### 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.

# 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)

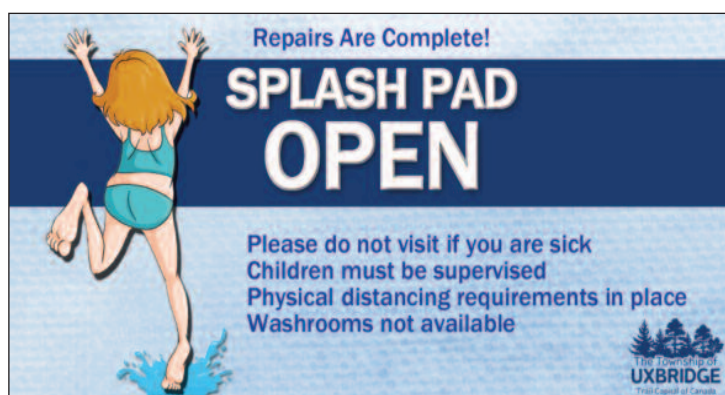
## UXPOOL OPENING SOON!

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)

## DOWNTOWN UXBRIDGE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS



### 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)



## 2020 Uxbridge Fall Fair Display Competition

**Individual/Family Class:** Create a lawn or window display in recognition of the Uxbridge Fall Fair.

**Business/Service Group Class:** Create a storefront, lawn or window display showing that the business is a proud supporter of the Uxbridge Fall Fair.

Prizes for each class: 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$100; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$50; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$25; People's Choice \$100.

Deadline: 8am on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

View full details and register at [www.UxbridgeFair.ca](http://www.UxbridgeFair.ca)



### 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 Part II, 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



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



# Racist graffiti mars neighbourhood

by Roger Varley

Two racist words were spray painted on the road and on a sidewalk on Franklin Street during the weekend.

The words were painted with orange paint, which a Durham Regional Police officer on the scene surmised had been taken from the road construction site at the east end of Planks Lane. The culprits used the spray paint to make other non-descript markings along Planks Lane, culminating in the offensive words.

Bill Rynard of the works department said a crew has spray painted over the offensive words and a graffiti removal company was expected to clean up the markings Tuesday.

In the same area, a free mini-library that was located outside a home on Planks Lane was hit by vandals for the third time in 18 months.

## ...Funding to kickstart economy, from page 1

the initial allocation provided under Phase 1.

The funding is being released in co-ordination with the federal government's Safe Restart Agreement, which is providing \$19 billion to the provinces and territories to help ensure a strong recovery. The province is making a contribution of 50 per cent to the municipal supports and transit funding available through the Safe Restart Agreement, with the federal government contributing the other 50 per cent.



## Durham Region Transit has you covered

On **Monday, August 24**, DRT is launching a new network to better meet customer demand.

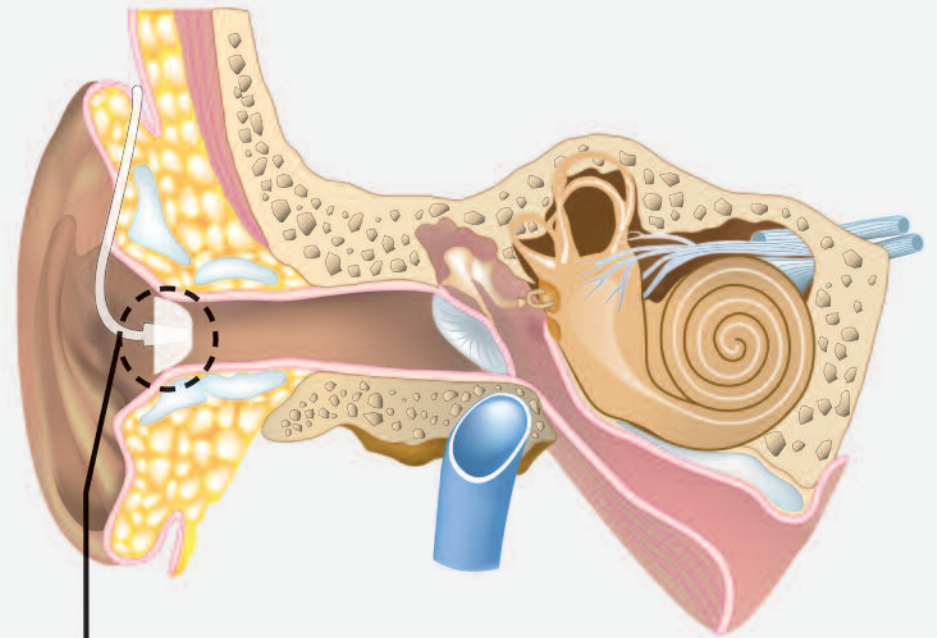
You can take transit no matter where you live, work or are travelling to within the region, from early morning to late night, including:

- Improvements to the Frequent network, with weekday service every 15-minutes or better.
- A new grid network with service every 30-minutes or better, seven days a week.
- Expanded On Demand service to Clarington and in areas between.

Learn how DRT has YOU covered by visiting [durhamregiontransit.com](https://durhamregiontransit.com).

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# Our two cents

## Playground dreaming

Uxbridge loves young people. More to the point, Uxbridge's service clubs love young people. Look at the Rotary Skate Park and the Optimist Pump Park out at the Fields of Uxbridge. Despite - or in spite of - COVID-19, those two places have been hopping busy almost every nice day this summer. We've seen toddlers on scooters there, and we've seen older teens weave their skateboards in and out of the smaller kids, showing off their moves. Although we can't profess to having spent time at either park (not owning either a skateboard or a BMX bike - older bones have something to do with it, too...), we drive by the spot often, and a smile always comes when we see so many kids outside, enjoying something that the town built together.

Good news - we're getting the opportunity to do it again! The main play structure in Elgin Park is approaching its expiry date, so to speak, and the Uxbridge Lions Club is taking on the installation of a new structure. The new natural playground will be what they are calling "universal" - it will be accessible for not only children of all abilities, but for those accompanying them, too. Read: for the many grandparents who are often the ones taking their grandkids to the park. Sally Kotsopoulos is working with the Lions Club on the project, and as she readily pointed out to us - not too many older folks are keen to slide down the fire pole once they've chased their young charge up the structure!

Normally the Lions would have an open, public meeting to invite input from the community on what people would like to see and have in their playground. In our COVID world, however, they're asking for anyone and everyone to write or draw their ideas and send them to the Lions Club. That's why we've devoted our back page to their appeal - we know how much this town loves kids, and how much kids need a playground like the one the Lions are envisioning. Kotsopoulos says that a new playground can encourage not only mobility exploration, but sensory exploration as well. There will still be swings, but they'll include sculpted swings for youngsters who may use a wheelchair or other mobility device. Nature and natural building materials will be incorporated, and children of all abilities will be able to play alongside one another.

But this is the big picture - the Lions want YOUR picture. Tear off the back page of this newspaper (or go online and download a pdf version) and draw your best playground idea(s). Have the youngster in your life dictate a playground wish list to you. Cut pictures out of magazines and paste them onto the page - whatever the best way is to pass along the concept, make it happen. Then send it to the Uxbridge Lions Club (mail or email to [uxbridgelions@gmail.com](mailto:uxbridgelions@gmail.com)). They'll be taking every submission into consideration when they get to planning how this new structure will look.

Uxbridge loves kids. We can't wait to see how this turns out.

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.

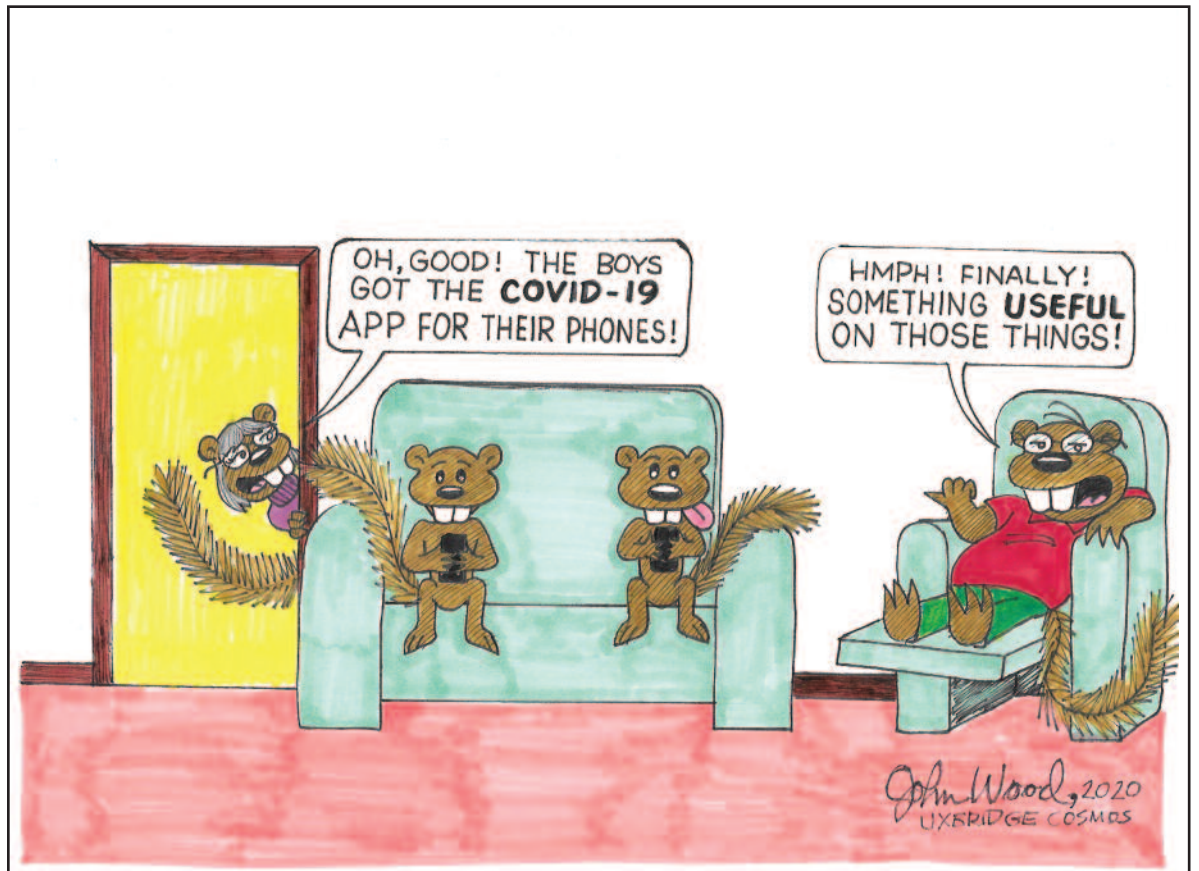
**nnc** National NewsMedia Council

**ocna** Ontario Community Newspapers Association

**CMCA** AUDITED

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

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## Letters to the Editor

I just want to send a big shout out to the *Uxbridge Cosmos*, along with the editor and columnists, who participate and contribute to this little jewel of a journalistic news rag.

During this virus epidemic, this paper has stayed true to its mandates and local support of businesses and concerns of the communities without bias. A very rare breed in an over saturated social media forum. Keep it up!

**Theresa Pilniuk**  
Uxbridge

The [federal] Surplus Food Rescue Program is an excellent program to

feed those less fortunate during the COVID-19 pandemic. Restaurants, grocery stores, food banks, and many individual citizens were feeding everyone that was struggling financially, as well as supplying food for those on the front lines.

Then we read how some farmers had a surplus of milk and were dumping it without offering it to those who were giving of their time, energy and finances to feed those in need and those on the front lines.

Now we are paying the farmers for their surplus of eggs, so farmers don't dump the eggs and again cause food waste in a huge way, and to help the

farmers financially. When there is a surplus of food, why is it not given to the community to feed others?

I agree we all need farmers, no one is disputing that, but when a community pulls together and takes care of its own, it is a richer community.

Thank you to the front line workers, the chefs, the restaurants, the residents who gave their time, energy and finances to feed those who were making a difference; you all set an excellent example of a community that cares for each other.

**Bev Northeast**  
Goodwood

**2020 Uxbridge Fall Fair Display Competition**

**UXBRIDGE**  
EST. *Fall Fair* 1864

**Individual/Family Class**  
Create a lawn or window display in recognition of the Uxbridge Fall Fair.

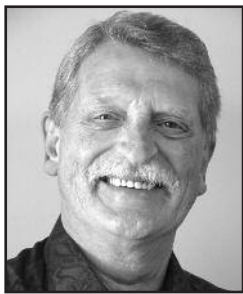
**Business/Service Group Class**  
Create a storefront, lawn or window display showing that the business is a proud supporter of the Uxbridge Fall Fair.

All displays should be complete by 8:00am on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

View full details and register at [UxbridgeFair.ca](http://UxbridgeFair.ca)

Prizes for each class  
First Place \$100      Second Place \$50  
Third Place \$25      People's Choice \$100





## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Teach your children well

I am glad that I do not have school-age children or grandchildren and I feel for those who do.

With just under two weeks before schools re-open in Ontario, parents are faced with the difficult decision of whether to send their children back into the classroom or opt for on-line learning. It's a decision I'm glad I don't have to make.

Up to now, in my opinion, the Ontario government has done a reasonably good job in its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. The government has listened to the advice of health professionals, issued regulations based on that advice and, for the most part, "flattened the curve." But calling for social distancing, indoor mask-wearing and avoiding crowd scenes is rather an easy call when one is closing things down. Opening things up is another matter, especially the schools. We're heading into uncharted territory.

The Durham District School Board recently released its protocols for protecting children and staff when in-classroom teaching resumes at the beginning of September and, presumably, they are following the guidance of the health-care professionals. One would imagine all school boards are following expert advice and yet the Ontario government has just told the Toronto District School Board it doesn't like the TDSB's plan and wants more in-class time. So, are parents supposed to start comparing different school boards' protocols to try and figure out if their local school board meets with government approval? As I've said before, a lot of the pandemic information we receive is often confusing and/or contradictory.

Regardless of the protocols a school board puts in place, parents are going to have to ask themselves if it is safe to send their children back into the classroom. The problem is, no one can tell them with any certainty. I know it is anecdotal and I don't want to be an alarmist, but there are numerous reports of COVID-19 cases spiking in some areas of the U.S. where children have returned to school already.

One of the problems facing parents who are thinking of opting for on-line learning, especially in rural areas, is access to high-speed internet. Poor or slow connections can affect the quality of the school feed. Another is the distractions facing a student working from

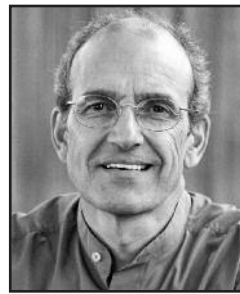
home. It would be up to the parents to make sure the student can sit at the computer and learn without those distractions or the temptation to take a short break to play a video game.

However, for those who opt for on-line learning, there is an opportunity to enhance the school curriculum, which does not include extra-curricular activities. Parents could have their own extra-curricular programs, such as teaching their children how to cook - and not just beans on toast. Teach them the proper methods of food preparation, how to use different herbs and spices, the difference between sautéing and frying and so on. Or maybe teach them how to become good gardeners, to know the difference between good fertilizers and bad fertilizers, the proper way to transplant and so on. How about teaching them how to use basic tools and how to make simple repairs? With the plethora of bicycles around town these days, teach the children how to take care of their velocipedes, how to change a tire and so on.

This might sound like basic stuff, but there are many children - indeed, perhaps the majority - who have been raised in a society which increasingly counts on fast food and take-outs, figures a well-manicured lawn is the be-all and end-all of gardening and decides to throw stuff away instead of having it repaired. Not only would it make them more self-reliant, in some cases it could lead to future employment. As examples, I give you three young local entrepreneurs: Leo Gallard, who started his own catering business and founded the Uxbridge Music and Arts Festival; Adrian Giacca, a local lad who started his own gardening and landscaping company, and Ted Webb, who at the age of 21 founded Africycle.

As Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young sang, "Teach your children well." Not everything is about readin', writin' and 'rithmetic (another old song). Assuming school-age children already are reasonably proficient in all three disciplines, it seems to me that it wouldn't hurt to expand their sphere of learning. Not only that, but I'd rather have a child whipping up a casserole, raising their own potatoes or fixing a broken bike chain than staring at a computer screen.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Don't let COVID kill immigration

The note came out of the blue. After retiring from the college where I taught journalism and broadcasting for 18 years, I've only periodically run into former students. They're the ones busily working as newspaper or radio reporters, videographers, editors, etc. Most of the time, I hear from the successful ones. Not from those struggling. Then, I got a note from a young woman named Farheen.

"I have been looking for positions to help me build my portfolio," she wrote in her email to me. "But due to my lack of experience, I always fall short."

I remembered Farheen from a copy-editing course I taught. It was one of my favourite teaching moments of the week - giving young journalists fundamentals of the language that I've always loved, and that they definitely need. As I recall, while she spoke English well, her grasp of odd spellings, complicated English grammatical structure and punctuation was limited. But, like so many students whose first language wasn't necessarily English, there was a whole lot of drive there, even if the understanding was slow in coming. Anyway, she'd gone on placement, working as a copy-editor at a lifestyle magazine to get further training on-the-job, before seeking a full-time position. "My (placement) editor submitted my evaluation," she continued, "and said that my writing was disappointing ... that they took a chance on bringing me in."

I dropped everything I was doing to sit down and write an answer to my former student. First, I explained how great it was to hear from her. I applauded her initiative jumping right into the copy-editing placement and suggested that even for experienced journalists, correcting copy isn't easy.

It occurs to me that Farheen's predicament, struggling to make steady work and maybe a career is just more collateral damage inflicted by this pandemic. Offices have closed. Those who can, have brought their work home. Unemployment is way up, to about 13 per cent. And only those who are established, experienced and, yes, those who are clearly not immigrants have survived better than new Canadians, landed immigrants, or in Farheen's case, graduating students. But exacerbating the problem is the COVID-19 reality that immigration as a whole has slowed, even stopped. Stats released this week by the Association of Canadian Studies say that residents admitted to Canada have dropped some 64 per cent - from 94,275 in spring 2019, to 34,260

through the spring of 2020. Migration is almost at a standstill.

I sense some Canadians might cheer about such a statistic. I don't. I happen to believe in the notion that we're all immigrants, and that, as Peter C. Newman said, "we're a nation of boat people."

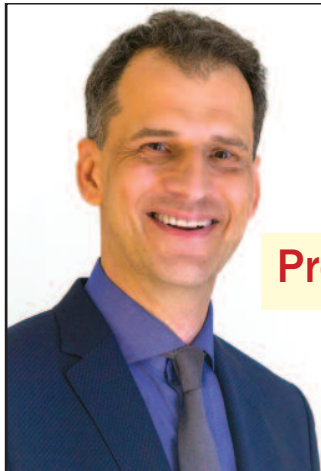
If you aren't old enough to remember the origin of the "boat people" phrase, it's associated with the 1970s, when Canada opened its immigration doors wide to thousands of people from South-East Asia fleeing the after-effects of the Vietnam War. Loads of families crammed rickety ships and rafts - with little food and fresh water - to get to islands or shorelines where they might find sympathetic immigration services to accept them. In the first year of their flight, Canada welcomed 5,600 Vietnamese immigrants; by 1985, 110,000 refugees had settled in Canada. I remember co-writing a CBC TV cross-Canada fundraiser for those immigrants; in one night we raised hundreds of thousands of dollars. By and large, however, they built their own lives here doing menial work (that the rest of us wouldn't touch), scrimping to put their children through school, and giving this country the benefits of their culture, language, hard work and genuine joy at being Canadian citizens.

My parents weren't boat people in the 1970s sense, but like those whom Canada encouraged to come from Europe after the Second World War, my folks came by way of the United States. The post-war immigrants - Italians, Greeks, Dutch, Germans and Britons - packed just as many boats (and trains) seeking new jobs, homes and lives here as those coming from South-East Asia. And those immigrants of the 1950s built roads, suburbia, schools, small businesses and shops. In more recent years, it's the Syrians, Iranians and Lebanese who've flown from their birthplaces to give their children a better chance. Immigrants always worry about succeeding.

"When I got such a poor assessment, my self-esteem dropped to zero," my former student Farheen said.

"Don't worry," I told her. "With your kind of initiative, something's bound to crop up." And I should have added, many Canadians I know, who've enjoyed the privilege of citizenship for a lifetime, could benefit from emulating her kind determination. There must always be a place for that in this country.

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



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## Uxbridge Fall Fair - coming to a window near you

The global COVID-19 pandemic may have taken away one of rural Ontario's most beloved autumnal activities - the fall fair. But it's also made fair organizers get creative while trying to maintain a presence in their communities.

According to Uxbridge Fall Fair organizers, the cancellation of the Fall Fair 2020 has "given rise" to the Fair's Display Competition.

No Fall Fair booklet is required to find out what class to enter - there are only two! Individuals and/or families are invited to create a lawn or window display in recognition of Uxbridge Fall Fair.

There is also a Business/Service Group Class, where participants are invited to create a storefront, lawn or window display showing that the business is a proud supporter of the Uxbridge Fall Fair.

The prize structure for each Class includes \$100 for first place; \$50 for second; \$25 for third, and a People's Choice award of \$100.

Entry forms are available on the Fair website, [www.uxbridgefair.ca](http://www.uxbridgefair.ca) and on Facebook. Options for submitting entries are there as well.

The entry deadline is September 8, meaning the display must be up and ready to present on that date. Judg-

ing will occur over the days following, with winning entries to be announced during the usual Fair weekend (September 9-11) and posted on the website and on Facebook.

In addition, the Junior Section of the Homecraft division will be offering a few classes of competition. Details, including entry process will be available soon on the Fair website and Facebook.

The Fair Board also says that it is in the early stages of planning for Fall Fair 2021 and is considering the "numerous modifications necessary to make the event a reality."

## Historical Centre gets grant to help care for heritage collections

by *Lisha Van Nieuwenhove*

The Uxbridge Historical Centre may not be inviting visitors into its buildings as regularly as it usually does, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but that doesn't mean it hasn't been a busy place. It's been getting money and a makeover.

Earlier this summer, paved pathways linking individual buildings was installed, as was paved parking, improved exterior lighting and upgraded security measures. An accessible parking lot was also installed between the Schoolhouse and

Lodge Hall.

"These infrastructure improvements will help create an accessible and safe environment for all visitors and staff," explains Pat Neal, manager/curator for the Uxbridge Historical Centre.

A grant from the federal Enabling Accessibility Fund (for \$35,912) and a capital grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (\$64,900) supported these projects.

Last Thursday, Pickering-Uxbridge MP Jennifer O'Connell announced that the Historical Centre will receive another grant - \$22,407, which, according to O'Connell, will allow the UHC to "continue to care for its heritage collections during these exceptional circumstances so that they remain accessible to Canadians."

This grant money comes from the Museum Assistance program of the COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Heritage, Culture, and Sport Organizations.

For more, visit [uxbridgehistorical-centre.com](http://uxbridgehistorical-centre.com)



Kydd House, part of the Uxbridge Historical Centre, sports a new paved front walkway.

*Photo submitted by the Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society*

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