

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 37

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, September 24, 2020



WALKING FOR TERRY - A small group of neighbours from Douglas Crossing took part in a mini version of a Terry Fox Run on Sunday afternoon, walking/riding either inside the building or in the parking lot. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the annual Terry Fox Run, which carries on the legacy that Terry Fox began with his Marathon of Hope, a run across Canada to raise money for cancer research.

Photo by John Cavers

Don't count your chickens just yet

by Roger Varley

Almost a year-and-a-half after council received a deputation on the subject, the by-law department provided council with a report on Monday regarding the keeping of chickens in urban backyards.

As manager of by-law services Kristina Bergeron's report states, Michelle Arnold appeared before council on May 6, 2019, asking that urban residents be allowed to keep chickens. At that time, council asked the by-law department to look into the issue and report back. In the following months, the township conducted a survey of residents to receive their feedback on the idea.

Bergeron noted in her most recent report that of the 591 residents who responded to the survey, almost 70 per cent were in favour of backyard chickens, although with restrictions. She also noted that those who were not in favour were "strongly opposed." She added that, based

on the results of the survey, "respondents in more densely populated urban areas do not overwhelmingly support the keeping of hens in their neighbourhoods." For example, one respondent from the survey said "Chickens should be kept only on country properties with acreage, NOT in residential areas. Residents would not be educated and aware of the time, effort (cleanliness) and expense looking after chickens. I am STRONGLY opposed to this crazy idea!"

Some respondents offered solutions as to what the necessary by-law(s) should include, such as: "set back should be minimum 250 feet, ie. only very large yards would qualify and none in new subdivisions would qualify," and "I'm recommending a permit to help off-set the cost of inspections to the township, however I don't expect this monitoring, or cost will be over the top. I would hate to see ... cost & restrictions drive so much red tape that the benefits gained from having the chickens in the first place is

lost."

Bergeron pointed out that five complaints concerning the keeping of livestock in residential areas were received during the period of 2019 until present. Three of the five complaints concerned chickens specifically.

The report said that if residents in the urban areas were allowed to keep chickens, changes would have to be made to zoning by-laws as well as the by-law covering prohibited animals. Bergeron said that if council "has an appetite for introducing the allowances of urban hens," the project should be added to the prioritized list of by-laws requiring review. She recommended that council not proceed with amending the zoning bylaw and Prohibited Animals by-law to allow the keeping of hens in residential areas with appropriate restrictions.

Council decided to put off further discussion until early in February.

Inside Your Cosmos

No Springtide this fallpage 6

Prep before pickingpage 11



Uxbridge at a Glance

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge
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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for September and October, 2020

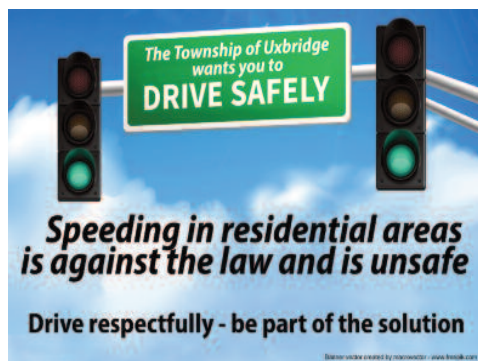
Monday, September 28
10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 5
10:00 a.m.
COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 12
THANKSGIVING MONDAY-NO
MEETING

Monday, October 19
10:00 a.m.
COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 26
10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING



Uxbridge is now issuing Marriage Licences and performing Civil Ceremonies!

Purchase your marriage licence at the Clerk's Counter of the Town offices, 51 Toronto Street South, via main front entrance.

Ceremonies available outdoors or within Council Chambers
Licences \$125;
Ceremonies \$275+HST.

Book your ceremony with Josh at
jmachesney@uxbridge.ca
or visit www.uxbridge.ca/weddings

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.

Province Revises Group Size for Public Gatherings

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Province has limited unmonitored and private social gatherings, including: parties, dinners, gatherings, BBQs or wedding receptions held in private residences, backyards, parks and other recreational areas.


The new limit on the number of people allowed to attend an unmonitored private social gathering across the province is: 10 people at an indoor event or gathering (previous limit of 50); or 25 people at an outdoor event or gathering (previous limit of 100).

Indoor and outdoor events and gatherings cannot be merged together. Gatherings of 35 (25 outdoors and 10 indoors) are not permitted.

Group size gatherings are being monitored and enforced under the authority of the Reopening Ontario Act. Violators may be fined.

To report a violation of these new limits please call the DRPS non-emergency line at 905-579-1520 or 1-888-579-1520 ext 5802 and leave a message. Report online at www.drps.ca Do not call 911.

**NOTICE OF
ROAD CLOSURE**



**Centennial Drive is closed to
through traffic and pedestrians
until the end of Dec.**

**Brock St. is closed to traffic
through October (weather
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**Please follow detour signs and
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Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at uxbridge.ca/accessibility

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

Township traffic safety still being studied

by Roger Varley

Council received not one but three different reports from Luke Gillham of the roads department regarding traffic throughout the township and how to make roadways safer for all users.

In his first report, Gillham noted that the Uxbridge Active Transportation Committee (UXACT) is asking council to determine whether there are cost-effective measures to address the clearing of snow from sidewalks. Specifically, UXACT wanted council to look at the issue of inadequately cleared sidewalks on regional roads and windrows that block intersections on regional roads.

In a second report, Gillham said township staff, with the assistance of a consultant, are working on a traffic calming policy for the township. He said some of the measures being considered for Uxbridge roads are raised crosswalks, raised intersections, curb extensions, roundabouts of various sizes, rumble strips, lane narrowing, flexible posts installed along centre lines

and chicanes. A chicane is a series of bump-outs from the curb which force traffic to zigzag along a street. Perhaps the most famous chicane is Lombard Street in San Francisco.

Gillham's report said the design and implementation of the traffic calming measures would be determined by public works or a consultant that specializes in traffic calming.

Finally, in his third report, Gillham listed a number of intersections in the urban area that could see traffic safety measures installed, including all-way stops and pedestrian crosswalks.

Four intersections - Herrema Blvd. and Barton Lane, Nelkydd Lane and Brownscombe Cres., Young Street and Second Street and Centre Road and Maple Street - would see the installation of all-way stops at a cost of \$500 each. Eight intersections could see pedestrian crossings put in place at a cost of \$1,000 each. Six of those intersections are on Centre Road and two are on Bolton Drive.

Gillham said the costs are esti-

mates but said the crosswalks would require line painting, warning signs and the cost of labour. He added that the intersections are still being studied by a consultant.

All three reports were received for information.



For 34 years, Pineridge Chorus, Uxbridge Chapter of Sweet Adelines International, has entertained residents of Uxbridge and surrounding area.

It is with deep regret that we inform you that Pineridge Chorus is disbanding.

We wish to say Thank You to all our many friends, family and supporters who encouraged us through the years.

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Our two cents

Are you informed? Thank a journalist

Next Monday, Sept. 28, is World News Day 2020. "What on Earth do we need a World News Day for?" you say. "We have news all day, every day, 365 days a year. We're practically drowning in it!"

According to its home page on the website worldnewsday.org, "In an age of misinformation, World News Day 2020 ... aims to raise public awareness of the critical role that journalists play in providing credible and reliable news, to help people make sense of - and improve - the rapidly changing world around them."

It's got to be a pretty big deal - Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is a busy guy these days, but he's going to take some time to be the keynote speaker at the day-long virtual event.

And lest one thinks that Dr. Fauci is only addressing the CNNs, CBCs and BBCs of the world, we'd like to stick our hand up out of the journalistic crowd and say that we, too, rise to this daunting challenge. It's not always easy - just last week we ran a Letter to the Editor that opined some rather controversial viewpoints, viewpoints that appear to run contrary to what many of us have learned through the news during this global pandemic (we even do it again this week). But as we've mentioned many times before, our 'Letters' section is the one place in the paper where people can express themselves, and we do not censor the material submitted. We may edit a letter for length or clarity, but for the most part, they run as is. They may not be popular, and they may even be downright incorrect. They may, as one reader put it, be "anti-social and do society a disservice." The 'Letters' section is not news, but the letters written usually concern what's going on *in* the news.

If we read/watch/hear our news thoughtfully and make an effort to really understand it, go beyond the headline, then we can, for the most part, sift through what is likely rubbish and what is likely real. Just because we might believe what "mainstream media" says doesn't mean we've been brainwashed. It means that we've trusted people who have tonnes of training and experience asking questions and digging for answers, parsing what they have learned and passing it along in digestible bits for us to know. Journalists have done all the dirty work so that the rest of the world has the opportunity to go about its business in an educated, informed manner.

World News Day. Monday, Sept. 28. If you have an informed opinion about anything, you can thank a journalist for having helped you reach it.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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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.

nnc National NewsMedia Council

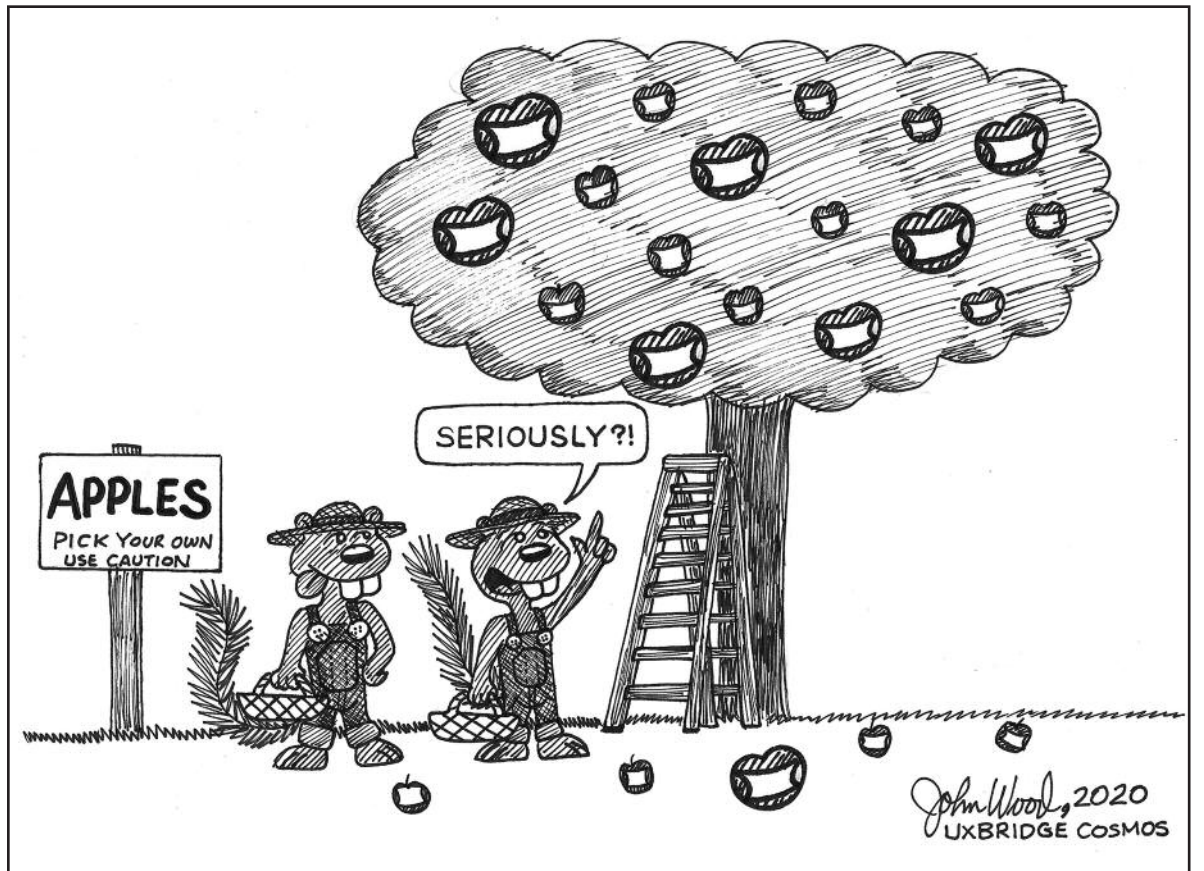
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Letters to the Editor

Re: Letters to the Editor, Sept. 10 edition

My husband and I "rejoice" every time we, on our way into Uxbridge, see children having a good time in the skate park. "Hats off" to the youth that fought for that skate park in the earlier years, it has been a gift to the community!

Sports and masks don't mix - we need oxygen with exercise, and for children to NOT be in front of a TV or computer/video games is very good for their immunity, and their physical and psychological health. The kids have been at the skate park for the last three months, and no one gotten sick - have you seen any bodies lying around? It's called "herd immunity."

[Mr. Dempsey], we suggest you go for a walk, get some exercise and vitamin D. Take off your mask, you don't need it, take a few deep breaths, maybe your brain will start working again!

This is our opinion, but what does Sick Kids Hospital say along with "experts"? Please see an article from Canada.com considering children are being diagnosed with anxiety due to the past shutdown. The headline says "Children don't need to wear masks or follow strict social distancing when they return to school" according to SickKids experts.

"Requiring masks could lead to more infection, not less, while separating children as they socialize outside the classroom would have negative psychological effects, says a guidance document SickKids released..." "Children have suffered anxiety, depression and loneliness and faced greater risk of family discord and abuse during the lockdown, hospital experts told a virtual news conference."

Grandparents sticking up for children, Uxbridge

Re: Letters to the Editor, Sept. 17 edition

Just wanted to say bravo to the *Cosmos* for printing Heinz Nitschke's letter to the editor in response to Mr. Dempsey.

In this day of censorship in relation to anything anti-COVID it's refreshing to hear from someone with some critical thinking.

Claudia van Vliet, Uxbridge

In response to "Dr." Nitschke's letter I would like to say how much better it makes me feel to know that Uxbridge is home to a professional who is so knowledgeable about COVID-19.

Dr. FAUCI (not Fausti), along with other professionals, has stated many times that social distancing and masks DO help. Anyone with half a brain can see that. And it has to be said that if masks cause so much illness and irreparable damage, how on Earth are the real hospital professionals surviving?

However, no one as yet knows how to cure this virus - unless of course you do. Otherwise, like many of our neighbours to the south, you should bite your tongue and listen to the scientists who are trying their very best to get it all under control.

U. Pearson, Uxbridge

Freedom of speech is a wonderful concept entrenched in our constitution, and is a mainstay of our values. However, it is often abused by those who would further their own agendas.

Those who resent "big brother" interference into their lives seize on topics such as mask-wearing to try to convince us that we are being manipulated once again. Ironically, they use misinformation and exaggeration to further their position. They often, as in the case of last week's letter to the

editor, inaccurately report the views of experts like Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Yes, we do have billions of viruses in our bodies, but only a few that we contract enter our systems as deadly killers.

Yes, we, as healthy people, do fight off many viruses after a period of time (the flu shot, for example, is a vaccine which helps many of us in this regard and lessens the spread of a 'bad' virus).

As the experts consistently and repetitively state, there are several simple ways to help mitigate the COVID-19 virus. Mask-wearing is critical, but it is not the only way.

The naysayers ignore the costs of this virus, which will grow as long as the virus exists: cost in human lives, cost in family suffering, cost in the acquired lifelong conditions for those who have not fully recovered, cost in financial terms for lost wages and the need for government support.

I ask you to carefully read the naysayers' views. Often they portray their true beliefs in an unguarded statement, to wit - "Maybe Bill Gates was right when he said we have too many people on Earth." (This statement was made in reference to birth control in particular situations.)

Ray Story, Uxbridge

I wanted to say thank you for supporting us leading up to our donation event in Uxbridge earlier this month! We collected 90 per cent to target! We are so pleased with the results, and because of your support, many, many patients in our communities were able to receive the lifesaving blood that they needed.

Thank you once again!

Jennifer Mathieu
Territory Manager
Donor Relations
Canadian Blood Services



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Whatever happened to joy?

Perhaps one of the most famous openings of a novel comes from Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

Would that we could say the same thing about the current state of affairs in the world, but it seems to me that we can only say "it was the worst of times."

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic tops the list of things which make it the worst of times, but there are so many other problems going on in the world that, even without the pandemic, a reasonable person could be forgiven for asking what could possibly be considered "best" about these times.

For example, climate change. The Atlantic hurricane season still has about another month to go and already they have run out of names to give these storms, resorting now to Greek letters. And that doesn't include all the typhoons that have raged across the Pacific. Indeed, a small hurricane hit Greece recently, something they called a medicane. The U.S. Gulf states have been hit with so many storms it is a wonder anyone still lives there.

Climate change is also suspected in the devastating surge of wildfires that have reduced huge swaths of the Pacific states to ashes, to such an extent that a few days ago the smoke from those fires turned the sun orange here in Ontario.

Then there's the human problem of refugees. Hundreds of thousands - if not millions - of people around the world find themselves in refugee camps. These are, whether you like it or not, just ordinary people who have been forced to flee their homes and their homelands because of war, discrimination and political unrest. Just last week, a fire in a refugee camp in Lesbos, Greece, left 12,000 people without shelter. In the Far East, the Rohingya refugees are still being persecuted even after fleeing the country - Myanmar - that ousted them in the first place.

Talking of political unrest, we have the Belarus government cracking down hard on citizens protesting the recent elections that they and many observers say were

rigged. The Russian government takes to poisoning or arresting political opponents. In the United States, there are concerted efforts by several governments to make it as difficult as possible for people to vote. On top of that, the U.S. Republicans have already staked out the claim that if Trump loses in November, the whole election was rigged.

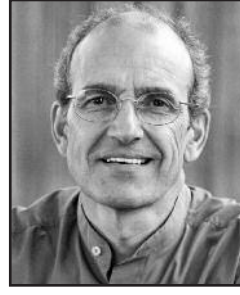
Then there are those who are supposed to protect us, the police. Around the world, police forces are using tactics and equipment that one would more readily associate with the battlefield. The civic unrest and protests in the U.S. are not the result of someone being a little ticked off at the treatment they received at the hands of police. They are about the well-documented - and video-taped - violent assaults and deaths the police have delivered on people for seemingly minor infractions - or for none at all. When police have better armour and weapons than soldiers on the battlefield, what more needs to be said?

On top of all that, was there ever a time in history that produced so many - and I use the word deliberately - idiots? Those who refuse to live by the regulations that governments have put in place, on the advice of medical experts, to keep us all, including the idiots, safe during the pandemic; those who protest against a ban on assault rifles because they need them for hunting. Anyone who needs an assault rifle to hunt is not a hunter.

I will admit, this is a little dark, but it has reached the point where I hardly see any joy left in the world. Indeed, the only joy I find these days is in watching little children who are unaware of the evils of the world around them and videos of baby animals.

It seems to me the only hope for humankind is to rediscover those qualities that are so lacking these days: compassion and common sense. Without those, I believe we are doomed to live forever in the worst of times.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Integrity and meaning at the *Cosmos*

At first, I was angry. I read the mayor's statement on the public service page of the *Cosmos* (Sept. 17, 2020): He said, and this is a direct quote from Mayor Dave Barton:

"A local paper without its (*sic*) integrity is meaningless."

I was furious. Then, when I simmered down, I felt disappointed ... disappointed that this community's chief elected administrator would consider the newspaper of record in this township, the *Uxbridge Cosmos*, without integrity or meaning. Further, I'm disappointed that the mayor - in my view - doesn't understand how journalism works. I invite him and anyone else who believes this newspaper lacks integrity or meaning, to read the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, in particular, Section 2b.

The Charter, signed into law on April 17, 1982, guarantees "freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication."

Let me try to place things into context. Two weeks ago (Sept. 10), the *Cosmos* published a news story - "Goodwood concerts spark ire and accusations." In it, reporter Justyne Edgell wrote about events staged on a Goodwood property, called Green Grass Estates; Edgell learned that parties had been organized by a marketing firm, 416AndTheCity, for their office personnel. The event organizer, Richard Marshall, stated to Edgell that during a wedding reception at the property, participants in the event were approached by township staff, neighbours and Durham Regional Police. Marshall claimed he'd faced physical assault and verbal abuse, including, according to Marshall, racial epithets.

No one at the *Cosmos* believes for a moment that the mayor or anyone else from the township offices uttered a racial slur.

However, I repeat the essence of the Charter, Section 2b. The media - in this case the *Cosmos* and other news outlets - have the right and obligation to report on places, people and events in their catchment area.

All media are also obliged to report with objectivity. That means the reporter who presents one side of a news story, must attempt to balance anything published with alternative views. In his commentary on the public service page two of the *Cosmos* (Sept. 17), the mayor believes the newspaper did *not* seek an alternative view.

"The *Cosmos* did not ask for comment on the accusations against us," Mayor Barton wrote, "and published the accusations without verifying them."

Upon investigation, that does not appear to be true. In the original story (published on Sept. 10), reporter Edgell offers two excerpts from an email she received in response to a request for com-

ment. In other words, reporter Edgell approached the township to balance her news story. The response solicited by reporter Edgell and posted by Colleen Baskin, Uxbridge Township communication officer, was published Sept. 10: "The Township vehemently denies that the investigation on this file was motivated by racial prejudice."

And if the mayor won't accept the published quotation, he should note that his own communications officer contradicts his accusation. In her own Letter to the Editor (Sept. 17), Ms. Baskin wrote: "As communications officer, I was providing a corporate response to your reporter's inquiry about a confidential file."

In other words, the *Cosmos* did ask for divergent comment. It conducted its reporting with balance and due diligence. It continues to meet its obligations as a legitimate news service, with now 15 years of service to this community. Such principles live up to the standard of the Charter, and, I believe, reflect the *Cosmos's* integrity.

That the mayor's commentary appears on page two is also worrisome. "Uxbridge at a Glance" is reserved for publication of details of community events, council meetings, health alerts, tenders, road closures and employment opportunities. I contend the mayor's commentary meets none of those criteria. If he wishes to criticize what the *Cosmos* publishes, his comments do not belong on a public service page, but in "Letters to the Editor."

I am also disappointed to read that the mayor considers what the *Cosmos* strives to accomplish with each edition is *meaningless*. That does not respect the fearless reporting record of my long-time colleague Roger Varley. It also denies Conrad Boyce, the creator of this publication, and its current publisher/editor Lisha Van Nieuwenhove, credit due, nor does it acknowledge the numerous Ontario Community Newspaper Association awards the *Cosmos* has earned. To suggest the people who assemble this newspaper each week, do so without meaning is wrong. And I resent it. I have lived in this community with my family for 33 years. I have written, broadcast and published in Canada and internationally for over 50 years. For 18 of those years, I taught hundreds of young reporters the same tenets of journalism I've laid out here. None of that, I contend, is meaningless.

I began this column with anger, but have written it more with a sense of disappointment. I invite the mayor to put aside his anger and to reconsider such unfounded accusations. The *Cosmos* continues to do its job, respecting the Charter, its freedoms and all community opinions.

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Music festival on hold until next spring

by *Lisha Van Nieuwenhove*

The Springtide Music Festival announced on the weekend that it will not be holding a festival in 2020, thanks to the situation that the COVID-19 pandemic presents.

Springtide is a two-day celebration that features a wide range of musical talent from Uxbridge and beyond throughout various downtown venues. In a statement released Saturday, organizers said that they were “sad to formally announce that we are unable to present Springtide 2020 in the way that we had planned. Our hope to deliver a modified Springtide this October is not possible given the restrictions created by health and safety regulations put in place to keep our communities safe.”

Springtide 2020 was originally slated to take place on May 8 and 9, but the COVID-19 lockdown forced organizers to push the dates to October 16 and 17, hoping to have a “much-needed community outpouring” then. Now, with COVID-19 infection numbers on the

rise again and provincial regulations stating that groups of people cannot number more than 10 people indoors or 25 people outdoors, the Festival is all but impossible to mount, even in a modified format.

In the earlier days of the lockdown, Springtide quickly offered the “Springtide Self-Isolation Weekly Roundup,” which was a “stay-home guide to connecting with artists, local businesses and each other.” Now that the October event has been called off, it’s working on “Springtide Presents” – what it calls a “simple plan that supports local artists and venues in their efforts to bring the gift of music back to our little town. Live music events will run for several weeks, late September through October, giving us all a little taste of what we’ve been missing.” Details, they say, will follow on social media.

Springtide does anticipate having a 2021 festival, saying “we all need it more than ever.”

For more, visit springtidemusicfestival.com

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COMING UP

UPCOMING

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

Sat., Oct. 3: North Durham Nature's Autumn Forest & Fungi Walk at North Walker Woods, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join naturalist James Kamstra for an interpretive hike through a mature mixed forest to look for mushrooms and ground flora. Maples and oaks should be in their autumn glory. Preregistration required, email james.kamstra@aecom.com Please bring a mask. No dogs please.

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.

Thank You

The family of the late Evelyn Cox/Meek wishes to thank people for all the cards, messages and phone calls of condolence since the passing Evelyn on August 23, 2020.

We would also like to thank Butternut Manor for its care during COVID-19 and to the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital and its staff, nurses, and doctors during these challenging times. We also would like to thank all the neighbours, friends and family who brought food after the grave side service, and made donations to the charities of Evelyn's choice. Thank you to Jim Hackner for conducting the service, and to Low & Low Funeral Home for its role with the service and burial.



The Family of Evelyn Cox/Meek



Chances Are Jewellery Occasion

2 days only!

Friday, Oct. 2 & Saturday, Oct. 3
10am - 4pm

20 Bascom Street, Uxbridge

All proceeds to Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Auxiliary.



Schitt's Creek cleans up at 2020 Virtual Emmy Awards

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Schitt's Creek, the wildly popular comedy series that was partially filmed in Goodwood, made history this past Sunday as it took home not seven, as popularly reported, but nine Emmy Awards. *Schitt's Creek*, which finished off its sixth and final season earlier this year, began with a "slow start," said show co-creator, writer, producer and actor Eugene Levy during an interview with Jimmy Kimmel back in January. "Then our fan base really

became quite rabid!" While popular with its Canadian audience from the beginning, the sitcom didn't garner much attention internationally until Netflix picked it up in early 2017. Then, in 2019, it won four Emmy awards. During this weekend's virtual awards show, *Schitt's Creek* picked up metal in the following categories: Outstanding Comedy Series; Outstanding Sound Mixing for a Comedy or Drama series; Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series; Outstanding Casting for a Comedy Series; Outstand-

ing Contemporary Costumes; Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series: Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series for Eugene Levy; Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series for Catherine O'Hara; Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for Annie Murphy; and Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series for Daniel Levy. These nine Emmys surpass the record of eight set in 2019 by Amazon's *The Marvelous Mrs Maisel*. The Emmy Awards recognize excellence in the television industry.

Perspectives with Brian Evans

Once upon a time...a long time ago...there were people moving to new parts of our country to get some land they could call their own, a new and better start and to raise their family. They started to build rural communities, and most often one of the first places to be constructed was their place of worship, which brought them all together weekly. They helped each other build homes, barns and clear the land. It was hard work but rewarding, as they were making a place for themselves and their children. It was not always easy! They suffered through many dangers and from time to time there was tragedy. Someone was injured. A house or barn burned down. There were times when death raised its untimely face. Yet with each difficulty, the community would come together to help a family recover and move on with life. Everyone would contribute material, labour and when needed, financial resources. Every community knew that, unfortunately, tragedy was going to be a constant, but they did not know when it would occur. All wanted to help, but sometimes when tragedy struck, times were tough. Funds and resources just were not available.

Then, someone had the idea that if they all made regular contributions to a community fund, when there was an unexpected and difficult situation, the needed money would already be available.

What a great idea!! It brought peace of mind to the whole community. This fund reassured everyone that, should something unforeseen come along, they would have the support of their community and they would have the funds to help pick up the pieces. As the years went by, these community funds became a whole industry and many professionals were trained to help families find the protection they needed. It became known as insurance. Yet the general concept of a community pool of money remained. In a nutshell, premium payers who contributed on a regular basis to insurance funds en-

sured financial support should there be a loss. At the same time, if other premium payers experienced tragedy, the fund would help provide for their needs.

Insurance now has decades of statistics based on experience that help calculate more accurate premiums anticipated to cover payouts. Many forms of insurance policies have been developed, including: life, income,

If you sense an insurance advisor isn't looking after your best interests, it's time to look for a new advisor.

automobile, house, liability, critical illness, and others. Each type, including any additional riders available, is specifically designed to help you cover the risks you may face. Not every citizen or country in the world is as fortunate as Canadians to have access to the security of insurance products!

When you hear the word "insurance," it may conjure up a variety of thoughts and emotions. If you have been on the receiving end of the ben-

efits you are, no doubt, very thankful for it. If you haven't received any payout...good for you...but you may wonder why you are contributing to something from which you've never benefitted. Then there are those who have bad memories due to high pressure insurance sales tactics. The insurance industries are highly regulated. Your insurance advisor is trained to consider your situation and your needs. They have a good understanding of the insurance companies and products that will provide peace of mind for you and your loved ones. They will put your interests first. If you sense that they are not...you need to find an advisor who will! There are a lot of advisors who have built their client relationships on helping consumers meet their insurance needs. Seek referrals from trusted friends or search online for advisors who subject themselves to the ethics and compliance demands of industry regulating organizations and associations.

Don't let a negative experience deter the positive peace of mind that is available to you! It could be the next best thing to "happily ever after!"

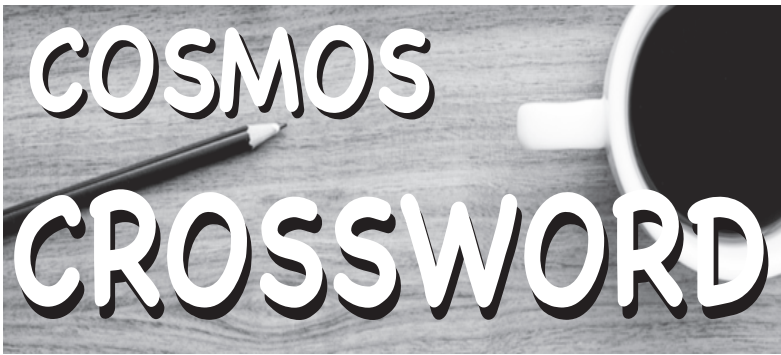
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- Across**
1 Male companion
5 Mandela's org.
8 Church recess
12 Breathing organ
13 "What nonsense!"
14 Visit
15 "Tosca" tune
16 See ya!
17 Beach crawler
18 Former Yugoslavia
20 Response to a captain's order (2 words)
22 Say...what's up, ____?
23 Music genre
24 Study of plants
27 ____ Josey Wales
31 Piece of corn
32 Before to Byron
33 Type of refrigerant (2 words)
37 Bring forward as evidence
40 Articulate
41 Evergreen
42 Synchronized light
45 Loyalty
49 Rich, crumbly soil
50 Astrakhan, for one
52 Soccer score
53 A single time
54 G8 member
55 Eye rakishly
56 To peep out
57 ESPN sportscaster, Bob
58 Evergreen Asian tree
- Down**
1 Reveal without thought
2 Continental currency
3 Liquorish flavor
4 African republic
5 Jurisdiction of a monastery
6 Senate vote
7 Like a miser
8 Honor
9 Prefix with legal
10 Do in
11 River to the North Sea
19 Electrically charged particle
21 "Yeah, ____!"
24 Sleeping place
25 Canoe equipment
26 Have a go at
28 Monetary unit of Romania
29 Circle segment
30 Tiny
34 Chemical compound
35 Hack
36 Hottie
37 Brawl
38 Cease to exist
39 Fire breather
42 Unappetizing food
43 Coloring
44 Contest
46 Seating area
47 It's hard to believe
48 The first matter, according to scientists
51 Prattice



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Pandemic pumpkin-picking still a possibility

by Justyne Edgell,
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter

For many, nothing is more exciting than a trip to pick-your-own pumpkins or apples to kick off fall festivities. Luckily, this year most of the local farms will still be welcoming visitors despite a few new safety precautions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many local farms, such as Cooper's Farm in Sandford and Apples of Glasgow towards Stouffville, will be open and accepting visitors by online appointment only in order to ensure lower volumes of guests.

"It looks like it's going to be a busy year!" says Dawn Wallman, owner of Apples of Glasgow. "Our booking page opened on Wednesday, Sept. 9, and we were already almost booked up for Saturday and halfway booked for Sunday before Friday!" exclaimed Wallman.

She also explained that everyone working at the orchard attended a webinar that was hosted by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs. The webinar was put on to help farmers create new procedures for this year.

"This was very helpful. Some speakers included pick-your-own strawberry farmers who had already experienced our 'new normal.' We reached out to Public Health with our initial ideas, received some feed-

back and came up with our 2020 opening plan," said Wallman. "We are limiting the size of groups and there will be no apple taste testing or rest areas available. We're still hoping to have an idyllic apple picking experience."

Brooks Farms in Mount Albert will also be open with limited entry. Tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis, and the farm will close when it reaches capacity.

Lisa Cooper, owner of Cooper's CSA Farm and Maze, also says this

year will be a bit different.

"All of our visitors will be pre-booked online. Our maze, mini maze and pumpkin patch will be open, but we've had to close all other activities like hayrides and slides, to limit the number of frequently touched surfaces."

Before visiting any farms this season, be sure to check your destination's website before your visit, as opening hours may be different and procedures may be updated as local pandemic circumstances change.

Adjusted Studio Tour deemed a success

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

Gorgeous weather and pandemic-understanding art lovers seem to have made this year's Uxbridge Studio Tour an apparent success. Because of COVID-19 regulations, visitors on the tour had to either make appointments with their artists of choice, or tour outdoor galleries.

Artist and chair of the Studio Tour, Colin Whitebread, said his site tours went well.

"I had two busy days and the people were fantastic. Everyone was on time for their scheduled visits and they put their

masks on as soon as they hit the driveway."

Whitebread estimates about 130 people visited his studio over the weekend.

Although he says it's too early to tell, Whitebread says the feedback from the public was beyond satisfactory, with many glad to have a positive reason to get out of the house.

"There was lots of appreciation for us taking the chance and continuing to hold a 2020 tour, despite all that's going on in the world right now. Guests said they felt very safe and I'm looking forward to a get the full update from the rest of the team at our next meeting."




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RULES:

- Participants must repurpose newspaper into something creative and/or functional (anything goes - ballgown, basket, lampshade) and submit it to The Uxbridge Cosmos.
Note: While a piece created 100% of newspaper is ideal, we recognize that other materials may be necessary for framework and stability. Therefore, a piece MUST consist of at least 70%.
- In addition to a brief description about the participant's creation, a series of photos or videos taken during the construction process must also be submitted.

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