

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 36

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, September 17, 2020



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UXBRIDGE FALL FAIR COVID-STYLE - Paul and Patty Green of Bell St. won first place in the Uxbridge Fall Fair's Display Contest with their "Pony Show." Other winning entries for the Individual/Family Class could be found on Oakside Dr. and Bolton Dr. The People's Choice Award went to a display on Conc. 3. In the Business Class, first place went to Scotiabank, with Blue Heron Books and Woods Clothing also earning honours. Woods Clothing was also People's Choice. The Uxbridge Fall Fair held the display contest to keep up Fall Fair spirit, despite the actual fair having been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo by John Cavers

Township takes first steps to denounce hate symbols

by Roger Varley

A report made to council on Monday, submitted by deputy clerk Josh Machesney and manager of by-law services Kristina Bergeron, on prohibiting visible symbols of hate in Uxbridge left some councillors questioning what constitutes a hate symbol and who makes that decision.

In the report, Machesney and Bergeron recommended a number of measures the township could take to "foster inclusivity and diversity, and to denounce hate, particularly racism." This includes: making an amendment to the township's sign by-law prohibiting symbols of hate; adopting a township anti-racism policy; issuing an official statement condemning a racist incident that occurred in town on June 5; and providing anti-racism training for staff and councillors.

They said various pieces of provincial legislation give the township the authority to pass by-

laws regulating what can appear on public-facing signs, including flags, murals, billboards, posters, etc. Provincial legislation does not allow the regulation of private symbols, such as symbols that appear in books, on articles of clothing or on signs within private residences. The report said the township recognizes that consideration must be taken not interfere with freedom of expression.

Starting a lengthy debate on the report, Regional Councillor Gord Highet asked who decides what is a symbol of hate? He also asked whether such a decision would be based on what he called "societal norms," and wanted to know how council decides what it is going to enforce. Bergeron responded that the wording of the by-law "would sound something similar to: 'messages, logos, graphics displayed on any sign shall not promote violence, hatred and discrimination on the basis of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital sta-

tus, family status, disability, or contempt against any identifiable group.' It is open, but that covers everything, I think, that we are hoping to accomplish," she said.

But Councillor Bruce Garrod said he was concerned about council deciding what is or isn't hate.

"We're not experts in this area," he said, noting he did research on the internet and discovered a lot of obscure items that could perhaps be considered hate symbols, like certain numbers, for example.

"It shows how naive we are," he said.

Mayor Dave Barton, noting that the township regularly consults experts in several fields, replied that he believed "we can be trusted to manage this type of thing."

Councillor Todd Snooks, who also is a York Region police officer, said the criminal code recognizes a difference between driving past a gathering while displaying a Confederate flag

...continued on page 3

Inside Your Cosmos

Last chance for playground input . . . page 3

Still running for Terry 40 years later. . page 8

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for September, 2020

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

To the Citizens of Uxbridge,

Last week this paper included a quote that accused Township staff of racially motivated physical and verbal assault.

FACT: No member of the Township staff or myself have entered the property in question, nor met the organizer or his staff in person. Our written correspondence is a matter of public record.

The Cosmos did not ask for comment on the accusations against us and published the accusations without verifying them. Neither Township staff nor I physically or verbally assaulted anyone. Enforcement of by-law regulations is not done based on race.

The local media holds our community together and ensures that residents keep their local government accountable. When false information is released in print media it causes us all to question everything we read. A local paper without its integrity is meaningless.

I truly hope the Cosmos and its editor find a way to restore our trust as a valid news source.


Mayor Dave Barton



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

FROM THE TAX OFFICE - PROPERTY TAX DUE DATE IS SEPTEMBER 28, 2020.

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- In an after-hours Drop Box located in the Municipal Office front parking lot. – DO NOT DEPOSIT CASH Post-dated cheques accepted;
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The penalty/interest charges cannot be waived or reduced by the Tax Department or Council for any reason.

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Debbie Leroux, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services
Township of Uxbridge, 51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190
Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1T1

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What is a hate symbol, from page 1

and doing the same thing while yelling racial slurs. Snooks was referring to the June 5 incident when a vehicle displaying the flag drove past a Black Lives Matter gathering outside the township offices.

"A display may be offensive, but if it is not accompanied by an action, it's not criminal," he said.

When asked if it wasn't too long after the fact to issue an official statement condemning the June 5 incident, Barton said: "We've been working on this a number of months. Timing isn't an issue."

Council eventually voted in favour of supporting the report's recommendations.

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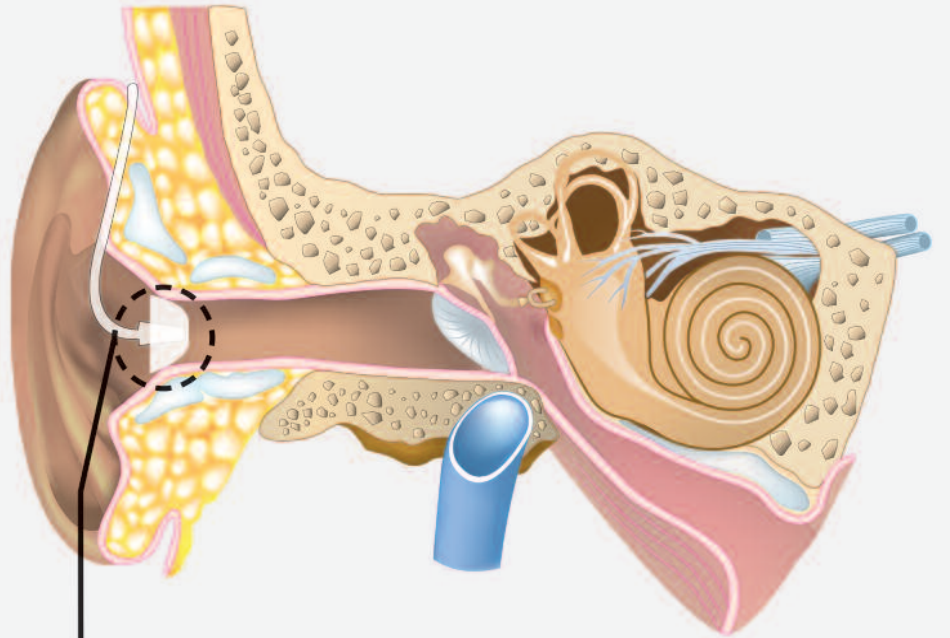
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Our two cents

Setting the record straight

Last week, on page 3, the *Cosmos* published a news story headlined “Goodwood concerts spark ire and accusations.” The newspaper’s coverage sparked ire and accusations, indeed, but not about the concerts referred to in the story. After the story was published, Colleen Baskin, the township’s communications officer, took to Facebook to defend herself against what she perceived as an attack on her reputation. The mayor also created a separate Facebook post refuting the accusations against Ms. Baskin. Both Ms. Baskin and Mayor Barton state that the *Cosmos* printed something without “fact-checking” first.

Ah yes. The current buzz-words: “fake news,” “fact-checking,” etc. There’s plenty of “fake news” out there, for sure. But does it apply in this instance? No.

The mayor contends that the *Cosmos* made an error when it printed a “quote that suggests that I or the Township would do this [ask office staff to break up an event], without giving us a chance to comment on the quote.”

The *Cosmos* did not such thing. The paper approached the township at least three different times to try to discover what had occurred during interactions at various events being held on a Goodwood property. The *Cosmos* did ask: Who was involved? Where was the property located (it wasn’t public at the time)? And, what had happened to date?

As noted in a Sept. 3 *Cosmos* column, all the township would say was that “other agencies” had been engaged and that the township was “applying every means we have at our disposal to address the situation,” and that it “cannot disclose the details of the file.”


When preparing the Sept. 10 news story for publication, the most the *Cosmos* was afforded was what the mayor had posted on Facebook, and a corporate statement from the communications officer. To claim after publication “they should have fact-checked,” when all along the *Cosmos* had attempted just that, is inaccurate.

This appears to be a case of wanting to shoot the messenger. The *Cosmos* printed what one source said, and attributed it. In the interest of publishing a balanced news story, the *Cosmos* also printed what the Township was prepared to say in response. If the *Cosmos* had only printed one side to the story, that would have been biased, falling short of a newspaper’s role in the community it serves. In this instance, the *Cosmos* was fair, balanced, and publishing the news as gathered.

It also appears to have escaped some readers’ notice, later in the news item, that the story quotes the mayor and Ms. Baskin, both in their official capacities, *refuting the claims made by the original source*. The newspaper attempts to present what happened as best can be determined via interview, research and sound reporting.

We appreciate that Ms. Baskin was upset by the quote in the story, but to be fair, the comment did not come from the *Cosmos*. It came from a source who felt wrongly characterized. As she says in her “Letter to the Editor,” however, Uxbridge is a small town, and when not only the reporter, but another journalist and even the editor read the quote that mentioned “the mayor’s assistant...”, they all *knew* that it was not a reference to Ms. Baskin. We must also add that the *Cosmos* has only ever known Ms. Baskin position at the township office to be “communications officer.” The *Cosmos* only learned last Friday that her official job title is “assistant to the mayor and CAO/communications officer.”

“Mainstream media” continue to take a beating these days. And that’s fine, when based on fact. However, sometimes news consumers appear more willing to read *into* their news, and not actually read their news. Some in the former group are often quick to jump onto social media and accuse mainstream media of not having “fact-checked” or done their due diligence. In this case, the *Cosmos* believes it has done exactly that.




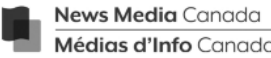



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9,500 copies of The Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge: 8,800 delivered by mail, 700 available in stores and boxes.

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Letters to the Editor

How disappointing to read the article that is so insulting to Uxbridge, in regards to Goodwood concerts [“Goodwood concerts spark ire and accusations,” Sept. 10 edition]. what? The organizers, however, must have forgotten all the bad things that supposedly happened because they were back this past weekend in full force.

I have spoken to and/or contacted many residents, and no one assaulted, abused or showed any negative actions towards the organizers. One video does exist that shows a neighbour talking to the organizer, and there is nothing to suggest this Goodwood person was aggressive in any way.

Also, I understand the police came out. Why would the police be shown around and then walk away without enforcing the rules and regulations from the provincial government that apply to how large a gathering can be during COVID-19?

Obviously this township needs to bring forth a policy or bylaw that states what the rules and regulations are in regards to COVID-19 actions. We are a community that takes our safety from COVID-19 very seriously and we do not appreciate anyone jeopardizing the health of our seniors, children or those with a compromised immune system.

Uxbridge is a very generous, compassionate, caring community and it is very unfortunate that the organizer of these concerts didn’t bother to get to know Uxbridge better before he disturbed everyone’s peace and quiet life style in the countryside and possibly jeopardized our community’s health.

Bev Northeast
Goodwood

Imagine my surprise, which quickly turned to horror, to learn that I was accused in your paper of threatening a wedding party at a private residence

to “shut down the party and get us out of the neighbourhood”.

The quotes implied I engaged in racist and threatening behaviour and that I physically assaulted people. While the *Cosmos* did not name me specifically, this is a small community and I am the only employee who works in the office of the mayor as the mayor’s assistant so I feel it is pretty easy to identify me.

I can assure you that I did not attend any residence, threaten anyone, physically assault them or discriminate against them. I have never communicated with the quoted person in any manner and have never been to the property in question. My job does not involve intervening in by-law issues, and I was not in any way involved in this. I can’t explain why this individual said what he did.

The problem is compounded by the fact that, as the communications officer (I have more than one role at the Township) you quoted me as saying that our communications were not prejudicial, which supports the illusion that I attended the event and was aware of what was communicated with the complainant. In reality, as communications officer I was providing a corporate response to your reporter’s inquiry about a confidential by-law file, which I am not privy to.

The fact that I feel I have to write a public letter to the editor to defend myself so as to salvage my reputation against unsubstantiated printed accusations is deeply concerning. This is not something you should have ever published without fact-checking it. Shame on you. To everyone else out there, I DID NOT DO THIS.

Colleen Baskin
Assistant to the Mayor and CAO/
Communications Officer
Township of Uxbridge

In response to Mr. Dempsey and his

reaction to the kids enjoying themselves at the playground in Uxbridge - he seemed totally naive and uninformed.

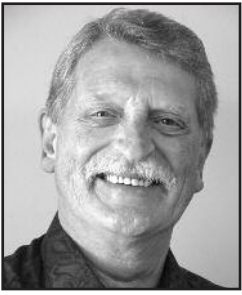
Every human lives with billions of viruses in their body. Those viruses are here for our protection to keep us alive, not to kill us. A person will not die because of a virus. A person can only die of a deficiency or poisoning, a bad immune system, or an accident. Old people die mostly because of illnesses that they develop over time. As long as our immune system is OK we don’t have anything to worry about, including COVID-19 or the flu.

Children should play in the dirt, pull a carrot out of the soil and eat it. They shouldn’t wash their hands every few minutes or use disinfectant. In no way should any child ever wear a mask. It simply makes for unhealthy children and unhealthy adults. Wearing a mask and distancing is the worst thing that anyone can do to stay healthy. The mask is cutting down our oxygen intake, we’re breathing our own breath, which could do irreparable damage to our organs or even kill us. We need other not-so-healthy persons around us to upgrade our own immune system.

Why our governments and their so-called health specialists are telling us to basically get sick, I don’t know. Even the WHO (World Health Organization) and Dr. Fauci have said that a mask will probably not protect anyone. Is anyone listening? It has even turned into a new mask fashion by some dumb people.

Maybe Bill Gates was right when he said we have too many people on this Earth. The vaccinations will change that for sure. People with a healthy immune system don’t need to fear COVID-19 at all. We need to be frightened of vaccines and the suppression of the truth by our media,

...continued on page 6



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Who to blame for the next lockdown?

It doesn't take more than a couple of minutes of searching on the internet to find example after example of athletes of all stripes luxuriating in their impending and inevitable victory, only to have a determined competitor snatch it away at the last second.

In war, it is fatal to turn one's back on the enemy and just as fatal to ignore intelligence reports and falsely assume the enemy is defeated.

So it is with this war against the damned COVID-19 pandemic. We are being given the intelligence reports daily by our government health experts and yet so many choose to ignore them. Because they're growing weary of the six-month-long shutdown - (aren't we all?) - and no-one in their family has been sick, they think the war is won. That's pretty much the same as me lasting the first round of a 15-round bout with Muhammad Ali and saying: "I've got this."

But this war against COVID-19 is nowhere near over and the moment we let our guard down it will attack again.

The problem is, too many people are now pushing to have things return to the way they were before this pandemic struck. Even Uxbridge council received two letters this week from residents who want the arena re-opened, the library re-opened. Do these people really want to put their children at risk just so they can go for a skate? Have these people really read every book in their homes? Have they not heard that Ontario, which went for weeks with a daily new-case count of less than 100, is now recording over 300 new cases a day?

Premier Doug Ford warned earlier this week that the province could find itself reversing some of the moves it has made to gradually re-open society. If people continue to insist on holding parties and other large gatherings, if they continue to eschew the wearing of masks or practicing social distancing, we'll find ourselves back where we were six months ago and everything we have been through in that time will be for nought. Restaurants and patios could be closed up again, non-essential businesses and stores could be forced to shut again. And if that happens, who will we blame?

My guess is the blame will fall squarely on the shoulders of the people who have been trying their best to prevent this from happening. But it should fall on those whose inconsiderate actions and refusal to listen to the experts have caused the number of new cases to rise.

If little Timmy contracts COVID-19 while on the ice, isn't he likely spread it to a lot of his schoolmates before his infection is detected? Is there really any book so important to read that it's worth running the risk of becoming seriously ill? Are a few hours of partying worth spending days, or even weeks, hooked up to a ventilator?

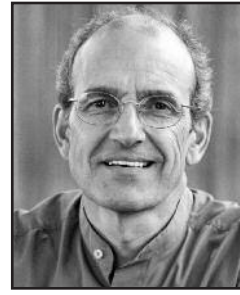
I've said it before, but I think it deserves repeating: these selfish people are putting other's lives at risk: mine, yours, your family's.

Of course, those types of people are always with us. You know, the guy who insists on watering his lawn during a water restriction, the one who continues burning stuff during a fire ban.

And there are a lot of them. This week, the results of a study showed almost 25 per cent of Canadians think the coronavirus threat is being overblown. Yet another study, also released this week, shows 90 per cent of Canadians think the border with the U.S. should remain closed. That would indicate that some of those who think the threat is overblown still think the border should be closed for our protection. What kind of twisted logic are such people using? Probably the same kind of logic that has seen an incredible increase in the number of people who are being taken in by all the conspiracy theories that have proliferated during this pandemic.

Returning to the war analogy, there's an old saying that the first casualty of war is truth. But in this particular case, it's not the leaders who are trampling on the truth; it's those who don't like the inconveniences that war brings. It seems to me that if these naysayers gain any traction, we're all going to face inconvenience much worse than what we have already endured.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

A pattern for a life

Our community still mourns the passing of Sue Carmichael two weeks ago. Her family members will remember all she gave them, her church and the rest of us, at a service this weekend. By coincidence, exactly 10 years ago, I wrote a column about Sue and her passion for giving, quilting and living. I offer my thoughts from that column in tribute:

Even in this liberated community, there are some areas still considered off-limits to certain people. I mean, children aren't often seen in pubs. Most women don't hang out in repair garages. And men don't generally frequent beauty salons. The same could be said of men in sewing shops and the like. In fact, recently, when I decided to pay a courtesy visit to the Quilters Cupboard in town, I got a predictable response when I entered.

"Hey ladies," the proprietor announced from inside the store, "a man has just entered the shop." Most got a chuckle out of the remark. I did too.

The shop was buzzing with energy. In a far-off activity room, I could see a group of women chatting and quilting. Throughout the main display area of the shop, women of all ages exchanged the latest about quilted blankets and browsed the counters jammed with design packages. I overheard a customer ask about a specific pattern.

"It's a design by a Vancouver quilter," the shop owner said. "We've got to support our Canadian quilters, you know."

The woman offering the pro-Canada perspective on quilt designs is Sue Carmichael - for eight years the owner/operator of Quilters Cupboard. As long as I've known Sue - I met her years ago via her husband Phil, an Uxbridge Oilies hockey teammate of mine - I learned that she is a former nurse and dedicated homemaker who is always upbeat, always smiling and always eager to hear the latest in your life. In fact, for several years now - since her own battle with breast cancer - Sue has regularly invited volunteers to join her 30-hour quilting marathons raising awareness and funds to fight cancer. A couple of her campaigns, since 2002, have raised nearly \$70,000.

But my recent visit wasn't about her cancer fundraiser. It wasn't even about quilting per se. I found what I was looking for at the shop's front counter. There in a prominent spot lay copies of the latest edition of the international periodical *Quilt Sampler* - a glossy, 150-page, quarterly magazine, published in Des Moines, Iowa. The front cover of this particular edition offered news on "10 All-New Projects" and the

particulars of "Full-Size Patterns Inside." By far the most important news, emblazoned across the front cover, however, were the magazine's choices for the "Ultimate Shop Hop," that is, visits to the top quilting stores in North America. And a quick perusal revealed that right up there was Sue Carmichael's Quilters Cupboard. After my not-so-subtle arrival, I eventually caught Sue's attention and asked, "How big a deal is this?"

"Very big," she beamed and added. "This magazine goes everywhere."

Sue explained that the candidates for *Quilt Sampler's* "Top Ten List" come from thousands of applications. The hometown nominators never expected the Uxbridge entry to win. But that's only the half of it. Six months ago, when Sue and her staff learned that her shop had made the cut, they had to keep the ranking a secret. In fact, one day back in the spring, the shop staff completely transformed the place - hanging fall motif decorations and laying out patterns for Autumn 2010 for the photographer who arrived for the magazine spread. Then, they changed everything back again and kept the blockbuster top-ranking under wraps.

Lest you think this notoriety is small potatoes, half a million dedicated (and probably well-travelled) quilters regularly read this periodical. And they won't just see the latest of Sue's quilting designs either. On a page opposite are listed an array of other attractions in Uxbridge. You see, as well as being a proud proprietor, Sue Carmichael stitches a lot of boosterism into her patterns. Not so long ago, a quilter called from Kitchener, inquiring about the shop and about Uxbridge.

"Did you know this area was once the home of Lucy Maud Montgomery?" Sue asked the woman.

The woman sounded surprised.

"Would you like to see the Maud sites?" Sue asked. And before long a busload of Kitchener-area quilters had arrived so Sue could guide them to see Maud's home, the Leaskdale Manse, and the church where Maud's husband Ewan Macdonald served as minister. *Quilt Sampler* magazine concluded its assessment, applauding Sue and her shop where "quilters always find fellowship and camaraderie..."

Sue Carmichael has changed the definition of many things - what's off-limits and what's not, what positive thinking can accomplish, and why giving is a pattern we can all stitch into our lives.

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



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- **Hand hygiene** will be enabled with hand sanitizer and hand washing.
- **More nurses** will be in schools.
- **School cleaning** will be enhanced.



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COMING UP

NEXT WEEK

Mon., Sept. 21: Uxbridge Loaves & Fishes Food Bank Annual General Meeting. 10 a.m. St. Andrew's Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Gymnasium. Seats limited to ensure proper social distancing. Please reserve your seat by calling 905-852-0392 or email uxbridgeloadsandfishes@hotmail.com

Tues., Sept. 22: North Durham Nature presents a webinar on Bats. 7 p.m. Join us from the comfort of your own home to learn about bats - their mysterious lives, the role they play in the ecosystem and the issues around bat conservation. Speaker, Dr. Christina Davies is an adjunct professor at Trent University and a research scientist with the Ministry of Natural Resources. To register for the webinar contact Cara Gregory at northdurhamnature@gmail.com

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.

Letters, from page 4

if nothing else.

If you feel better wearing a mask, do so. Don't believe me, do your own research.

*Heinz Nitschke
Uxbridge*

When we decided to move to Uxbridge, few years ago, the Mason Homes subdivision displayed the ethos of the Mason Homes philosophy. The subdivision offers a nice assortment of different types of dwellings, with some having an added benefit of overlooking the Maple Bridge Trail.

Presently, the Mason Homes owner's house is being built in the same subdivision, wedged between the entrance to the enclave of recently built big houses (next to the Simcoe Conservation protected sliver of land) and the existing subdivision.

Below is the Mason Philosophy posted on the Maple Bridge Trail board at Centre Road trail head:

"It is important for builders to think of developments as more than simple houses and lots - the well-being of the people who live in these homes, and their sense of community are the most important priority. We at Mason Homes believe that a good community enhances the land and the lives of its residents. Building houses consumes land - but we can do this in gentle ways, giving something back to the environment in return. Developing a nature trail in the hearth of MapleBridge in Uxbridge is one way, as is building the most energy-efficient homes we can design." - Gordon Mason

However, the developer's own dwelling

does not appear to follow in the footsteps of the stated philosophy. The house type does not complement the environment nor the postcard size of the lot eked out between the two existing houses, and consumes the tiny bit of land that could have been used instead as a visitor's parking lot for the residents of James Hunt Court. Right now, they have to have their visitors park at the side of the Oakside Drive, as no visitor's parking allowance was made in their private enclave.

This building seems to be the ultimate testament of the times we live in, and that what we promote and defend we stand for, often (hopefully at least in some cases inadvertently) does not translate in our actual actions as we get consumed with the "self" and "money buys anything" attitude.

I hope we can all do better, and the time for that is now.

*Maja Krnjajic
Uxbridge*

There were four of us at an outdoor patio, recently, sharing dinner as we do each month. We laughed and giggled, talking about our lives as usual, enjoying a friendship that spans at least 10 years.

As we were leaving, I stopped long enough to give a socially distanced wave and a hello to a family sitting at another table, because I had been smiling inside all evening. I'd been watching a mom and dad keep their five-month old son entertained with toys, hugs and giggles! Such a pleasure!

Missing my little people and not-so-little people so much.

*Barbara Blower
Uxbridge*

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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. 9/17

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The Uxbridge
COSMOS



Terry Fox continues to inspire hope for cancer cure 40 years on

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

"I've said to people before that I'm going to do my very best to make it, I'm not going to give up. But I might not make

it... if I don't, the Marathon of Hope better continue." - Terry Fox

On April 12, 1980, Terry Fox dipped the toe of his artificial leg into the Atlantic Ocean, at the harbour in St.

John's Newfoundland, to start his journey across Canada. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the Marathon of Hope, and every year, communities across Canada hold Terry Fox Runs to continue raising money for Terry's cause - finding a cure for cancer.

And this year is no different. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Uxbridge's Terry Fox Run will take place virtually this Sunday, Sept. 20. Runners, bikers, wheelers and walkers can register online through www.terryfox.org and do the run any way they like.

Uxbridge Run organizer Maggie

Ferraro is disappointed that there will be no community event this year, but encourages everyone to still get involved.

"It's going to be totally different. The decision not to have a run this year was made by the Canadian head office, it was out of our hands," explains Ferraro. "But we're still encouraging everyone to join the virtual run with their families. Maybe go walk Elgin Park or head over to some of our great trails."

The Uxbridge Run usually sees about 350 participants. Ferraro says that the lead up to this year's virtual run is looking good.

"Head office is already reporting high merchandise sales. It's the 40th anniversary and I think people are looking forward to doing something positive this year."

The Uxbridge Terry Fox Run has raised over \$500,000 for cancer research over the years. Ferraro wants to remind everyone that this is what it's all about. "Cancer is one of those things that has affected everyone in some way. Despite anything else going on in our world, cancer research will always be extremely important."

Terry Fox was diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma, a rare bone cancer, when he was 18. The disease forced the amputation of his right leg, 15 centimetres above the knee. Despite the amputation and a gruelling 16-

months of chemotherapy, Fox was determined to be more than a survivor, he wanted to be an inspiration and a role model for all those battling cancer.

In 1979, after months of cancer treatment, Fox set a goal to not only raise \$1 million for the fight against cancer but to also prove that, despite being an amputee, he could accomplish the great feat of running across Canada in what he called the Marathon of Hope.

Beginning that April 12 morning, Fox ran the equivalent of a marathon every day, and his fundraising goal quickly grew to \$23 million.

By the time Fox reached Thunder Bay, however, his health began to catch up with him. Doctors confirmed that the cancer had spread, and he was forced to head home. Terry Fox ran for 143 days, clocking 5,373 kilometres.


He passed away one month shy of his 23rd birthday. The fundraising, however, did not stop. Anyone interested in participating in this year's run, or for those looking to donate, visit www.terryfox.org. By searching "Uxbridge" in the Run Site Location box you can donate directly to the Uxbridge site and even select a specific participant.

Anyone wishing to get a 2020 Terry Fox Run sticker, can email Maggie Ferraro at maggieferraro@icloud.com



Terry Fox during his 1980 Marathon of Hope. His wish to have the Marathon of Hope continue lives on in the annual Terry Fox Run, which happens virtually in Uxbridge this Sunday, Sept. 20.

Photo from www.terryfox.org



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