

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 35

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, September 10, 2020



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THAT WAS ONE LONG MARCH BREAK - SpongeBob SquarePants, a.k.a. *Cosmos* cartoonist John Wood, sees a local family safely across Brock St. as they escort an eager student back to school Tuesday morning. Uxbridge schools open their doors this week after almost six months of being locked down because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo by John Cavers

Uxbridge arena opening delayed until at least October

by Roger Varley

Following more than an hour of discussion on the subject, Uxbridge council decided last Wednesday to keep the arena closed until at least mid-October.

A report to council by community services director Amanda Ferraro said the arena will lose money this year, because of the impact of COVID-19. With revenue estimated at 60 per cent of what the 2020 budget called for, the loss is expected to be about \$168,000 if the arena opens this month.

Ward 3 councillor Bruce Garrod, chair of the finance committee, noted the township is already facing about \$1 million in losses and opening the arena will see a significant increase based on Ferraro's projected numbers.

"I have concerns about opening when we don't have actual figures," he said. "If there's a second wave (of COVID-19 infections), recreational hockey will likely be the first affected with parents pulling their kids out."

Todd Snooks, councillor for Ward 5, noting the re-opening of schools, suggested council might want to delay opening the arena until October "so we can see what happens in the schools. I'm concerned about jumping the gun."

He added that opening the arena and opening Uxpool are different scenarios, noting it is easier to control participants at the pool.

Ferraro said she had contacted all user groups to see what ice-time they needed and the North Durham Minor Hockey Association would be most affected by a delayed opening. She said the NDMHA had seen a growth in registration with 900 children registered. She said if the arena does not open until October, it might lose some renters to other arenas. She added, however, that both Uxbridge and Scugog arena have filled all their prime skating hours.

Mayor Dave Barton acknowledged that "this is a difficult decision for all of us."

"Even schools don't know how many kids will show up and they're doing staggered starts," he

said. "If we delay, time will be on our side and we'll make better decisions."

Council unanimously approved Snooks' motion to delay the opening and a second motion to revisit the subject on Oct. 5.

Ferraro also outlined the protocols set in place for when the arena does re-open. Each ice pad will be considered a separate building with a total of 50 people allowed in each one at any time. That 50 includes skaters, coaches, officials and spectators. The separation of the two pads will be extended to the lobby which is already divided with a barricade. All dressing room washrooms and showers will be boarded up and hockey players will have to arrive wearing their equipment. Time will be allowed between each user group to let staff clean and disinfect areas.

The decision to keep the arena closed might well be moot, since the Ontario government announced Tuesday afternoon that that current

...continued on page 11

Inside Your Cosmos

Inside a corny talepage 5

Nothing to sneeze atpage 11

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for September, 2020

Monday, September 14, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING
11:30 a.m. PUBLIC PLANNING
MEETING
ZBA 2020-02 – STOUFFVILLE GLASS
(CAIRO)
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, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING

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

Tender U20-23 Snow Removal for Municipal Parking Lots

Tender for the snow removal from municipal parking lots.
Sealed Tenders will be received until 2:00 p.m. local time Tuesday, September 22, 2020 by:
Debbie Leroux, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
Township of Uxbridge
51 Toronto Street South
P.O. Box 190
Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1T1

Lowest or any bid not necessarily accepted. This Bid Document is posted on the Township of Uxbridge's website at https://uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders under Current Bid Opportunities and is available by following the registration instructions on that page. Please ensure that when you download the document, you add your company's name to the Document Takers List in order to receive any addenda that may be issued. For questions regarding downloading of documents, contact the Clerk's Department at 905-852-9181, Ext. 220.

FROM THE TAX OFFICE.

Property Tax due date is September 28, 2020.

Tax Payments Options:

- At Township Municipal Office with cash, cheque or debit. Credit cards and e-transfers are not accepted for tax payments.
- In an after-hours Drop Box located in the Municipal Office front parking lot. – DO NOT DEPOSIT CASH Post-dated cheques accepted;
- By Mail - Payments must reach the Municipal Office by the due date;
- Through Internet or Telephone Banking;
- At most Financial Institutions.

Penalty/Interest Charges:

For non-payment of a tax levy on or before the respective due dates of each installment, a penalty of 1.25% shall be imposed on the first day of each calendar month and thereafter in

which the default continues. Failure to receive a Tax Bill does not excuse the taxpayer from responsibility for payment of taxes nor liability of any penalty or interest due to late payments.

The penalty/interest charges cannot be waived or reduced by the Tax Department or Council for any reason.

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

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

Employment Opportunities

Complete details of these positions are available at www.uxbridge.ca/careers

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

Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, Parking Enforcement

Resumés will be accepted at:
Town Hall, Attention Kristina Bergeron, By-law Manager, 51 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1, or by email at kbergeron@uxbridge.ca

Applications will be accepted up to September 14 at 5:00 p.m.

NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE

DOWNTOWN UXBRIDGE IS
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Centennial Drive is closed to through traffic and pedestrians until the end of Dec. Brock St. is closed to traffic until mid- October (weather permitting)

Please follow detour signs and leave extra time to reach your destination if travelling through Downtown Uxbridge.

PEDESTRIAN ROUTES

Pedestrians can use the footpath through Centennial Park to travel between Bascom St. and the parking lot behind the library.

To access Brock St. stores along Brock St. use the footpath behind Circle K Variety store.

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Roxy Theatres
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Royal Lepage Frank Real Estate
Toronto St. Businesses
Brock St. Businesses

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Circle K Variety
Capt. George's Fish & Chips
Travel Plus
All Seasons Driving School
Sugar FX
Sushi Park
Audiovision Plus
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Goodwood concerts spark ire and accusations

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A recent series of afternoon and late-night concerts at a rural property in Goodwood has sparked numerous complaints to the township, racially-based accusations from the concert organizer, and concern about possible spread of COVID-19.

On August 1, an event management and marketing company called 416AndTheCity held an event at a property called Green Grass Estates, located at 5340 Conc. 4 in Goodwood. Richard Marshall, the owner of 416AndTheCity and the renter of the Goodwood property, said in an email to the *Cosmos* that 416AndTheCity brought its events to Uxbridge because "we were invited to bring entertainment due to a lack of events and any live parties." He did not specify who issued this invitation.

Marshall said that, as the company was preparing for the Aug. 1 event, which was he called "a private party for their office and bankers and real estate people," they were met with "racist slurs, threats, and also physical assault on myself," from unhappy neighbours. He went on to state that, at the next event, a wedding reception, the organizers continued be ha-

rassed by local residents, and received a visit from township officials.

"The mayor's assistant came to our event at 8:30 p.m. to make more threats to us. She was from the mayor's office and wanted to shut down our wedding party and get us out of the neighbourhood," claimed Marshall.

Marshall also said that neighbours and township staff were "threaten us and also assaulting me with physical assault and verbal abuse and racial discriminate assaulting words to my company and my staff (*sic*)."

Durham Regional Police were also reportedly called to the scene. Marshall stated that, after showing the police around their venue and explaining their "zero-tolerance policy for anything but respect and safety to all our patrons," the officers left.

Word of these events and disturbances spread quickly around the community, with many locals taking to Facebook (namely the Connecting in Uxbridge Township page) to question the loud music, the number of parked cars lining the sides of Conc. 4, and the large number of people gathering on the property while COVID-19 regulations are in effect. After being tagged in multiple comments, Mayor Dave Barton wrote a post saying that the township was

taking the events and the complaints "very seriously," and that the township was "pushing extremely hard for meaningful support from all enforcement agencies."

In his post, the mayor railed against what he called personal attacks on himself, the town, township staff, the police and residents made by 416AndTheCity staff, and addressed a series of comments that were reportedly made on Instagram which accused township staff of making

The Canadian Reggae Festival was supposed to happen last weekend in Goodwood. It was called off because event organizers said they felt "unsafe" in Uxbridge.

racist comments. The posts have since been removed from Instagram.

He went on to note that the township had offered to work with the organizers to find a location within the municipality that was appropriately zoned, as the property in question is currently zoned for agricultural use.

"We obviously do not make by-law

decisions based on race," said Barton in the post. "We are attempting to have these events move to a property that is zone for events, apply for required permits and follow the rules that are in place."

In his email, Marshall says that, after several confrontations, 416AndTheCity decided to cancel future events at the Green Grass Estates venue.

"We were forced to cancel the event because of the threats from the mayor and also the threats we were facing from the neighbour," he said.

"We had enough of the racial assaulting words about the color of our skin and the black small business that we have worked so hard to be above board."

Marshall also stated that he has filed reports of these threats, mentioning he feels unsafe in the town.

Uxbridge Township communications officer Colleen Baskin told the *Cosmos* that "the Township vehemently denies that the investigation on this file was motivated by racial prejudice."

"Any Township communication to and with the property owner and event organizer was professional, courteous and factual. Our actions were solely guided by the legislation and by-laws we have in effect."

The *Cosmos* did reach out to several residents who had posted comments on Facebook and Instagram regarding the situation, but those contacted were reluctant to speak on the record.

Since the province began permitting gatherings of up to 100 people as part of Stage 3, the Township has reportedly not issued any permits for any special events.



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The Uxbridge
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Our two cents

Even change has changed

Back in the day, when the world was young, Labour Day heralded a season of change.

After the laid-back, gentle days of summer vacation, we happily (for the most part) embraced all the different changes that were upon us: people went back to work, children and youth returned to school, new fall fashions emerged, as did new television programming and new car models. In sports, football would be entering the make-or-break run-up to the playoffs, baseball would be doing likewise and the NHL would be gearing up for the start of a new season. Parents would be registering their children for all kinds of sports programs, and thousands of volunteers across the province would be preparing for their annual fall fairs. The leaves would be turning colour for their fall display and the weather would be starting to become a little cooler.

Then, along came 2020. It is still the same this year - but there are changes because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many people have still not returned to work, and a recent Statistics Canada survey shows a large percentage are continuing to work from home. Schools are open once more, but with staggered starts that see some children beginning classes earlier than others and actual hours of in-class attendance cut considerably, to be replaced by on-line learning. We haven't seen a lot of news about new fall and winter fashions, new television programming could be less than normal because production has been impacted by the coronavirus and new car models - well, the days when we eagerly anticipated the unveiling of new designs vanished years ago.

As for the major sports leagues, it's anyone's guess what will be happening there. That's pretty much the same with local amateur sports organizations who aren't sure when they can restart their programs. As for fall fairs, it appears the majority will not be happening this year.

However, the leaves are changing colour and the weather has become a little cooler. Who says weather is unpredictable?

But overall, even the change has changed. And, just maybe, there will be a change in us, in our attitudes, in our approach to life.

We can bemoan the fact that our lives have been altered or even turned upside down and wish that things were the way they used to be. Or we can accept that what we once considered normal is no more and likely never will be. If we take the first approach, we can be assured that however much we moan, it will not change the circumstances in which we find ourselves. If we take the second approach, it opens the possibility of making whatever adaptations are needed to deal with the situation and create a new normal. After all, Darwin's *Origin of Species* was not about survival of the fittest: it was about the survival of those ready and willing to adapt to circumstances.

We have seen numerous examples of what happens when people refuse to adapt, especially in these COVID-19 times: attend a party and run the risk of being infected; go to church services and see a spike in cases; refuse to wear a mask and put others as well as yourself at risk of contracting this hideous disease.

Many of our local businesses are good examples of how to adapt to these trying times. They have found innovative ways of serving their customers as best they can. Sure, some of them (many of them?) are suffering financially, but only a few have given up the struggle. To be sure, many people who found themselves out of work because of the pandemic are suffering financially as well. But a little innovation, a little adaptation, can help relieve some of the stress.

Perhaps the biggest change we should be looking forward to at this time of year is in ourselves.

So, yes, we do have the change we associate with Labour Day, but this year it is different. It's almost as though the change is doing stutter steps.



Letters to the Editor

I have read about Uxbridge having managed to keep the COVID cases under control compared to other hot spots in the country, and kudos to all involved. I see and that, in every commercial establishment, we are wearing masks and trying to social distance and sanitize our hands as we enter, which I believe is a good thing.

However, on the way into town last Wednesday, we passed the skate park just north of town. At a conservative guess, there were at least 100 kids and adults freely wheeling and socializing without any sign of a mask on anyone or social distancing.

Am I missing something? I understand it is an outdoor activity, but

still - that many people in an constricted area can't be good.

I have to think that it would only take one infected person to cause havoc within a group that size.

Ron Dempsey
Udora



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The Uxbridge
COSMOS

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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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Wandering the Cosmos

column by Conrad Boyce

Peaches and cream

I had just driven about three thousand kilometres across Canada in the late summer heat, so maybe I was a bit delirious. My mind was a tad delusional, that's for certain.

After 15 years in the Yukon, I figured maybe it was time for the territory and I to take a break from one another. So when a friend was accepted to a college in a little town called Sutton, Ontario, I asked if I could tag along. I had a bit of money saved up, so I wasn't desperate to find work right away. I had utterly no plan. Maybe I'd stay in Ontario for a winter, maybe I'd carry on to Prince Edward Island. Or Portugal. Maybe I'd return to the Yukon after a wee while, maybe I'd never see the place again. So I found a new home for Cumquat the cat and most of my other stuff, sold my palatial estate in a Whitehorse trailer court, threw a few things into my battered Toyota, and set sail on August 15, 1995. I had lived in B.C. and Alberta, but had only passed through Ontario a few times. This was going to be a grand adventure.

After a few days on the good old Trans-Canada, we arrived on the north shore of Lake Huron and decided, rather than driving through even more trees and rock, to take the short cut across the lake. We crossed the bridge to Manitoulin, boarded the ferry to Tobermory, and realized that if we hustled, we could get to Sutton by early evening, so on we sped.

It was then that we realized we were in an unfamiliar world. As we tootled along, we began to see farmers' markets along the road, booths selling produce or flowers or maple syrup. This was new to me. There are precious few farms in the Yukon or on Vancouver Island, and most of my youth in Alberta was spent in the big city. We were intrigued, but the car was jam-packed, and now we were in a bit of a hurry, so we resisted the temptation to shop at one of the booths. Until...

We started seeing signs saying, "Peaches and Cream, Just Ahead." Our eyes were playing tricks, surely. Peaches grew in the Okanagan, not Ontario! But the signs kept coming... Peaches and Cream. Being hicks from the Great Northwest, we suspected southern Ontario would have a few more civilized perks than we were used to, but this was a cut above. Peaches and cream beside the road... what a treat! We started stealing glances at the booths as we passed. We couldn't actually see anyone eating peaches and cream, or even a place where one might partake of such a delicacy, like a tent with tables and chairs and teacups. But we kept seeing the signs, so with our curiosity at a fever pitch, we finally pulled over.

You can imagine our crushing disappointment.

No tasty treat. Just corn. Unhusked corn. Yellow and white corn. We didn't have that kind out west, even in the supermarket, so I had no clue. My first big culture shock on arriving in Ontario had to do with vegetables. Sigh...

At any rate, our hunger for real peaches and cream unsatisfied, we motored on. After a few false turns (there was no Google Maps in 1995), we finally found Sutton. And our second big disappointment of the day. We had booked a basement suite from thousands of miles away, and it proved to be a disaster. Fortunately, the bulletin board at the school advertised a recently vacated granny flat on a farm near Egypt, only a few miles south of Sutton. It was perfect, and we soon came to an arrangement with Lou, our new landlord.

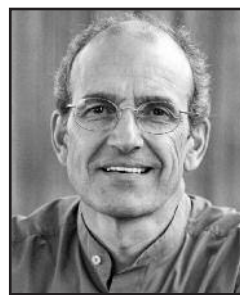
The next few days were busy getting settled while my friend got oriented at the school in Sutton. But then the weekend after Labour Day arrived, and we found ourselves with time to kill and an urge to get to know our new surroundings a little better.

"You want to see what rural Ontario is all about?" prompted Lou the Landlord. "You need to go spend a few hours at the Uxbridge Fall Fair!"

So we did. We set off early Saturday morning, and despite Lou's careful directions, promptly got lost. You see, in the Yukon, there is usually only one way to get from A to B. In southern Ontario, there are dozens, and that day we saw most of the Township of Uxbridge before we finally found Elgin Park. The Fair was a feast for the senses, of course. The livestock, the midway, the food, all were wonderful. But the biggest discovery was in the Fair's program.

"Auditions!", the advertisements declared. Auditions for the Uxbridge Players' fall production, and for the Uxbridge Chamber Choir. Hmm... for me, this was even more tempting than peaches and cream. Less than a week later, I had been cast in the play by director Roger Varley, unsuspecting that I would continue to haunt him a quarter century later. And I became a member of the Chamber Choir, too, and after the very first rehearsal, alto Donna Van Veghel discovered that I had conducted a children's choir in Whitehorse, and wondered if I might like to conduct her choir that winter, giving her a much-needed break. I said that I might.

But I had to meet some of the parents first, so they could interview me. And there, at the Hobby Horse one September evening 25 years ago, I met a lady named Lisa. And one thing led to another, and I never got to Prince Edward Island, or Portugal, or back to the Yukon. Funny what happens when you have no plan.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Of war presidents, losers and suckers

Just northeast of Paris, France, lies a small wooded hill. The few acres of green have been peaceful for most of the last century. Aisne-Marne American Cemetery resides here. It's home to the memorial stones of 2,289 war dead, mostly Americans. A few hundred yards down the hill, 102 years ago, a great battle raged here. Near the start of it, French troops found themselves overwhelmed by a charging enemy. In March 1918, the German Army had launched its largest offensive, it hoped would drive the Allies into the sea and deliver them victory in the Great War. On June 2, 1918, a retreating French soldier is alleged to have shouted to arriving U.S. troops:

"Withdraw! Withdraw! We are overrun!"

Historians tell us, in that moment, Lloyd Williams, a young Marine captain from Virginia, shouted back, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here!"

Capt. Williams led a company of U.S. Marines into that maelstrom. What's more, he and the other 300 soldiers of his regiment turned the tide. They blunted the German juggernaut, preventing it from overrunning Paris. Nine days after his arrival, on that hillside at Belleau Wood, Capt. Williams – suffering from gas and shrapnel wounds – told medics to attend others first. When stretch-bearers eventually tried to evacuate him, Williams was killed in a shell explosion. However, he and his corps, together with Canadian, British, French and Allied nations, on Nov. 11, 1918, forced Germany to surrender.

Aisne-Marne American Cemetery is about 4,000 miles from the White House and even further from understanding by its occupant. The man who claims to be that country's leader, indeed, has often called himself "a war president," stooped lower (if that's possible) than ever, calling Capt. Williams and his comrades – some 2,289 of them – "losers" and "suckers."

He denies using those words, but at this stage of the current presidency, I'm inclined to believe Jeffrey Goldberg, the editor-in-chief of *The Atlantic* magazine; he told CNN, "We're not going to be intimidated by the President. We're going to do our jobs."

I don't have the standing among international or even national historians to argue the merits of waging war against Germany between 1914 and 1918. I defer to peers such as Margaret MacMillan, Tim Cook or Barbara Tuchman. But what I think I can argue is character, motivation, skill and moral fortitude of average men and women who served Allied nations in that conflict. And with that weapon of wisdom,

I'd be prepared to argue the quality and worth of those volunteers with anyone – even a man who professes superior perception of "reality" than the rest of us.

Further, let me offer the research and testimony of a fellow writer and historian. Glenn Kerr has long pursued the stories of Canadians and others through his tireless work for the Central Ontario Branch of the Western Front Association. He contributes to and edits *The Maple Leaf*, COBWA's periodical. In the summer 2020 edition, Kerr recounts the story of Sir Reginald Blomfield, who designed a stone archway as memorial to honour the missing from the Great War. Constructed at the eastern entrance to the city of Ypres, Belgium, the Menin Gate features 60 panels with 54,896 inscribed names of those with no known graves, incorporated into a massive arch over the road. The panels offer names of the missing from our own 116th Ontario Battalion, as well as eight recipients of the Victoria Cross, including Canadians L/Cpl. Fred Fisher, Sgt. Maj. William Hall and Lt. Hugh McKenzie.

First unveiled on July 24, 1927, the commemorative arch awakens each evening at 8, when police stop all traffic from passing, and invite buglers from Ypres' firefighter brigade to perform *The Last Post* and *Reveille*. From 1927 to the present, the Last Post ceremony has become a living tribute to service and sacrifice of the missing – *every night*. The only exceptions were the nights when Nazi Germany occupied Belgium in WWII; however, on Sept. 6, 1944, when Polish forces drove the Germans from Ypres (76 years ago this week) the ceremony resumed. Otherwise, the ceremony is perpetual.

"The Menin Gate," Kerr writes, "is to walk in the footsteps of the Great War soldiers who passed this way never to be seen again."

By the way, in addition to his stature as a leader of men in the midst of the Belleau Wood battlefield, Lloyd Williams received the Distinguished Service Cross and the Congressional Medal of Honor (posthumously). In 1921, when his family requested his remains be repatriated, thousands attended the train route as his casket travelled home to Virginia. Generals, troops and yes, presidents acknowledged his service. I haven't the space here to list the organizations, Legions, university buildings and streets that bear Lloyd Williams' name.


But with reverence and great respect, I'd visit any one of those places long before considering a stay in a gilt-faced hotel tower bearing the name of a so-called "war president."

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



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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
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Ontario

Uxbridge's quilting queen passes at 60

by Conrad Boyce

One of Uxbridge's best-loved business-women, Sue Carmichael, who used her shop Quilters Cupboard as a base for many community activities, passed away last week after a long and valiant battle with cancer.

Susan Bradley grew up on a dairy farm near the village of Pakenham in the Ottawa Valley. She was more of a farm girl than her two sisters, becoming very involved in the 4-H movement and even being crowned Dairy Princess of Carleton County. But if her father dreamed of her taking over the farm one day, he was doomed to disappointment. Because Sue's mother Carol was a VON nurse, and that was the work she was drawn to.

It was in her early days as a nursing student at Ottawa's Algonquin College that Sue first met a Pembroke lad named Phil Carmichael.

"We broadcasting students and the nurses somehow were put in the same English class," Phil recalls, "and one of our first assignments was to pair up and write essays about each other's faces. She wound up with mine."

They must have liked those faces, because very soon after they had their first date, a long skate on the Rideau Canal. Phil also discovered Sue was a hockey player, a definite plus. And for the rest of their college careers, they were pretty much inseparable. Then Phil got his first job, at CBC Calgary. He invited Sue to go with him, but her mother put her foot

down; they'd have to get married first. So in November of 1982, they did just that.

In Calgary Sue began her nursing career, first in a hospital, then in a doctor's office. She gave birth to two daughters, Reva in 1986 and Ali in 1990. It was also in Calgary that she began a love affair with quilting. When the family moved to Edmonton in 1991, Sue took a hiatus from nursing to take care of her growing girls, but also got more involved in quilting, becoming a skilled teacher of the craft.

The Carmichaels moved to Long Island, New York, in 1995, in order for Phil to move up in the world of TV sports graphics, but after a couple of years, Sue longed for a return to Canada. The family decided that Toronto was the place for Phil's career, and Phil went on a field trip to find them a home, preferably northeast of the city so as to be closer to their parents back in the Ottawa Valley. Sue had an important criterion: the town had to have a quilting store.

Fortunately, Phil found one on Sandy Hook Road in Uxbridge, Alice Colby's Quilters Cupboard. In the fall of 1998, the family moved into their home in Quaker Village, and Sue very soon found herself teaching at the Cupboard. Church life was also important to the family, and Phil, Sue and the girls became very active members at Trinity United and later at Saint Paul's Leaskdale.

When Alice Colby decided to sell the shop in 2002, fellow staffer Wendy Brumwell convinced Sue to undertake an adventure. They bought the Cupboard, and soon after moved it to its more visible location on Brock Street. In 2006, they staged a quilting marathon to benefit Hearth Place, a cancer support centre. Ironically, only a few months later, Sue herself was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"Sue's medical knowledge soon re-surfaced," Phil recalls, and she began what became a very long fight. Over the years, she underwent more than a hundred chemo treatments. For several years, the cancer was in remission, but returned in 2015.

"The doctors gave her a choice for the time she had left," Phil says, "quantity of years or quality of life." Sue, of course, chose the latter, and she crammed as much living as possible into the last few years. When she drew her final breath last Thursday, her girls, her grandsons, and the man whose face she fell in love with all those years ago, were right there beside her.

A visitation for Sue will be held on Friday, Sept. 18 at St. Paul's, Leaskdale. For details, please see the Low and Low notice on page 11.

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Some of our studios will be open to visitors (by appointment only). Simply contact the artists you'd like to visit to book your appointment.

For information about who is opening their space, and contact details for booking visits, check out our digital brochure or visit the individual artist pages on our website.

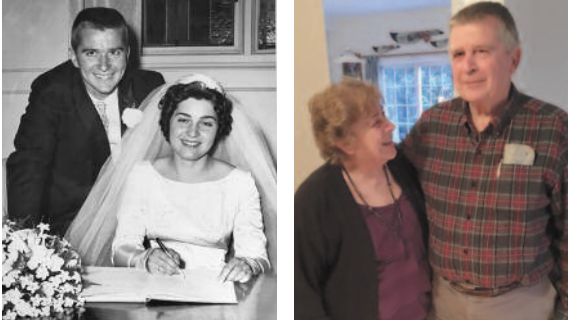
All regulations on masks and social distancing are being fully implemented.

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60th ANNIVERSARY



Tom & Pat McMullen celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on September 10, 2020

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Read more stories, see more pictures at thecosmos.ca

COMING UP

THIS WEEKEND

Fri., Sept. 11 & Sat., Sept. 12: Uxbridge Lions Club Annual Voluntary Road Toll.

Zehrs/Walmart/LCBO plazas, all day both days.

Sat., Sept. 12: Rotary Club of Uxbridge Community Bottle Drive. 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Drop-off at Canadian Tire Uxbridge. Proceeds support Rotary initiatives in the community and internationally.

UPCOMING

Mon., Sept. 21: Uxbridge Loaves & Fishes Food Bank Annual General Meeting. 10 a.m. St. Andrew's Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Gymna-

sium. Seats are limited to ensure proper social distancing. Please reserve your seat by calling 905-852-0392 or email uxbridgeloadsandfishes@hotmail.com

Sat., Oct. 3: Canadian Blood Services Blood Donor Clinic. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Uxbridge Arena and Community Centre.

COMING UP is a free community bulletin board for community events organized by a *charity or non-profit organization only*. Events are published as space permits. The *Uxbridge Cosmos* does **not** assume responsibility for the events listed here with regards to whether the event adheres to federal/provincial/municipal COVID-19 protocols. Email Lvann@thecosmos.ca or call 905-852-1900.

Culvert closures continue

by Roger Varley

Motorists trying to find their way around the downtown area during the Brock Street culvert construction now will find another obstacle in their way: the closing of Centennial Drive.

Beginning on Tuesday this week, a section of the street will be closed off for four months, effectively eliminating Centennial Drive as a route from Toronto Street to the east end of town. The closure will apply to pedestrians also. This will be on top of the closure of Brock Street, which has been shut since May 25. For the past few weeks, pedestrian through traffic has also been halted on Brock Street.

Brock Street will remain closed at least for the remainder of September.



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The Uxbridge & District Lions are conducting our annual Voluntary Road Toll this year at the Zehrs, Walmart, LCBO plaza on September 11 and 12.

Our club supports over forty groups either located in our community or serving the people of this community and this year we are actively engaged in developing a Universal Playground (accessible to children of all abilities). In light of the fact that many people do not normally carry cash in these challenging times, we ask for members of the public to make a point of doing so when they go out on September 11 and 12. Thank You!



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The Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Foundation would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who participated in our

13th Annual Swing into Spring Summer Golf Day

Thank you to the 132 golfers who took part on August 24, and to the following businesses and individuals who generously supported our efforts to raise funds during these challenging times.

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Film with Foote

column by John Foote

Covering TIFF COVID-style

For several months I worried that the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) might not even happen, but the brilliant minds that run the festival found a way.

Thank God. I cannot imagine my life without TIFF, that festival has become such an integral part of my existence. Beyond the memories of great films I have experienced, there are the memories of my wife bringing my two girls in for the weekend, from Friday through Sunday, to visit me, shop, dine with me and star watch. Usually I was busy at the movies, which they knew would happen, but Saturday night was set aside for dinner together.

I loved those days, they are among the warmest memories I have. Having been at the movies all day, I would return to my room at the Delta Hotel to find three suitcases having exploded across the room, clothes everywhere, bags of recently bought items littering the room, and

a note, "Join us at the pool," where I would find their smiling faces, giddy with delight.

Sadly, just memories. TIFF is a reminder of several things to me: my family, a celebration of world cinema, a chance to see Canadian films, the memories of great performances discovered in the dark, the many American friends and fellow critics from around the globe that embraced friendship with me, interviewing so many actors and directors, the extraordinary volunteer staff of TIFF, Roger Ebert, and a bittersweet reminder that my wife died eight years ago.

Will it be the same this year? Hardly. COVID has forced TIFF organizers to shut down all press and industry screenings in the usual form, which were packed showings at the Scotiabank Theatre, the Princess of Wales Theatre or the TIFF screening rooms. This year I will enjoy the films in the comfort of my home, as

the movies will be presented virtually, via computer or, in my case on a 70-inch smart TV. Not the perfect setting for films, but better than nothing. My understanding is, I will be given a user name, password and then can select the films I want to see.

About that. Usually TIFF screens more than 300 films, and the two programmes I cover religiously are the Galas and the Special Presentations, loaded with bait for the Academy Awards. This year there just over 50 films.

Fifty. What shocked me this year is the complete absence of Netflix, who so dominated the festival last year! They have an exceptional slate of films this year and are expected to again dominate the Academy Awards, but are absent at TIFF? Why? I cannot imagine they did not submit or were not invited, so I can only assume they chose not to come due to COVID.

Absent too are some filmmakers usually here with new films; Sofia Coppola, George Clooney, and many others. Again, why?

Glancing over the list, it is surprisingly light in heft. That said, I will work my way through the films, writing daily to keep you up to speed on what rocked my world and what did not. It is going to be fun, just very different than ever before.

Not a fan of change, me. Nope.

Uxbridge schools open up despite COVID-19

by Roger Varley

With nary a school bus in sight, children flocked back to school in Durham on Tuesday for their first day of in-class instruction since mid-March.

At Joseph Gould Public School on Planks Lane, where construction crews had worked furiously to finish reconstruction of the road in time for the school opening, the majority of parents chose to walk their children to school. With Uxbridge Secondary School across the road not starting until 10 a.m., traffic on Planks Lane was unusually light for a school day.

At Joseph Gould, little ones facing their first day of school stayed close to their moms and dads: older children waved enthusiastically at friends they likely haven't seen for months. Youngsters going into the YMCA-run day-care centre had their temperatures checked while their parents answered a list of questions. Once allowed in, the children immediately washed their hands.

Parents of school-aged children were asked to gather their broods on the playground at the rear of the school where teachers wearing orange-and-yellow safety vests and carrying clipboards rounded up their charges. Around the school, classroom numbers were spray-painted on the asphalt to show children where they were to line up to enter the school. Several different en-

trances were used in order to maintain as much social distancing as possible.

Before the children arrived, teachers could be seen carrying in all kinds of bags and boxes bulging with supplies. All staff were wearing masks and/or face shields and most of the children also wore masks, although the Durham District School Board has mandated that children in the lower grades are not required to wear them.

Attendance at school has been staggered, with not all children reporting

for school on the first day. Some were to have their first day on Wednesday or Thursday.



Waiting for school to start outside Joseph Gould Public School on Tuesday.

Photo by John Cavers

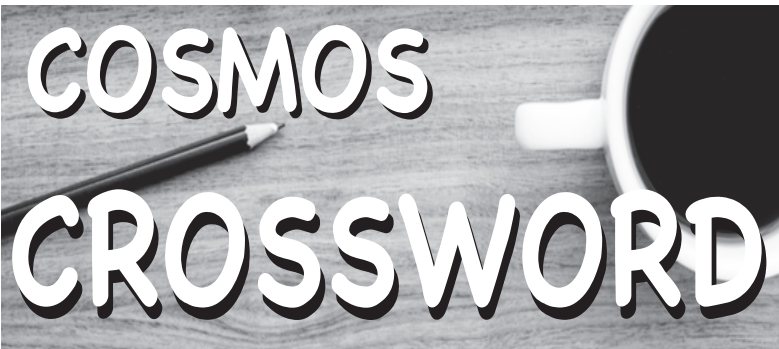
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Across

- 1 The start of a tulip
- 5 Spring month, for short
- 8 Two together
- 12 Toothbrush brand with B
- 13 Luau fare
- 14 Wind instrument
- 15 Miniature water buffalo
- 16 Self-glorifying endeavors (2 words)
- 18 Lights
- 20 French farewell
- 23 Hurrying
- 27 Photographer Goldin
- 28 Test version
- 31 Icy coating
- 32 World financiers
- 33 Desert plant
- 35 Pursue a young lady
- 36 Hide in the shadows
- 38 Well-behaved
- 39 Sound booster
- 40 Extra tires
- 42 Bottle inhabitant
- 44 Red-faced
- 47 A long slender cigar
- 50 Manipulative one
- 54 "American ____"
- 55 Great deal
- 56 Have it and eat it too....
- 57 Drags
- 58 Umpire's call
- 59 Saw

Down

- 2 Pot
- 3 Indochinese language
- 4 World-weary
- 5 Impersonator
- 6 ____ stick
- 7 River between US & Mexico (2 words)
- 8 Beet soup
- 9 Oriental sash
- 10 Pinnacle
- 11 Dudes
- 17 Earl Grey an ex. of this drink
- 19 Bass pitched instrument
- 20 Dye-yielding shrubs
- 21 Block (2 words)
- 22 Inferior to
- 24 Resident of the 29th state
- 25 One of the Judds
- 26 Search blindly
- 29 Shade of white
- 30 Chinese principle
- 34 Head start
- 37 South African villages
- 41 Eastern time
- 43 Bring out
- 45 Soothing juice
- 46 Lusterless, dull
- 47 Trading floor
- 48 Buzzing about
- 49 At this moment
- 51 Break your silence
- 52 Get by
- 53 Scarlet

Down

- 1 Las Vegas dancer accessory



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DO YOUR OLD PHOTOS NEED RESTORATION? Boxes of slides taking up room? Preston Gallery/BiA Photography at 77 Brock St.W. (Uxbridge) specializing in restorations and scanning. Stop in or call Sabrina 905-550-8825.

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WANTED
THE UXBRIDGE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY is looking for male volunteers to help with our sorting sessions at Chances Are. Times are either on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, approximately 7 to 11 a.m. If you would be able to assist at any of these times please call Darryl at 416-346-6349. 9/10

BOOKKEEPER WANTED: Occasional bookkeeping assistance needed in my Uxbridge home office (2 person office). Must have significant experience with

QUICKBOOKS Desktop, Microsoft products. Occasional hours can grow into a regular part-time position. Please contact Caren at 905-852-8830 or leave a message on my cell 416-258-5593.

PICK-UP PERSON: Person to pick up scrap metal at a business in town. Needs to be collected 3 times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Call Darryl for further information. 416-346-6349. 9/10

FOR SALE
VARIOUS ITEMS: Hay - Alfalfa, fine quantity. Firewood - Rough cuts. National Geographic magazines, \$2 each, minimum 25. 905-852-7634. 9/10

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. \$150 face cord. \$80 1/2 face cord. Delivery included. 905-622-0548. 10/22

FOR RENT
FOR RENT: Fields for cows & sheep (with shelters). Room in barn for farm activities. 905-852-7634. 9/10
COACH HOUSE STUDIO, Utica (Port Perry) has space available for approved new vendors. Call 905-982-2705. 9/10

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. 9/10

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"LORD, change our circumstances for the better, like dry streams in the desert waste!" Psalm 126:4



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The Uxbridge
COSMOS





The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

Golden autumn beauty

There's a wealth of wild beauty in the fall, most notably from deciduous tree leaves. We start to see changes by early September. The odd branch or leaf turns orange, red or yellow, foreshadowing the impending riot of colour. But there are other plants that contribute to the colourful display we enjoy every autumn.

Roadsides and fields glow from an abundance of tall slender plants crowned with yellow flowers. With over 140 varieties, goldenrod is a common sight across the countryside. Blooming at the same time as ragweed, many hay fever sufferers believe the pretty yellow flowers are behind their suffering. However, goldenrod pollen is too heavy and sticky to be transported by the wind. It's ragweed with its light pollen spread by gentle breezes that's causing all their misery.

Goldenrod flowers are a source of food for many insects, notably bees and butterflies. Goldenrod honey is light-coloured and flavourful. Monarch butterflies also rely on the nectar to help fuel them during their migration southwest across North America to Mexico.

Other insects use goldenrods to house their young. The familiar

will kill the plant, and they provide food and shelter for other creatures.



Goldenrod

Photo by Nancy Melcher

Fun Fact: Thomas Edison experimented with cultivation of golden-

rod to produce rubber. The plants he bred grew over 3.5 m tall and contained about 12 per cent rubber. The tires on the Model T car that Henry Ford gave him were made from goldenrod rubber!

Enjoy the kaleidoscope of autumn

flowers: goldenrod, purple aster, black-eyed Susan, and the last of the Queen Anne's lace. Drink in all that beauty – winter is coming!

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

Arena opening on ice for now, from page 1

restrictions due to the pandemic will remain in place for at least the next four weeks.

The government cited increasing cases of COVID-19 in Ontario for the decision. This means the number of people allowed to gather together indoors and outdoors (50 and 100 respectively) will remain the same until further notice.

One user group, the Uxbridge Bruins Junior C team of the PJHL's Orr Division, is looking to restart operations on Dec. 1, the date set by the PJHL for re-opening. At this time, the PJHL is calling for a shortened season of 24 games for each team, plus playoff games. Bruins executive member Cam Stewart said the team does not yet have a full roster.

"We're limited in what we can do," he said, referring to lack of ice.

WATTS, Irene Elizabeth (née Gajda)

Oct. 15, 1927 - Aug. 30, 2020

Irene (Rene) at 92 years of age, passed peacefully at home with family and Ken, her husband of 70 years, at her side.

Born in Hungary, she grew up in Montreal. At age 16 she moved with her parents and 7-year-old brother, William, to the edge of Stratford where she enjoyed living on a small farm. A few years later she met Ken on a tennis court. They soon scored love, married in Stratford, and moved to a charming house on top of a hill in the "township" of North York where they raised their 4 children. Irene loved reading, camping, cycling, watercolours, crafts, square dancing, cooking and not least, providing a loving welcoming home for many friends and family.

Living in Uxbridge for the past thirty years she enjoyed the weekly card games at the Senior Centre, belonged to the Senior



Scribes and the lesser known "Stitch and Bitch" group and had a life membership with the Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society.

Irene endeared herself to many with her quiet integrity, sense of humor, wisdom and generosity. She will be dearly missed. She was mother to David (Jacqui), Bradley (Bev), Adele (Bob), and Christine (Ted); grandmother to Russell (Kallie), Curtis (Lisa), Ryan, Kyle (Victoria), Darren, Kevin, Andrew and Alice; and great grandmother to six children. She was pre-deceased by her brother William (Joan).

Irene's wish is to be cremated and laid to rest at the Glendale Cemetery. There will be no service. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations on Irene's behalf to the new Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter, C.N.I.B. or Salvation Army.



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CARMICHAEL, Susan

July 8, 1960 - Sept. 3, 2020



After a long battle with cancer, Mom passed away peacefully at home, with her family by her side on Thursday, September 3, 2020, in Uxbridge, Ontario. Her husband Phil, children Reva and Josh, Ali and Nate, grandsons Enoch and Gideon, sister Jacky and her mother Carol were all standing with her as she took her last breaths on Earth. We are devastated and heartbroken, but also at peace knowing that she's been taken into glory with Jesus.

Her life was big and beautiful. She was an amazing friend to so many, as well as an incredibly successful business owner in Uxbridge. She was the life of the party, a host to everyone, an amazing homemaker, garden grower and phenomenal quilter. She remembered everyone, kept in touch with people for decades and was the meeting point for so many of her friend groups.

We are so grateful not only for the years we had with her, but the last five years of her treatment. Her doctors became family, as they cared so deeply, and the nurses who took time to say goodbye at her last appointment. We thank those who loved and cared for Mom throughout her life.

Visitation will take place at St. Paul's Leaskdale, 12251 Regional Rd. #1, Leaskdale, Ontario (905-852-5921), on Friday, September 18, 2020, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and 7:00-9:00 p.m. Our family will be having a private funeral service.

In keeping with COVID-19 regulations from the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, all attendees are asked to wear a mask or face covering, maintain social distancing and the capacity within the building will be limited throughout the visitation time.

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 can be made to Hearth Place, Oak Ridges Hospice, or St. Paul's Leaskdale Church.

For online condolences, please visit www.lowandlow.ca



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**The Uxbridge
COSMOS** *Reader Contest*

**WE CHALLENGE YOU TO RECYCLE
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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



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