

The Uxbridge COSMOS

Volume 16 No. 33

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, August 27, 2020




Patrick Bryant Broker of Record

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BEST IN THE COUNTRY - Uxbridge's Ethan Bound raced to the finish line and took top spot in the Briggs Junior Final at the Kart Stars Nationals, held earlier this month at Goodwood Kartways. After his national championship win, Bound let his little brother take the trophy home.

Photo by John Cavers

Inside Your Cosmos

Artistic rendering of a tourpage 3

Penny House updatepage 7

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Bussing still a concern as school start looms

by Justyne Edgell,
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With only two short weeks until the return to school, many are worrying about the COVID-19 safety protocols for the coming school year, and not just in the classroom. School busses are also involved in the rural school experience, and Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS) has released information regarding this year's school bus protocols.

DSTS, which oversees bussing for both the Durham District School Board and the Durham Catholic District School Board, reports that "students will be loaded on all school bus vehicles with two students per seat. On a regular full-size vehicle that is approximately 48 students. All students will be assigned a school bus seat number. We ask that students sit in their seat assigned."

As physical distancing will be a challenge, all

students will be required to wear a mask and to sanitize their hands as they board the bus. Additionally, all school busses will be disinfected, by the driver, twice per day.

Phil Cook, a school bus driver with Stock Transportation, says he's quite confident that those making the rules know what they're doing.

"To be honest, I'm ready to go back, to be with the students and my fellow drivers. I'm also pretty confident with everything I've heard about the PPE that's being offered by my company," says Cook.

While he may feel prepared to go back, Cook does worry that it all may be happening too quickly.

"My only issue is that we've spent the last six months social distancing and wearing masks and being cautious and, suddenly, it's perfectly okay to try cramming too many people into too tiny spaces, whether that's a bus or a class-

room. I'd appreciate seeing smaller steps; let's extend that caution a little longer."

Not all school bus drivers may be as confident as Cook, and, more than is usual, there may be a lack of drivers come the beginning of the school year. During his daily update on Tuesday, Premier Doug Ford announced that the province will expedite licensing for new drivers to deal with the regular, yearly shortage, which may be amplified in the wake of COVID-19. He also acknowledged that there will be an increased need for vehicles to enable better physical distancing. Unifor, a union which represents some bus drivers in Ontario, demanded more safety precautions be put in place, such as hiring private companies to do the vehicle disinfecting instead of the individual drivers.

For more information regarding DSTS's back to school bus protocols, visit www.dsts.on.ca/covid-19

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Council & Committee Meetings Meeting Schedule for September, 2020

Wednesday, September 2
9:00 a.m.

VIRTUAL SPECIAL COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, September 7
LABOUR DAY
NO COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 14
10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETING
11:30 a.m.

PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING
ZBA 2020-02 – STOUFFVILLE GLASS
(CAIRO)

1:00 p.m.

FIRE DEPT. EDUCATION SESSION
-CLOSED TO PUBLIC

Wednesday, September 16
7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
MEETING

Monday, September 21
10:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEETING
11:30 a.m.

PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING
ZBA 2020-03 - KHANI/TRAMONTI

Monday, September 28
7:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

Uxbridge is now issuing Marriage Licences and performing Civil Ceremonies!

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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



2020 Uxbridge Fall

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Individual/Family Class: Create a lawn or window display in
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Prizes for each class: 1st Place \$100; 2nd Place \$50; 3rd Place \$25; People's
Choice \$100.

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

View full details and register at www.UxbridgeFair.ca



Play Horseshoes!

Enjoy a social and entertaining game of horseshoes every
Tuesday evening at 6 p.m., at the Uxbridge Historical Centre.
Cost to play includes a membership to the Uxbridge-Scott
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Call Bob Kirvan at 905-852-9176 for information.

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Employment Opportunities

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www.uxbridge.ca/careers

The Township of Uxbridge is now accepting applications from
qualified applicants for the following positions:

Part-Time Arena Attendant

Part-Time Arena Attendant Assistant

Part-Time Arena Attendant Assistant (Student)

Resumés will be accepted at:

Uxbridge Arena, Attention Jamie Miller, Arena Supervisor,
291 Brock Street West, Uxbridge, ON L9P 1G1, or by email at
jmiller@uxbridge.ca

Applications will be accepted up to September 3 at 4:00 p.m.

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to

Uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders

• U20-21 Tree Planting - Closes Sept. 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 in a
timely manner.



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

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

The show - and the Studio Tour - must go on

by Justyne Edgell,
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter

The annual Uxbridge Studio Tour is one of the highlights and harbingers of the end of the summer. And this year, despite COVID-19, the popular tour will still celebrate the season - on September 19 and 20, to be precise.

This year's tour will provide guests with four different options to experience the art and learn about the artists who create it.

"We decided at the beginning of the pandemic that we would try our best to keep some sort of tour running, and right away we started planning for a virtual tour," says the new chair of the Uxbridge Studio Tour, Colin Whitebread.

"When restrictions began lifting, we realized we'd be able to open up to some in-person tours."

While tour organizers were excited to have a more traditional tour option available, Whitebread said they wanted to ensure all the artists involved were comfortable with the conditions of this year's tour. They finally decided on a multiple view-

ing option tour, where each artist could select the viewing style which best suited them and their art.

Option 1: Virtual Tour. Guests can tack a virtual studio tour through the online brochure on the Uxbridge Studio Tour website.

Option 2: Outdoor Studio Tour. Guests can book a visiting time with the artist(s) they want to visit and respect physical distancing protocols.

Option 3: Indoor Studio Tour. With this option, guests can book a visiting time with their selected artist(s) and wear a mask, sanitize hands and follow physical distancing protocols.

Option 4: Indoor and outdoor Studio Tour. This option simply combines Options 2 and 3.

"Artists have long been the curators of out-of-the-box thinking; our current circumstances present an opportunity to explore art in a new way. This year we are really focusing on the details of the story, the process of creating, the 'behind the scenes' experiences that really bring the art and artist to life. We are closing the gap, answering the 'who, what and why', with the intention

of bringing the viewer closer to the heart of our work," says artist Sarah Holtby. Holtby will be one of over 30 artists featured on the tour, and will be welcoming guests to her outdoor gallery.

This year, almost all the artists have opted to take part in the vir-



Sarah Holtby, one of over 30 local artists and artisans who are being featured in this year's Uxbridge Studio Tour, prepares her work for her outdoor gallery. The Uxbridge Studio Tour runs September 19 and 20. Photo submitted by Sarah Holtby

tual tour option, giving a unique insight into their personalities and the techniques they use to create. This year's tour also offers a more personal connection with the artists, as tour guests will be in much smaller visiting groups if they choose the in-person viewing options.

"Whether you choose to experience art virtually or in-person, through a private tour, you get to connect with the art and artist in a way that enriches the experience," says Holtby.

Whitebread wants to remind everyone that "safety is key" for this year's tour.

"We are giving the community lots of opportunities to experience the art and artists, and it's important that our guests follow the safety protocols that we and the government have put in place in order to have a safe tour. We won't have on-site washrooms available, so we also encourage everyone to plan their route accordingly."

The tour is sponsored by several Uxbridge cafés and restaurants which are offering patio dining and takeaway options during the tour.

A full How-To guide to the 2020 tour is available on the Studio Tour website at uxbridgestudiotour.com. It is also possible to book a visiting time and learn about participating artists on the site.



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Our two cents

Hitting the books too soon?

Normally we'd have the Canadian National Exhibition going on right now, signalling that back-to-school time is just around the corner. But as we know, nothing is really "normal" right now, least of all going back to school. We're all getting regular updates from the provincial government, stating what it wants to see happen across Ontario when schools open their doors in September, but we can't even say "when schools open their doors on Sept. 8" - that won't be the case for a lot of school districts across the province. Many school boards have opted to delay the opening of school until the following week (Sept. 15), and that's a move that should be applauded. Just because "normally" the kids head back to class the day after Labour Day, it doesn't mean that it has to be that way in 2020. Nothing else has gone as planned, why should back-to-school?

There is so much to consider when opening the schools up - not just student and teacher safety, but the safety of the support staff, administrative staff, custodians, school bus drivers, and cross-walk monitors. For the province and 76 various school boards to all come up with the protocols, rules, policies, and procure all the plexiglass, anti-bacterial wipes and various PPE that will be required is a monumental task that should not be taken lightly, or rushed through. And we're pretty sure that not one of these organizations has ever had to deal with anything like this before, so they all deserve to be cut a little slack. We're noticing that many individuals, unions, even governments are very ready to criticize other individuals, unions and governments for how the start of the school year is being handled. Criticism isn't going to make everyone safe - working calmly and thoughtfully together is.

We think it might be better if the "It's September and school must start" mentality disappeared. The government and school boards should map out the logistics of what the public school system should like right now, work out how to achieve that plan, and THEN announce that school can begin on such-and-such a date. Rushing things just to ensure that things stay as "normal as possible" can only lead to tears. Are students getting restless at home? You bet. Are teachers anxious to start working with their charges again? We hope so. Are school staff nervous about going into a set-up that may be half-assed organized and maybe even life-threatening? We'd be confident saying yes, they are. Are parents looking to school for childcare? They are. But anything worth doing is worth doing right the first time. If delaying the start of school just once in the history of mankind is going to make back-to-school right, then delay it. The earth won't stop rotating on its axis. The young ones' brains won't turn to mush. And COVID-19 won't be given even a little chance to make its way into a population that, until now, has remained unscathed. Isn't that worth putting everything on hold even a little?

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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9,500 copies of The Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge: 8,800 delivered by mail, 700 available in stores and boxes.

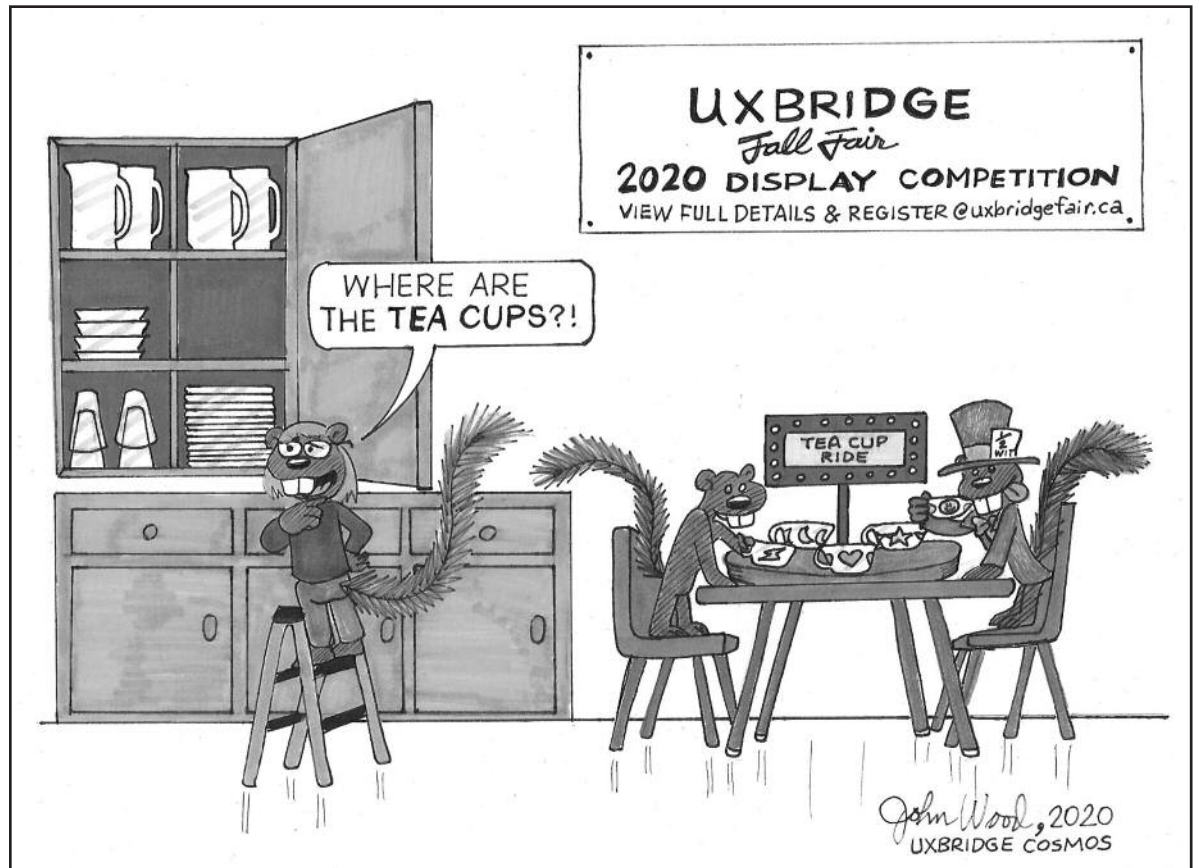
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Letters to the Editor

Re: Northeast Letter to the Editor, Aug. 20 edition

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused great upheaval in many areas, and food production from farmer to consumer has not been spared. The logistical nightmare that was caused at the onset of the pandemic by the run on groceries at the stores, and the total shutdown of the food services industry meant that everything from lettuce to fish and, of course, eggs and milk, could not be delivered to stores in a timely manner before it spoiled, in packaging that could be sold or given away to those in need.

In addition, food banks could not handle the influx of product that was available at that stressful time in April when the surplus happened; they simply did not have the storage available for perishable foods.

It took a bit of time to shift food production and processing aimed at commercial buyers (i.e.: restaurants) to prepare it for household consumers. The Surplus Food Rescue program bridges this gap, helping those in food production make changes to be able to redistribute food to feed more Canadians.

To be clear, farmers have a history of donating to those in need. For the dairy year that ended July 2019, Dairy Farmers of Ontario donated 911,000 litres of milk to food banks. For the dairy year that ended July 2020, we were on pace to donate over 1 million litres to Feed Ontario, the organization that oversees food banks in Ontario. Also, a recent post on Twitter from @getcracking read "donating 70,020 eggs" to local families.

Farm families are the backbone of this country and do give in times of need to feed this hungry nation day in and day out. With the help of our suppliers, processors and distributors that have worked, and continue to

work, through COVID-19, farmers supply food for everyone.

**The Ashton Family
Uxbridge**

Re: 'Our two cents', Aug. 6 edition

What was it that folks were told about the overgrowth of weeds downtown? Lack of funds? Lack of people power? Please be patient?

Well, imagine how pleased I am right now that, on a Wednesday morning starting at 3 a.m. and without any warning at all, the township is out with a brightly-lighted vehicle that wakes the neighbourhood and honestly sounds like an alien invasion. It's repainting the parking spot lines around and in front of the Seniors/Youth Centre - which is completely surrounded by residences - whether they need it or not.

How especially helpful it is to do this during the pandemic when the facility isn't even open or in use. How absolutely not disruptive to the sleepy neighborhood at all when, even when the facility IS open, the parking spots sit empty more often than not.

There are far more appropriate and respectful times to do this. But of course, even when the neighbourhood's actual residents reach out to the township to complain, request the courtesy of advance notice, and propose better times (and in my case, even half-seriously volunteer to do it myself with a hand roller and a stencil), we're told we're wrong and that township officials who don't spend any time here at all know better than we do.

Thank goodness we have these elected officials to prioritize for us.

**Jessie Davis
Uxbridge**

Around 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, something stirs me from my sleep. I hear

a low rumbling noise which seems to be getting louder. And it is. And then the bright flashing lights come into view. And as the truck and machine get closer to my house and the noise gets ever greater, I see what is happening. All the lines of the parking lots starting at Uxpool, along Parkside and ending at the Seniors Centre on Marietta are being painted. Why? And why at this early hour of the morning? The lines didn't really need repainting yet; heaven knows the parking lots have not been used much lately.

And if they had to be painted, why not during daylight hours? Again, the lots are empty during the day, so that is no excuse for the early hour.

This work was a waste of our money. All it achieved was to disturb the neighbourhood.

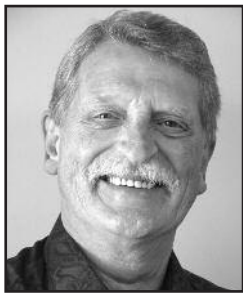
**David Moseley
Uxbridge**

RE: Ask a policeman? I don't think so ('Am I Wrong?', July 30 edition)

It's a shame that you have buried some serious and legitimate issues within a piece full of catastrophizing, and confirmation bias against the men and women who put their lives on the line every day in this town, province, and country to protect us. That you draw no distinction between American-style policing and the unrest our southern neighbours currently face, and the environment in Canada, is even more disappointing.

We need to have a conversation about the role of law enforcement in modern society. But we also need to have conversations about poverty, education, healthcare, and how different communities are disparately impacted by their access to basic rights. The same CBC article from

...continued on page 11



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

O'Toole will need a thicker skin

Erin O'Toole, who at one time served as our member of Parliament when Uxbridge was part of Durham riding, has been elected leader of the federal Conservative party. One of the first things he will have to do is develop a thicker skin, because he apparently doesn't like criticism.

When O'Toole was first elected in the November 26, 2012, by-election to replace Bev Oda - (she of the \$16-a-glass orange juice) - I was perhaps the first to interview him. As I recall, the day after his election he drove back to Bowmanville from Ottawa and met me in a restaurant where I conducted a "Cup of Coffee With..." interview, which I then had to write up quickly to make the deadline for that week's issue of the *Cosmos*. I had always liked his dad, John, who was an MPP, and found the son to be a likeable fellow.

However, in the weeks that followed, his Twitter account saw him resorting to the same kind of rhetoric that the then-Harper government was so fond of throwing around. I replied to a number of O'Toole's tweets, calling him out for some of the remarks he made. I remember one tweet to him in particular. I told him: "I expected better of you." None of my tweets were belligerent or vituperative: they merely said I was disappointed in some of the things he was posting on social media. The result? He blocked me from his Twitter account.

Now that he is leader of the Conservatives, O'Toole can expect to receive a lot of criticism, some deserved, some not, from many more people than just myself. But whether it's deserved or not, the new leader had better be able to accept it. He can't block everyone who criticizes him from his social media platforms.

The day after being elected leader, O'Toole held his first news conference. It seemed as though he's already concerned about facing criticism.

"You'll also be hearing a lot of Liberal spin about me," he said. In other words, he's saying any criticism that comes his way will be phony, or to use the word that's become so popular with right-wing politicians of late, "fake."

So - let me be one of the first to throw a criticism at him. In his campaign for the leadership, O'Toole said he and his party

would "take back Canada." Take it back? Take it back from whom? From where? The last time I looked, Canada was still there: no one had taken it. I know it's political sloganeering, but it is an empty, meaningless statement.

And if Canada is to be "taken back," one of the first things O'Toole has to do is quash the "Wexit" talk on the prairies. Of course, no one with a modicum of intelligence believes that any part of the west, particularly Alberta, can separate from Canada, but such talk causes divisions within the Conservative ranks, and that party has seen enough divisions in the past couple of decades to give any leader cause for concern. Of course, O'Toole has come out as a strong supporter of Alberta - (it really is the birthplace of the current Conservative party, being the province that gave rise to the Reform party) - but if he is seen to pay too much attention to that province he risks alienating Quebecers and even Ontarians.

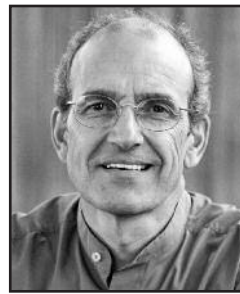
On top of that, he has to worry about Conservative Ontario Premier Doug Ford, who has publicly stated he will not campaign for the national party in the next federal election. In addition, Ford is quoted by CTV as saying he has a "phenomenal relationship" with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

O'Toole says he is ready for an election any time Trudeau calls one. But if he can't count on Ford and Ontario, O'Toole had better hope an election does not come soon. The Conservative party does not take kindly to leaders who lose elections, and without Ontario, O'Toole can't win.

One thing working in O'Toole's favour right now is the basic invisibility of the NDP and Green parties. It's almost as though they don't even exist anymore. So, when the election does come, it's likely to be a two-horse race.

It seems to me that O'Toole has taken on a big job for someone who has only been in politics for eight years. It won't take much for him to outshine the lacklustre performance of former leader Andrew Scheer, but fixing the divisions within his party - (and handling criticism) - might prove too much.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

As plain as the culvert under our street

A few days ago, my daughter - who's recently joined me on my morning walks - posed a provocative question:

"How come we haven't got a bridge in Uxbridge?" she asked.

I didn't have an answer. But it occurred to both of us that we have an opportunity to change that. Since construction crews have ripped open most of the main thoroughfare through downtown to make way for the renovation of the underground flow of the Uxbridge Brook, here might be an ideal chance. Why not, we thought, somewhere along that now gaping thoroughway for storm and other water passageways, make an effort to include some sort of bridgeworks that might reflect our name?

Now, you may know this, but I've discovered that the origin of our town being named "Uxbridge" has more to do with bureaucracy than with bridges or that other Uxbridge in suburban London, England. Apparently, one of the traditions held over from Ontario's British heritage, requires that the first post office opened (once a township is established), must be the same as the township name - thus Uxbridge Township bestowed the name Uxbridge on this community.

Anyway, why not take some advantage of the trench in our midst - instead of burying it all for another hundred years - to create something practical, attractive, utilitarian and perhaps a centerpiece for a downtown park adjacent to Brock Street shops, movie theatre, boutiques and storefronts? And it might also get some of us off the hook when asked, "So where's the Uxbridge bridge?"

In part, such thinking emerged during a recent visit to one of the now thriving communities in Ontario's busy wine country - Picton, in Prince Edward County. While there, I got into a conversation with a local resident about PEC history and how it's preserved ... or not preserved.

"Oh, you mean the controversy over the statue of Sir John A. Macdonald?"

"No," I said. "But the problem may be just as tough to navigate."

Downtown, on the main street in Picton, stands a life-sized statue of our first prime minister - I mean the bronze figure looks as if John A. just stepped out of a local coffee shop. (Macdonald had run his cousin's corporate law office in Picton, in 1834). Well, ever since we've recently begun reassessing whom we chose to commemorate in statues, the people of Picton have clashed quite openly about the bronze Sir

John. Some point out Macdonald's support for residential schools; others remind us he was a father of Canadian Confederation. And while town council and the public debate, the statue has been spray-painted and cleaned, and on and on.

In the interest of steering clear of the controversy, I noted that Picton has done a masterful job of preserving and celebrating much of its other history, just steps from the Macdonald statue. For example, the Picton Armory might well have bitten the dust. Built in 1913 as the home of the storied 16th Prince Edward Regiment and later as the recruiting depot for the equally famous "Hasty Ps" regiment, it's recently been transformed into an engaging indoor museum and boutique mall.

Right across the street sits the town's old post office. It too was forgotten and nearly torn down, when, in 1999, a group wishing to preserve Canada's marine heritage convinced the powers that be to save the building and convert it into a gallery, reading room and research centre for those curious about Canadian nautical history. Last year, I got lost in the Naval Marine Archive (NMA) searching for the stories of Canadian merchant navy and military navy sailors. It's an amazing modern resource preserved in a piece of Picton history.

On the other hand, Picton appears to have overlooked another chunk of its heritage. Just outside town, on about 100 acres of municipal airport land, lie the remnants of one of Canada's most unheralded wartime stories. On that spot, thousands of air cadets trained (in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan) for overseas service in the Royal Air Force and RCAF. The former No. 31 Bombing and Gunnery School today consists of a half dozen massive airplane hangars and scores of barracks huts and classroom buildings where aircrew were trained in Canada to help bring home victory in the air over Nazi Germany. All that remains today are a few memories and the (mostly) rock-solid structures built in 1940. Today, some of the buildings are art studios and storage sheds, but if somebody worked out the logistics, those hangars and barracks could house vintage aircraft and Air Force artifacts in an accurate setting, if not dozens of local cottage industries.

When it comes to building solutions in modern communities, we often can't see the forest for the trees ... or perhaps in Uxbridge's case, the bridge for the culvert.

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



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Uxbridge. This Saturday, Aug. 29, independent bookstores across Canada will joyously acknowledge the contri-

butions they make to developing and maintaining a thriving book industry. It is a day to go out and enjoy the

unique intersection of art, culture, business and opportunity that bookstores provide.

In Uxbridge, Blue Heron Books will be hosting a special in-store and out-of-store celebration for Canadian Independent Bookstore Day:

- In the morning, acclaimed author Kerry Clare will be on hand pointing out her faves and signing copies of her own books
- Local authors Ted Barris and Lucy Black will be available for recommendations and signatures
- Outdoor storytime for kids
- All day, staff will be on hand promoting their favourite picks of the season – set-up your fall reading!
- Sign-up for the newly formed Black Stories Matter Book Club and help to change your attitude, and, the world
- A spinal poetry competition with the winner taking home a prize pack of books worth \$100

• **BOOKSTORE BINGO**; come in and grab a Bingo card for your chance to win \$100 worth of books!

• **Blue Heron Crossword puzzle** – return correctly completed crossword for your chance to be a book reviewer

• Our neighbour, The Bridge Social, will be offering for purchase a literary refreshment fiesta all day long: for instance, try *Anne of Green Gables* healthy Raspberry Cordial, *To Kill A Mockingbird* Sweet (Iced) Tea or *Winnie the Pooh*, *Silly Old Bear* Afternoon Tea.

• Exclusive Margaret Atwood pouches for sale

• The Second Wedge has put a \$100 gift certificate up for grabs; every purchase at Blue Heron books on Aug. 29 is an entry in the draw!

For more information about all that Blue Heron Books is doing for Canadian Independent Bookstore Day, visit blueheronbooks.com, or call the store at 905-852-4282.

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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:

- 1 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%

- 2 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



\$1,000
Provincial Prize



**Public Virtual
Gallery Showcase**

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

Chasing butterflies in the Preserve

Submitted by Brenda Near

The “Flight of the Monarch Day,” held last Saturday, Aug. 22, was a Canada-wide event that celebrated the iconic Monarch butterfly. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) promoted this event across the GTA, encouraging municipalities and groups to participate. North Durham Nature (NDN) took up the challenge in the Uxbridge Countryside Preserve on Saturday afternoon, not phased by the 30 C heat and sunshine.

The challenge involved a hunt for Monarchs, collecting data that will be shared across the country. For one and a half hours the group scrutinized over 1,000 common milkweed plants, where they recorded five adult Monarch butterflies, seven caterpillars and three chrysalises in the north field of the Preserve.

While searching for Monarchs, NDN members encountered many other interesting insects on the milkweed plants, including amorous milkweed beetles, small milkweed bugs, soldier beetles, milkweed tiger moth caterpillars, a green shield bug, and tree crickets. Tree crickets fill the meadows with the sounds of late summer but are so cryptic that they are rarely ever seen. In addition, a juvenile Grey Treefrog was spotted by one keen-eyed participant. It perched patiently on a milkweed leaf, perfectly camouflaged among the foliage.

While the numbers of Monarchs may sound very low for the effort expended, no survey of this kind has been done at this location, so NDN had no comparative data. By following a standard survey protocol numbers can be compared with other locations, and with subsequent years, all the information will contribute to a nation-wide database at Mission Monarch. Monarch numbers can fluctuate dramatically from one year to another. NDN plans to make this an annual event so comparisons can be made locally along with wider scale trends.

This event was open not only to NDN members and their families, it was also open to the general public, so if you missed out this year watch for it again next August!

Thanks to James Kamstra for insect identification in the field and NDN naturalists Brenda Near, Derek Connelly, Mark Humphrey and Valerie Cranmer for counting all those milkweeds and bugs in the heat!

More about North Durham Nature can be found at www.northdurhamnature.com, on Facebook and by emailing northdurhamnature@gmail.com



A PENNY HOUSE UPDATE

Josh Morrison (orange hat) finally met the people who will move into his Penny House. On Aug. 18, he was introduced to the Rozentals, who will purchase the Oshawa house once it's completed (construction, which had been delayed due to COVID-19, is expected to be finished in October). Josh's Penny House campaign raised money for Habitat for Humanity to help build the house in partnership with the Rozentals.

The Penny Door, donated by someone who bought it at a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for the Penny House, will hang in a place of honour in the Rozental's new home.

Photo submitted by Gloria Morrison

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- **Face coverings** will be required for staff and students in Grades 4-12.
- **Hand hygiene** will be enabled with hand sanitizer and hand washing.
- **More nurses** will be in schools.
- **School cleaning** will be enhanced.

Visit ontario.ca/ReopeningSchools

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

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The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

Striped streaks of frolicking fun

Chipmunks live in all the forested parts of Canada, including neighbourhoods with trees. Smaller than squirrels, they are 20 - 30 cm long, about 1/3 of which is the tail, and weigh about 125 g. The eastern chipmunk has light and dark stripes that run along its head and back.

They can be quite vocal, making a wide variety of chips and squeaks. They frequently use a high pitched "chuck" repeated at one or two second intervals. This noise, scolding an intruder, is often made

from a high branch or other safe vantage point. People walking in the woods along the Uxbridge trails may confuse these calls for those of birds.

Chipmunks are fun to watch, boldly scurrying around our gardens and trees collecting seeds and nuts to store for the winter. Peanuts in the shell provide lots of entertainment as they get stuffed into cheek pouches, making chipmunks look like they've just had their wisdom teeth removed!

Chipmunks give birth to four

to six young in mid-May to mid-June. The female does all the work rearing the litter without any help from the male. At birth the young are naked and blind, and weigh about 3 g, just a bit less than a nickel. Their hair starts to show at 10 days, and their eyes open at 32 days. At seven weeks of age they start to explore outside the burrow. They grow rapidly and reach adult size by the end of September.

Seeds and nuts are their preferred foods. They collect them throughout their home range, which is between 0.4 and 1.2 hectares. Some food is stored in the burrow, and other seeds are buried in shallow holes they dig under leaves. However, they also eat insects, flowers, earthworms, berries, cherry and plum pits, mushrooms, and occasionally bird



A small chipmunk nibbles on a snack while contemplating where he's hidden his next snack - is it at home, or in a secret spot somewhere in your garden?

Photo by Jean Doucet

eggs. In early spring they may

eat young shoots and leaves.

In mid-May a section of our driveway collapsed. We thought the water line below had sprung a leak. No! It was a chipmunk burrow, complete with seeds, nuts, and nesting material! Some hot asphalt sealed the hole, about the size of a breadbox, but we were amazed by the extent of their excavation in such hard-packed material.

Chipmunks are helpful by dispersing seeds and giving them a head-start by hiding them under the leaves. They also provide hours of fun taking seeds or nuts from our hands. An encounter with a chipmunk is often a child's first experience with a wild animal. What will happen at your next meeting with a chipmunk?

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

Cheers to a Hundred Years!

Norma O'Connor is going to be 100 years young!

Please join us for a soicallly distanced drop in. Masks required.

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SEPT 5
2020

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Thank You

The Family of the late Bev Beach thank you for all the cards, food, text messages and phone calls of condolences at the time of his passing.

We send a big Thank You to all the Doctors, Nurses, Staff and Essential Workers of the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital for their dedication and compassion to Bev over these past three months. It was greatly appreciated especially during the times of no visitation due to COVID.

Thank you to Low and Low Funeral Home for all their help before and during the burial.

The Family would like to thank Brian Evans for his excellent service at the grave site. It was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by everyone who attended the service.

Thank you also to Susan for her extra help that day as well.

The Family would also like to thank the Uxbridge Township Council and the Uxbridge Township Fire Dept. for giving Bev a great honour of the lowering of the flags in his memory.

Norma Beach and Family

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Perspectives with Brian Evans

One of the dangers of planning for financial objectives is that in certain economic conditions, a person can sense an ungrounded need to chase what appears to be an opportunity or a direction outside of their chosen strategy. Sometimes these impulses turn out to be more destructive to the long-term plan and can cause someone to veer off a good path.

I am reminded of a proverb given to us by King Solomon who had been given great wisdom. He said in the book of Proverbs, “steady plodding brings prosperity.”

A number of years later, Aesop, who lived in ancient Greece and was skilled at telling stories, related a fable about the Tortoise and the Hare. The moral was recorded as, ‘Slow and steady wins the race!’ You might want to read that inspired account again.

Maybe there are times as we rush through life trying to reach a goal faster than others when we are dis-

tracted and pushed off our set direction. Like the hare who saw a scrumptious patch of grass and a beautiful place to take a nap, we make the assumption that there is no problem since, of course, we are fast and can catch up anyway...right?

Most financial advisors will help to develop a diversified mix of products in your investment portfolio. Each product makes specific contributions to your long (or short) term goals based on its specific advantages. For instance, fixed income products and GICs offer a higher level of security with guaranteed income, while equity investments offer potentially higher growth rates yet with probable fluctuations in value. It is not whether one is more right than another. It is the balance of these in your portfolio which fits your investor profile and objectives that allows it to work for you. Impulse adjustments based on speculation and presumptions can have signifi-

cantly damaging effects on the outcome of your plan.

If interest rates are very low, you might want to adjust the duration of the terms chosen for fixed income and GICs. If markets have corrected significantly, you might want to consider directing your additional plan contributions into your equity investments that are ‘on sale’ for a time. Those consistent deposits to your investments are vital for the success of your plan!

Whatever the economic conditions, you and your advisor should regularly review your plan, your investment diversification and your acceptable balance of security and risk to ensure your comfort level is maintained.

It may not be exciting or exotic, but the truth is...the steady plodding will have demonstrated how effective it really is once you get to the finish line. In the meantime, it is a lot like work!

A GLIMPSE BACK IN TIME

This photo, taken at the culvert construction site around Aug. 18, reveals the original stone arch culvert that was built by Tom Love 122 years ago. The black pipe inside is a temporary one carrying water from the Uxbridge Brook. Three loads of the stones have been taken to the works yard, and may some day be part of a reconstruction. Some logs were also found at the site and are suspected to have been part of the first bridge on Brock St., built around 1844. These too have been removed for preservation and investigation.

Material submitted by Tom Fowle



Remembering a Friend with Gerry Noble

I remember Ross James, a long-time Uxbridge resident who died August 17, in his 87th year.

I was stopped at the red-light, inspecting the signs all around of the town’s progress. Nearby, the first house he built still guards the edge of the road, surrounded now by progress instead of hay fields. Time paved over a life that was. My eyes welled up, surprising me. I had passed his house many times before, but today was different. Yesterday Ross died. Memories crowded.

I pictured the paths beaten from years of eager feet and hundreds of trips across the farm fields connecting our rural homes so many years ago, like arteries carrying the lifeblood of a shared childhood. I did not have a brother, so Wayne and Larry were surrogates. Thrown together by fortunate coincidence in a rural neighbourhood that was a young boys paradise, we did everything together.

Ross was Wayne and Larry’s dad. He owned a trucking business and was always busy. Marie was their mother, the prettiest mom of all my

friends. Able to tame the truculence of young boys while responding to the needs of an industrious young entrepreneur, Marie was the perfect complement to Ross.

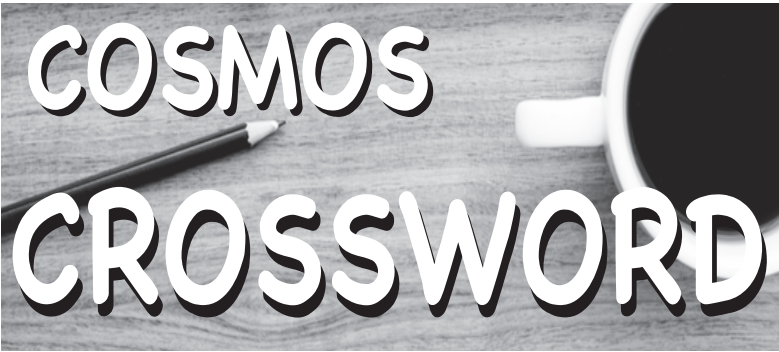
I remember Ross as a decent dad when it came to dishing discipline to Wayne, Larry and I, who were always testing his boundaries. He was patient with us as he helped us learn to ride Wayne’s “new” bicycle. He was forgiving despite our noise during important Sunday afternoon “nap” time. He built our confidence letting us steer his boat on Lake Scugog, and his skidoo in the back field. Cajoled by Wayne, we hid in the garage and watched his dad display grace and empathy to an employee whose job he had to terminate.

As I reflect using the long lens of experience, Ross was like a second dad to me at that stage in early life when character develops – and he was a fine example to emulate. He was hard working, loving, fair, tolerant, successful and he set clear boundaries. I have not seen Ross for 30 years, but I can still hear his laugh. It was a laugh that absorbed his eyes

and welcomed all within range to join in. It was a laugh revealing a confident man, happy in life.

Ross and Marie’s first home endures as evidence to the quality of their work, and a testament of a rural life long forgotten. It is now an office of some trade, welcoming and disgorging clients through doors that once swung with the screams of young boys intent on their next adventure. His carefully manicured lawn that was host to numerous birthday parties and summer campouts now suffocates under layers of asphalt. The arteries connecting our rural community echo memories of a cherished childhood.

The passing of Ross summons a signpost; a time to remember a simpler time, and a time to celebrate a man who was decent, who lived a full life, with a positive influence in those who were privileged to be near him. I am fortunate to have many memories of those formative years in my life that include Ross and Marie, Wayne and Larry. I regret that I wasn’t able to hear that laugh once again.



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Across

- 1 "In your dreams!" (2 words)
- 5 Sales caller
- 8 Not crazy
- 12 Expert adviser
- 13 Arthur Godfrey played it
- 14 When
- 15 Dentist's request
- 16 Profoundness
- 18 Splashed around
- 20 Happen
- 23 Vatican related
- 27 Protect against wet weather
- 31 More
- 32 Percentage rate
- 33 Mayhem
- 35 Home of the brave
- 36 Fortune
- 38 Take boats across rivers
- 40 Way down
- 42 Bridge positions
- 43 60s strike (2 words)
- 47 Fighter for a cause
- 50 Asian ruler
- 54 Primo
- 55 ___late, do better than
- 56 Anomalous
- 57 Spiffy
- 58 Matter for a judge
- 59 Business V.I.P.

Down

- 1 Earlier
- 2 Break bread

- 3 Hotness under the collar
- 4 Amusing play on words (2 words)
- 5 European freshwater fish
- 6 Skimped
- 7 Rind
- 8 Kid's treat
- 9 Primate
- 10 Board room votes
- 11 Naval rank for short
- 17 Sparkle
- 19 Gym motion, perhaps
- 20 Tough tests
- 21 Head
- 22 Approximately
- 24 Fruits
- 25 It's a plus
- 26 Reclines
- 28 Buffoon
- 29 5th is a famous one
- 30 Rocky peak
- 34 Ship members
- 37 Fate
- 39 NY baseball player
- 41 Light into
- 44 Layer in a wedding cake
- 45 Volcano feature
- 46 Load
- 47 Soup holder
- 48 Cultivate
- 49 Gasteyer of "Mean Girls"
- 51 Spell
- 52 Verb for you
- 53 The Big Apple



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EVENTS

HORSESHOES: Come & play Horseshoes at the Uxbridge Historical Centre on Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. We follow COVID-19 protocol. Call Bob Kirvan to enroll 905-852-9176 or for information. 9/3

1	A	2	S	3	I	4	F	5	R	6	E	7	P	8	S	9	A	10	N	11	E
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The Uxbridge
COSMOS

Letters, from page 4

where (I assume) you drew your statistic about police-related fatalities also goes on to quote University of Toronto Professor Akwasi Owusu-Bempah: "I think in many of these instances the police are justified in using the force that they did, but we need to look at the greater circumstances surrounding these issues and surrounding the environment in which these use-of-force cases take place."

I caution you against the use of anecdote and speculation to make your points. You cite a handful of examples where encounters with police led to death or injury, but offer no information as to the circumstances leading up to the interaction with police, or the outcome of subsequent investigations. But you do take the sweeping liberty to suggest that all of your examples are evidence of police showing "no mercy to anyone." This kind of speculation is dangerous, especially coming from a position of power, which you have. I wonder if you will actually have the nerve to tell the next Durham Regional Police officer you encounter in Tim Horton's that you "no longer have any respect" for them. But if you do, I suspect you will not be mistreated.

You are dancing around problems that absolutely need to be discussed and debated, but instead of offering thoughtful, measured, and well-informed insight, I fear your rhetoric will only serve to cement the feelings of those who already agree with you, and alienate those who do not.

Christine McKenzie
Uxbridge

The smooth rock which was the step for children's access, and the post with a closure sign are all that is left of the Children's Mini Library on Planks Lane.

It was the first Mini Library in Uxbridge, and its owners made it so much more. It was a prize point for geocachers in the area. It served as a mini food bank at the beginning of

COVID-19, and more recently the sidewalk nearby was designated as "Silly Walk Space." Creativity and a laugh during a time when we just began leaving our homes for fresh air.

But now, due to repeated acts of vandalism, the owners have felt it necessary to close it.

Thank you, Nancy and Mark, for the many years and ways in which you have served the Uxbridge community, especially the children. Your Uxbridge icon will always be remembered for the stone step.

Julie Gold
Uxbridge

In memory of a precious mother, grandmother
and great grandmother

Helen Elizabeth Rynard

July 16, 1916 ~ August 11, 1996

Loving you always, forgetting you never.

In memory of a precious aunt

Catherine Jean Rynard

October 4, 1917 ~ August 31, 2013

Your presence we miss, your memories we treasure.

Love always,
Sandra & Wes, Scott, Katherine, Kyle, Liz & Carolyn

JAMES, Ross Allan

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great-Grandfather on Monday, August 17, 2020. He passed peacefully at Markham Stouffville Hospital surrounded by the love of his family.

Born on December 10, 1933, to Hilda and Goldie James, Ross was the youngest of four siblings: Ruth, Betty and brother Lorne. He is survived by his wife and best friend of 65 years, Marie (née Sonley), sons Wayne (Anne) and Larry (Andrea). Ross was a supportive and loving grandfather to Michael (Courtney), Kyle (Jodi), Carly (Jeff), Lesley (Simon), Samantha (Paul), Melanie and five great-grandchildren.

After leaving home at an early age, Ross moved to Toronto to begin a career in the banking industry, but shortly after returned to Uxbridge to establish his trucking business, 'Ross James Haulage'. This business continued to grow to supply several concrete and ready mix facilities. During this time, he built three family homes in Uxbridge. At the age of 55, Ross retired from trucking to spend his early retirement years building a family cottage in Dorset and travelling. He went on to his second career as a successful salesman for Brooklin Concrete.

A proud lifelong resident of Uxbridge, Ross was an active member of the community, including acting as president of the Kinsmen Club and Uxbridge Minor Hockey. In his second retirement, Ross devoted most of his time to family and enjoyed woodworking hobbies.

We wish to thank all who loved and supported Ross throughout his life. Family meant everything to Ross and he will live in our hearts forever.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made in memory of Ross to the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Foundation or a charity close to your heart. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). Online condolences can be made at www.lowandlow.ca.



BEGGS, Ina Grace

December 22, 1923 ~
August 21, 2020



Ina died peacefully at the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital in her 97th year. Lovingly survived by her sister Marlene Gribble (late Harold). Predeceased by her brothers: Howard Beggs (Alice Gauthier) and Bruce Beggs (Verna). Fondly remembered by her nieces and nephews from 3 generations and many friends. Ina was a caring and generous person who put others before herself. She was a lifetime member of Community of Christ Church.

At Ina's request, cremation has taken place and a private graveside service will be held at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, P.O. Box 388, Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). In lieu of flowers, donations to World Accord or



the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Foundation in Ina's memory would be appreciated. For online condolences, please visit www.lowandlow.ca

COX/MEEK, Evelyn

Jan. 9, 1930 ~ Aug. 23, 2020



It saddens the family to announce the passing of our dear mother, Evelyn Cox-Meek.

Evelyn, a lifelong resident of Scott (Uxbridge) Township, passed away suddenly at Butternut Manor in her 91st year.

Evelyn was married 44 years to the late Ivan Cox, who passed in 1992, and was married to Bob Meek for the past 21 years. Evelyn is survived by her sister Noreen Crosier (the late Don) and late brother Morley Ross (Laura). Loving mother of Gloria (Sandy Ewen), Murray (Elaine Walker) and Janet (James Rose). Grandmother to Lynne Wilkinson, Susanne Armour, Jeffrey Ewen, Robert Cox, Trevor Cox, Vanessa Rose and Kyra Rose. Great Grandmother to Tyler and Brooke Wilkinson, Meara and Elyse Armour, Katie Cox, Addison and Ryland Cox. Evelyn was also a beloved aunt to many nieces and nephews. Evelyn was also a great step-mother to the late George Meek, the late Ruthanne Meek, Carol Mallet (Rick) and David Meek (Dorina) and their respective families.

Evelyn regularly attended Sandford United Church and was always there to help with fund-raising dinners for the Sandford community. She also volunteered at the Cottage Hospital.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Foundation, Sandford United Church, Community Living Durham North or a charity of your choice which would honour Evelyn's life.

A private family and close friends' service will be held at the Foster Memorial Cemetery, after which Evelyn will be laid to rest with her late husband Ivan. In keeping with COVID-19 restrictions, all attendees are asked to wear a mask and maintain social distancing. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073).

Online condolence can be made at www.lowandlow.ca

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DURHAM REGION

Four bag limit for garbage returns September 8

Garbage bag limits were temporary extended on March 27 from four (4) to six (6) bags to ease the impact of COVID-19 on residents working and schooling from home.

Starting September 8, residents can place up to four (4) bags at the curb every other week. Bags over the limit will require a garbage bag tag. For garbage bag tag information and locations, visit durham.ca/waste.

Never forget your garbage day again! Download the "Durham Region Waste" App. Available on both Apple and Android. If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-667-5671.