

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 41

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, October 22, 2020



Patrick Bryant, Broker of Record

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FIRST STEPS TO A PLAYGROUND - The Uxbridge Lions safely gathered all those who submitted playground design ideas together in Elgin Park on Saturday morning, presenting the artists with art kits. From left: Lenore Moore, Lily Trkulja, Zeven Alexander, and Jaeanette Moore. Watching the celebration was Kaia, the daughter of a new local pastor. A few of the artists also received books from Blue Heron Books, and Swiss Chalet Uxbridge gave a \$50 gift certificate to one lucky draw winner. The Uxbridge Lions Club is building a universal playground to replace the one shown here, and received 20 submissions of "dream playgrounds." *Photo by Jean Doucet*

Residents can honour Uxbridge veterans in drive-by style

by Roger Varley

With the traditional Remembrance Day services cancelled this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Uxbridge has the opportunity to take part in a drive-by recognition of veterans in Elgin Park on Sunday, Nov. 8.

Conceived by Tish Macdonald, the event will see veterans placed in chairs at intervals around the park's inside path, with signs identifying them by name and service. The vets will all be socially distanced. The public is invited to enter the park by way of the Elgin Park Drive entrance and slowly drive their vehicles past the veterans in a show of support.

Macdonald said the path will be lined with large poppies and three military vehicles from the Ontario Regiment will also be on hand. There also will be honour guards from the

Uxbridge Legion and the Uxbridge fire department, as well as members of the Uxbridge Legion Pipes and Drums.

"[The pandemic] gives us an opportunity to be creative in how we honour our veterans this year," Macdonald said. "We don't want to forget we still have Second World War vets in Uxbridge."

She said she hopes to have about 15 or 20 veterans staged around the pathway. The veterans will be in place by 12:30 p.m., but, although her request to council for use of the park specified it will last until 2:30 p.m., Macdonald said she doesn't know how long it will last.

"It depends on how many people show up," she said.

If the weather is inclement, the veterans will be seated inside vehicles instead of on chairs.

Macdonald also said that, because there are

fewer opportunities for poppy boxes and donations this year, she is discussing with the Legion whether donations from the passing parade will be accepted. She noted that anyone wishing to make a donation to the Legion in these hard times can either send Branch 170 a cheque or email legion170@powergate.ca with an e-transfer. Donations should be marked "Branch 170 Poppy Fund."

Macdonald, who, as a teacher at Uxbridge Secondary School, elevated Remembrance Day activities to a community-wide recognition of the veterans and was the prime mover behind the township's veterans banners program, said the high school's Vimy '19 students have taken over from her since she retired earlier this year.

"They've taken up the torch," she said. "They're planning a digital Remembrance Day service."

Inside Your Cosmos

Nashville noticespage 7

Tips and treatspage 9

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for October 2020

Wednesday, October 21
7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
MEETING

Monday, October 26
10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, October 30
9:00 a.m.

MUSIC HALL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING

Proclamations for the month of Oct.

Saturday, October 24

World Polio Day

Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

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



The Durham Region Health Department has tips to help you celebrate Hallowe'en safely.

Learn more at

www.uxbridge.ca/en/news/celebrating-halloween-during-covid-19.aspx

From The Tax Department

Now is the time to enroll in our Monthly or Installment Pre-Authorized Payment Plan for the 2021 taxation year.

What are the Benefits?

Taxpayers will no longer have to worry about missed due dates or late payment charges. Monthly payments allow for easier budgeting. Once you enroll, you do not have to reapply unless you have a new property within the Township.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible, your property must be fully assessed, and your tax account must be up to date (no arrears).

How to apply

Pre-Authorized Payment Forms (pdf) are available on the Township website at www.uxbridge.ca/en/living-here/property-taxes.aspx or at the Tax Department (51 Toronto St S).

Return the completed PAP Form and Void Cheque or Bank form to the Township of Uxbridge Tax Department:

- In person at the Municipal Office (51 Toronto Street South) during regular business hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday or use the after-hours drop-box in the front parking lot or
- By Mail to the Township of Uxbridge PO Box 190, 51 Toronto St S. Uxbridge ON L9P 1T1 or
- By Email to tax@uxbridge.ca

The deadline to submit your Application is **NOVEMBER 30, 2020.**

Please direct phone inquiries to the Tax Department at 905-852-9181 Ext. 211 or 216.

Township of Uxbridge Public Works Department Notice

SATURDAY CONSTRUCTION

Brock St. Culvert Construction
will occur in Downtown Uxbridge
(weather permitting) on
Sat. Oct. 24th

Downtown stores remain open

www.uxbridgeculvert.ca

Register for Swimming Lessons and Swim Programs

Stage 2 COVID-19
Precautions in place

Register on Activenet,
at Uxpool (1 Parkside Dr.),
or by calling 905 852 7831



New Baseball Diamonds Open House

Virtual meeting
Wed., Nov. 4th
7:00-9:00pm

Share your thoughts on this proposal. Presentation starts
at 7:00pm, public Q&A session afterwards.

Visit <https://bit.ly/2T9sUzC> to learn more and to
register for this session.

New baseball diamonds are proposed for the Fields of Uxbridge. The public is invited to an open house to examine the proposal and ask questions. The open house will take place virtually on November 4 at 7:00pm. The public is encouraged to pre-register for the event by contacting Amanda Ferraro at aferraro@uxbridge.ca More information about the open house can be found at <https://bit.ly/2T9sUzC>



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

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

TOWN HALL

by Roger Varley
Notes from the October 19
Council Meeting

Snow-clearing costs skyrocket: Uxbridge council approved the awarding of a two-year snow-clearing contract on Monday that will see the cost of removing snow from municipal facilities increase by an average of 126 per cent.

A report by Luke Gillham of the public works department recommended the contract for clearing snow at the community centres in the hamlets and the municipal offices, fire station and arena be awarded to GZA Inc., the lowest bidder in a renewed tender. A previous call for tenders, reported earlier this month, resulted in submissions that were so high - (accepting the lowest bid would have seen an increase in snow removal costs averaging 265 per cent) - that council called for the tender to be renewed.

The latest submissions saw GZA offer to clear the rural parking lots for \$65,664 and the urban lots for \$75,371, for a total of \$141,036. Those bids represent an increase of 140 per cent and 118 per cent respectively over last year's costs. The highest bids came from Dig-Con International Ltd, which offered to clear the lots for \$353,700 in the hamlets and \$226,000 in the urban area.

Public Works Director Ben Kester said the cost of snow removal in the second year of the contract might increase by about two per cent over the first year.

Deputy mayor Willie Popp, who chaired Monday's council meeting, observed that the contract would see "a pretty significant increase" in costs and requested that

staff look at the option of the works department doing the snow clearing. Nevertheless, council gave unanimous approval to hire GZA. Popp said the township didn't want to wait because snow likely will be coming soon.

Kester said he spoke with the lowest bidder, who told him the prices submitted reflect increases in insurance rates. He said staff was "blind-sided" on the tender but offered that some money would be saved by offering a two-year contract. He noted, however, that the municipality of Innisfil has started doing its own snow clearing.

Council in a haze over pot: Receiving correspondence from three Ontario municipalities about problems with the cultivation of cannabis, council appeared to be at a loss as to how to address the problems in Uxbridge.

The townships of Blandford-Blenheim, Asphodel Norwood and Madawaska Valley all wrote of problems they are experiencing with cannabis grow-ops.

Councillor Gary Ruona said he was disappointed with the meeting council had recently with representatives of Health Canada on the subject, saying Health Canada could not give the township the locations of any licenced grow-ops in the townships.

Councillor Pam Beach said she was having "considerable problems" in her ward and suggested council support the above-named municipalities in their calls for more support from the federal government in regulating grow-ops. She also asked that staff "investigate." Councillor Bruce Garrod wondered just what council would be asking staff to do. Beach said the township needs to enact a stringent by-law covering cannabis production.

Lesions on little boy's brain lead to GoFundMe campaign

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A little Uxbridge boy has recently been diagnosed with a rare brain disorder, and a fundraising campaign has started to help pave the way for his recovery.

Two-year-old Evan Paterson will undergo surgery on November 9 to disconnect the left side of his brain from the right side. The procedure will hopefully prevent Evan from developmentally regressing, and his recovery will likely be a long and arduous process.

Evan was born on March 2, 2018. For the first few months of his life, he was a regular little boy, hitting all the important milestones. At about four-months old Evan started to develop something called Infantile Spasms.

"They're like mini seizures that would come in clusters of between 20 and 30 and could last for about 10 minutes," said Evan's mom, Samantha Bishop.

After trying different medications, steroids ultimately stopped the seizures. After two years of being seizure-free and growing well, in February of this year Evan was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

"But to our surprise, Evan was flourishing with his therapies and amazing us every day with new things he was learning and how fast he was learning them," remarked Bishop.

Then, on July 1, Evan had his first seizure in almost two years.

"He started out with only a few but slowly made his way up to anywhere from 10-40 seizures in a cluster with anywhere from one to five clusters a day," said Bishop.

Upon investigation, doctors at Sick-Kids hospital found that Evan had a lesion on his brain that was causing the seizures.

"They explained it like this: when Evan is thinking, his brain cells don't

communicate with each other. It's like his brain is constantly screaming," explained Scott Paterson, Evan's father.

Doctors discovered that the "bad cells" in the brain lesion were seemingly teaching the good cells how to be bad, and without brain surgery to disconnect the right side from the left side of his brain, Evan's developmental progress would do a 180-degree turn.

"As parents, this has put a huge strain on our family, especially with the added COVID-19 restrictions," says Paterson. Only one parent is allowed to enter appointments and hospital visits with Evan, and while both parents have needed to be off work, the government will only subsidize one income.

"Stopping the seizures comes with a price," says Bishop. "After the surgery, Evan will be extremely weak on one side, will have no peripheral vi-

sion and will have to learn how to do everything again."

Evan's parents have started a GoFundMe campaign to help pay for hotel bills while the family stays near the hospital, as well as aid with the cost of therapies and equipment Evan will need as he heals. Any unused donations will be given to the Grandview Kids Children's Centre.

"We are so grateful for all the donations that will allow us to have time with him to properly support him as he heals," says Bishop.

To donate to the 'Hope For Evan' fund and to get updates on Evan and his progress, visit gofundme.com/f/agzcs-hope-for-evan



Two-year-old Evan Bishop needs brain surgery to stop seizures that are causing him to developmentally regress. Submitted photo

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Our two cents

Putting the cart before the horse

If a garage gave you an estimate for repairs to your car and you thought it was far too high, would you agree to let them do the repairs anyway and then look for a lower price, or would you look for a lower price first?

The answer to that question would *appear* to be obvious.

At this week's council meeting, the public works department gave a report on the latest tender for snow clearing on the parking lots of the three rural community centres and the three urban parking areas at the municipal offices, the fire department and the arena. The winning bid, from GZA Inc., represents a 126-per-cent increase over the costs incurred last year. (For details on the exact numbers, see story on page 3.)

Deputy mayor Willie Popp, who chaired the meeting, twice reflected on the bid, first calling it a "pretty significant" increase and then saying "it seems like an astronomical number." Exactly! But that didn't stop council from unanimously voting to accept the bid and award the contract to GZA.

It was only *after* council had voted to award the contract that Popp proposed that public works staff should look into the cost of the township doing the snow clearing itself, a proposal that also received unanimous consent.

So, what happens if public works determines they can do the job for less than the lowest bidder? It will be an exercise in futility since the contract has already been awarded - for two years.

This comes at a time when the township is battling decreased revenues because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused the closing of facilities such as the arena, the community centres and Uxpool. Of course, Uxpool and the arena have re-opened, but on a limited basis, which means they still will not be generating the normal amount of revenue. As for the community centres, council has left it to Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey to decide when and if they will re-open for bookings. Given the discouraging numbers coming out of the provincial government, it is quite likely the community centres will remain closed for quite some time. If that proves to be true, why bother with clearing those parking lots? Some clearing might be necessary at Goodwood, since a large community post box is set up in one corner of the lot, but it wouldn't need the entire lot to be cleared.

But none of these arguments were brought up in council. Nor were any red flags raised by the fact that the bids ranged from GZA's winning overall bid of \$141,036 to Dig-Con International's highest overall bid of \$561,690.

Instead, they awarded the contract and *then* decided to see if they could do it more cheaply.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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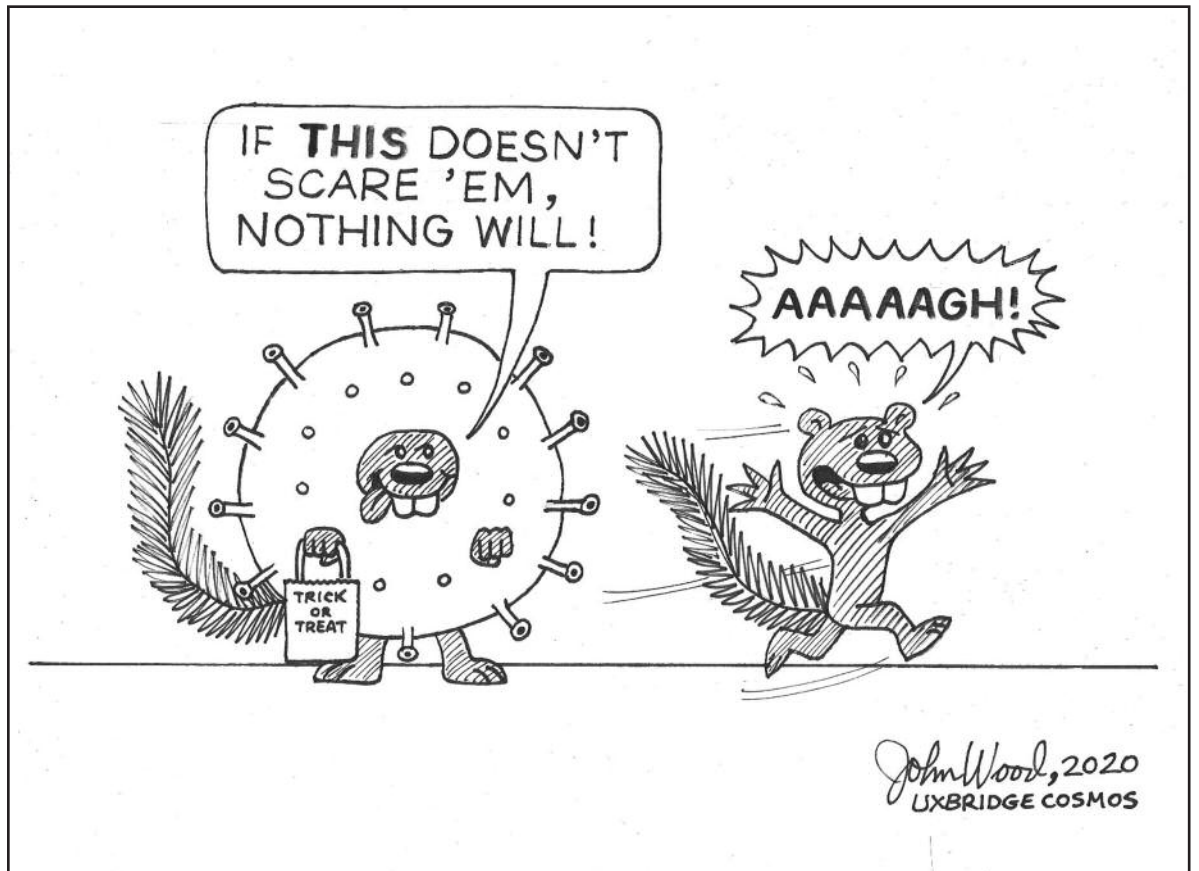
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Canada



Letters to the Editor

I am writing in response to the wonderful letter from Corinne Croxall about the disbanding of the Pine Ridge Chorus ['Letters', Oct. 15 edition].

"Friday Nights at the Foster" has become a community institution, and the Pine Ridge Chorus has been one of the regular mainstays of the programs presented at the Foster each week. Their delightful four part "barber shop" style of harmony makes their music relatable to the listeners. When Pine Ridge was performing, our audiences were always at capacity. After a Pine Ridge concert, we were sure that everyone would leave with a song in their hearts and lightness in their step.

Yes, members of Pine Ridge Chorus - thanks so much for the memories - our committee will indeed miss you!

Hilary A. Balmer
Vice-President

Foster Memorial Committee

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending a citizens' meeting on Planks Lane, organized by Donna Webster and attended by 25 residents. The meeting was held to discuss the sub-par rollout of the Planks Lane reconstruction project with its main proponent, Ward 3 councillor Bruce Garrod. This event followed months of emails exchanged with Mr. Garrod and the mayor about the adverse effects of the project on homes, trees, water quality, and the overall aesthetic of the neighbourhood.

The most salient concern was that lack of information provided to local residents. When asked for details, Mr. Garrod said that an event was held last October at the Seniors Center, where an 'overwhelming majority' of attendees favoured one of four proposals presented.

I spoke with some of the attendees, only to learn that the event was brief,

sparsely attended, and that, while there were four different proposals, no vote was held, nor were there any substantive answers to questions.

When pressed on this fib, Mr. Garrod came clean and noted the project was not voted on, nor was there any intention to garner feedback from residents. In other words, it was only meant to be an information session with little in the way of information.

In his defense, Mr. Garrod argued that it is typical for municipalities to proceed with projects without any form of consultation or communication with residents - an extremely dubious claim. Even if this claim were true, why would Uxbridge set its standards at worst possible practice?

There is no reason why there could not have been more communication, information, and public input. This complete lack of communication was clear when residents were surprised to find that the durable concrete sidewalk in front of their homes was replaced by an unformed 6.5-foot wide encroaching asphalt pathway.

When residents voiced different concerns about their homes being damaged, their water coming out sludgy and black, and that fresh sod was being placed over gravel and chunks of asphalt, Mr. Garrod recommended that they take up their concerns with the construction foreman, since there was nothing that he could do about it. This type of answer might be expected from a politician in another branch of government that is further away and representing far more constituents, but it is quite alarming to hear it uttered by a municipal ward councillor. If representation is not possible at this level then where is it possible?

Chalk this up again to setting the bar extremely low and aiming for worst practice. The best outcome of the reconstruction project was the in-

sight into how the Uxbridge municipal government works and how taxpayers are treated by local representatives. I suggest that after reconstructing Planks Lane, the focus should be on Town Hall next.

Jeremy Voisin
Uxbridge

In 85 per cent of birds, both parents feed their young. Think of the disaster to these young ones in their nest if a parent dies at the claws of your cat. Keep your cats indoors. Cats kill over 300 million birds a year in Canada alone.

Bob Kirvan
Uxbridge

Very interesting letters to the editor regarding my COVID/mask letter from a few weeks ago. My reason for writing was to get a dialogue going. I never told anyone what to do. Every person is responsible for their own well-being. Never did I say that COVID-19 is a lie. Neither did I call anyone wearing a mask dumb.

When it comes to my body and my health, never would I believe in totally one-sided research like we have with COVID-19. We are bombarded with one-sided information, simply to scare the living daylight out of everyone. People are not dying by COVID-19 but by anxiety, depression and suicide.

Why does our news never show the millions of people protesting around the world against masks, distancing and lock downs, even in Canada?

I'm not responsible for what you understand. Even the warnings to be careful of what I say will not stop me speaking out. In my eyes, the moment that you're afraid of your own shadow, or to hug someone or show affection, you've basically lost the ability to call yourself human.

Heinz Nitschke
Uxbridge



A Blonde Moment

column by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

50 and...halfway there

It's Tuesday, Oct. 20, and only hours before this newspaper goes to press. And it's my 50th birthday. I hadn't intended to write a column about turning 50 - it's enough that I have to put a newspaper together on this momentous occasion - but something happened yesterday that I just had to share.

I was checking my messages on Facebook late Monday afternoon, and saw that there was a message from someone I didn't know or recognize. I immediately got suspicious, but then I recognized a photo of my high school graduation. Then a few other photos that were attached to the message caught my eye as well. I quickly discovered that the message was from the 73-year-old son of the woman who babysat me from when I was an infant until I was about four years old. We lived in Scarborough, then, and moved to Uxbridge just before I turned five.

I was blown away. The son, whose name is Stuart, had been going through his mother's things and discovered the many letters my mom and I had sent "Aunt" Dorothy over the years. Dorothy had moved her family to B.C. around the time we moved to Uxbridge. We parted ways physically, but the connection remained. The photos in the message were some of the ones my mom had mailed to Dorothy over the years.

The best part of the message from Stuart, however, was learning that Aunt Dorothy is still alive. She's 102 years old, and although she's

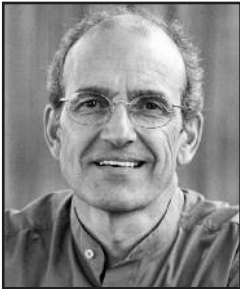
nursing care with dementia and failing health, she's still here. That means a great deal to someone who is hitting a milestone birthday and is facing her own mortality, in a sense. You see, Dorothy was only two years older than myself when she began taking care of me while my parents worked and went to university - and she was known as the street's "granny" - at 52! Yikes.

But today, as I sit here a brand new 50-year-old, I realize that I *could* feel old if I let myself. I mean, there was a moment on the weekend when a couple of friends presented me with a cake that had two candles on it - a '5' and a '0' - and there was something *very* sobering about seeing that number on top of all that chocolate. But if I'm lucky enough to be at all like Aunt Dorothy, then I have just as much time ahead of me as I've had already, and I find that an exciting prospect! There's still so much to do, to see, to experience, and I'm determined to remain optimistic as I continue my journey around and around the sun.

Stuart and I had a brief phone conversation not long after I first opened his message, and he sent me a video of him chatting with his mom about the letters he'd found. She doesn't remember that time in her life, now, and to be honest, I, a little bit, wish she did, because it would be so fun to reconnect. But I look forward to knowing her son, and learning about what it takes to make however many years you're given all worthwhile.



On the left, a photo of me and my family (mom Sharlene, dad Ed, brother Scott) around the time we moved from Scarborough. On the right, "Aunt" Dorothy waving from Penticton, B.C. Knowing about my childhood babysitter's incredibly long life gives me joy as I embark on the second half of my own.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Paying taxes with glee

I have a memory from the fall of 1973. At the time I was working part-time as a professor's assistant in the broadcast faculty at Ryerson. I had one eye on the students' work I was editing, and the other on a TV monitor of the news. Suddenly, I saw the face of U.S. Vice-President Spiro Agnew. Of all things he was standing with Frank Sinatra at a golf course in Los Angeles. A member of the media scrum asked Agnew about charges of tax fraud recently levelled at him.

"Malicious leaks," Agnew spewed. "I will not resign if indicted," and he repeated it. And the audience of well-wishers applauded.

In case you missed this one, in August 1973, Spiro Agnew (elected as Richard Nixon's vice-president in 1968) had learned he was under investigation for bribery and tax evasion. Agnew had previously served as the governor of Maryland. In fact, because I often visited relatives living in Maryland, I once saw him at the state legislature. Anyway, when I saw Agnew claiming "I am innocent of any wrongdoing" in front of the TV cameras, I remembered how astonished I'd felt.

An American vice-president facing tax fraud charges?

Eleven days later, after nearly a year-long investigation, during which time U.S. attorneys had demanded access to the vice-president's bank statements, cancelled cheques and tax returns, Agnew announced he was resigning. Federal authorities had worked out a plea deal in which Agnew left office, in return that all tax evasion charges be dropped. Millionaire Agnew was fined \$10,000 and was given three years' probation, and therefore avoided jail.

Déjà vu perhaps? For nearly as long as he's been the president of the United States, and particularly during his impeachment, lawmakers have sought the tax returns of Donald Trump. Then, about a month ago, the *New York Times* announced that the president had paid a grand total of \$750 in federal income tax in 2016 and that he'd paid nothing in any of the previous 10 years.

A bit of research shows that over the years, Donald Trump's assets have served him well. His reality TV show *The Apprentice* paid him \$427 million, his profits from holdings from Vornado buildings \$176 million, and his rental income from high-end office space about \$20 million per year. On the other side of the ledger, he poured money into golf courses, his Washington hotel, and other business ventures

which his accountants say have lost hundreds of millions of dollars. Those losses apparently offset his income tax, such that he paid no tax for four years. Oh yes, and somehow, he was entitled to receive a \$73 million refund in 2010. And that's currently the subject of an audit by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

What must be most distasteful to average Americans, and the rest of us average folk for that matter, is why Trump's base applauds him the same way Agnew's base did. I remember my grandfather, a Greek immigrant who arrived in New York penniless in 1912, claiming (largely because Agnew was also Greek) that, "Mr. Agnew is an honest man." Worse, a few of my uncles, also hard-working restaurateurs, bakers, cooks and workers in other trades said, "There's nothing wrong with dodging taxes." In fact, in so many words, they claimed everybody should do that and more power to them. I think I turned to my father, known in our family as the renegade thinker of that generation. He just threw up his hands and shook his head at his in-laws' attitudes. He told me that dodging is an accounting thing, evasion is a crime.

I'll be honest, back in 1991, when Prime Minister Brian Mulroney brought in the Government Services Tax (now the Harmonized Sales Tax), I hated it. Not that I had to pay it, but that as a freelance, self-proprietorship writer suddenly I had to become a part-time accountant - keeping a ledger of income and expenditure, profit and loss, and day-to-day business transactions. I complained then that, "I was never trained to do this!" I still hate the tediousness of it, the fact that it takes me away from what I love most - writing - but I respect that it is the law of the land, and helps us live within our means and pay for some of the best privileges on the planet.

Call me weird, but I pay all my municipal, provincial sales, and federal income taxes willingly. I for one recognize that each dollar of those taxes improves my (our) quality of life, whether it's the big stuff - such as health care, safety and the right to vote - or the mundane stuff - such as waste collection, road improvements and recreational space.

But I don't imagine that people such as Donald Trump or Spiro Agnew have ever recognized privilege as anything other than wealth.

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

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Uxbridge singer-songwriter signs with Nashville label

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Nashville music doesn't know what's coming - it's just signed an Uxbridge girl.

On October 8, Warner Music Nashville welcomed Robyn Ottolini to its singer-songwriter artist roster.

"My song 'F-150' blew up on Tiktok and Spotify, and then I had a few labels reach out to me," says Ottolini. "After doing some interviews to find the best fit, I signed with Warner Nashville."

'F-150' reached number four on Spotify's all-genre US Viral 50 chart and is currently Top 3 on *Rolling Stone's* all-genre Trending 25 chart.

"It's been pretty amazing, I'm still kind of confused how this small-town Canadian girl got here!" says Ottolini.

And now to working on new content. Robyn says Warner Music is there to help "knock down the walls" that stand between her and her goals as an artist. Together they will start working on music videos, new songs and then onto an album.

But this small-town girl isn't heading off to the big city just yet.

"I think as long as COVID is around, I'll stay north of the border, but at some point, I'll have to go down to Nashville, even if it's just commuting back and forth," says Ottolini.

Ottolini's journey can be followed on Instagram @robynottolini or on her website at www.robynottolini.com



Uxbridge singer-songwriter Robyn Ottolini has signed with Warner Music in Nashville. Photo from Facebook

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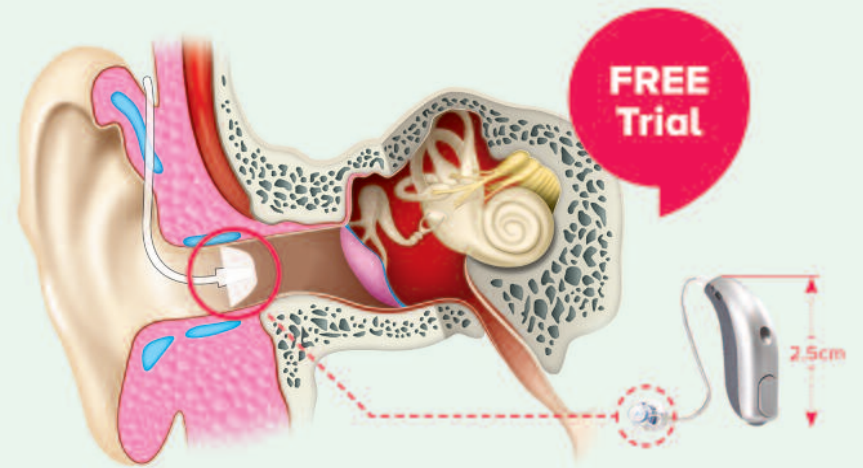
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Having a safe - and spooky - Halloween

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Many parents and Halloween enthusiasts are divided about how to celebrate Halloween this year. The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown the annual candy-and-ghoul-fest into the cauldron, as it were, and varying public health guidelines have made it difficult for people to decipher what the best course of action may be.

In mid-September, Premier Doug Ford encouraged parents to call off trick or treating, as the province continues to struggle with controlling COVID-19 case counts. More recently, Durham Region has released guidelines to a safe Halloween, where they say “an alternative to door-to-door trick or treating is highly recommended.”

In a recent poll that the *Cosmos* conducted on the Facebook group, Connecting in Uxbridge Township, many Uxbridge residents appear to be running their Halloween festivities as usual. About 55 per cent of poll responses favoured door-to-door trick or treating as normal. Other options in the poll were to participate in alternate Halloween festivities or to cancel Halloween 2020 altogether.

Many of these “alternative Halloweens” are making an appearance. Some parents are organizing spooking craft days and scary movie nights in replace of the usual trick or treating. Others, like Katelyn Babcock, will only be trick or treating at

homes with whom they are already in contact.

“We are trick or treating on my daughter’s paper route, as we already have interactions with those people, with collection envelopes...we will wear masks and gloves - it’s usually cold anyway!” says Babcock.

Some Uxbridge residents say they will be making pre-bagged treats and leaving them on the porch or hanging them in the trees and bushes on their front lawn to eliminate the need for person-to-person contact.



One Uxbridge resident has created a candy delivery tube to use with trick or treaters on Halloween. Photo submitted by Tara Hood

Tara Hood designed her very own candy shoot after being inspired by a photo she saw on Facebook. A decorated cardboard tube down the railing of her porch steps enables her to send treats down the shoot and right into a trick or treater’s bag while

maintaining more than a safe two-meter distance.

“I thought it was a great idea to still be able to hand out candy and have everyone socially distanced!” says Hood.

Some COVID-combatting Halloween suggestions: Trick or treaters may want to incorporate a face-covering into costumes, sanitize/wash their hands often, especially before eating any candy, and always be very aware of distancing, ensuring that no one congregates on any doorsteps. Sanitizing all candy once its home is also being encouraged.

For those handing out treats this year, recommendations include: using tongs to hand out candy, sanitizing frequently-touched surfaces like porch railings and doorknobs often, not distributing home-made treats or leaving candy out in a bowl in a “help yourself” style.

“The goal should be to have fun celebrating Halloween while preventing the spread of COVID-19,” says Uxbridge’s Mayor Dave Barton. His family is celebrating the spooky season by driving around the town to look at all the houses that entered in the Uxbridge BIA’s Halloween Fun decorating contest.

“Please do your part to avoid spreading the virus this Halloween,” says Barton.

A full list of safety tips can be found on the Uxbridge Township website or on the COVID-19 update page of the Durham Region website.

Focus on Finance with Tammy Scuralli, Edward Jones

Millennials May Need to Boost Life Insurance

If you’re a Millennial – born between 1981 and 1996 – you’re either in the very early or relatively early stages of your career, and as the old song goes, you’ve got a lot of living to do. Still, it’s not too soon to think about a financial issue you may have overlooked: the need for life insurance. Millennials need to ask three key questions when it comes to insurance:

When should I purchase insurance? The answer to this question depends somewhat on your stage of Millennial-ism. If you’re a young Millennial, perhaps you just completed your post-secondary education, single, and living in an apartment, your need for life insurance may not be that great. After all, you may well have other, more pressing financial needs, such as paying off your student loans. But if you’re an older Millennial, and you’ve got a mortgage, a spouse and – especially – children, then you unquestionably need insurance, because you’ve got a lot to protect.

How much do I need? According to

advisor.ca a 2014 report from financial services research company LIMRA found almost half (45%) of Canadian households were under-insured, including 52% of millennials. You might have heard that you need life insurance worth about seven or eight times your annual salary. And while this isn’t a terrible estimate, it doesn’t apply to everyone, because everyone’s situation is different. A financial professional can look at various factors – your age, your marital status, number of children, size of mortgage, etc. – to help you arrive at an appropriate level of coverage.

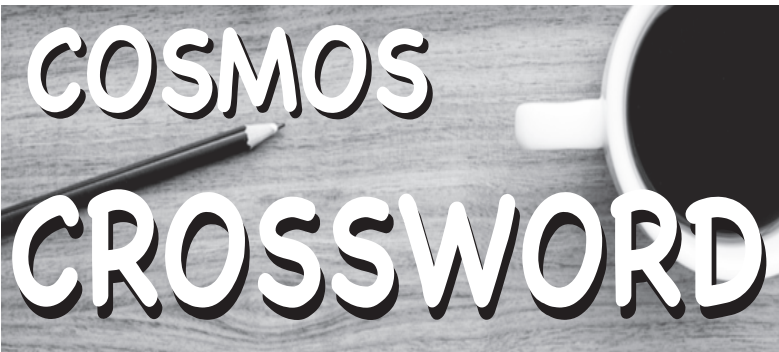
Keep in mind that your employer may offer life insurance as an employee benefit. However, it might be insufficient for your needs, especially if you have a family, and it will probably end if you leave your job.

What type of life insurance should I get? Many people initially find life insurance to be confusing, but there are basically two types: term and permanent. As its name suggests, term insurance covers a given time period, such as 10 or 15 years, and provides only a death benefit. It’s generally quite affordable, especially when you’re young and healthy. Permanent

insurance, on the other hand, offers a death benefit and a savings component that allows you to build cash value. Consequently, the premiums are higher than those of term insurance. A financial professional can help you determine which type of insurance is most appropriate for your needs.

Thus far, we’ve only been talking about life insurance. But you may also need other types of protection, such as disability insurance, which can replace part of your income should you become ill or incapacitated. And you may eventually want to explore long-term care insurance, which can help cover you for the enormous costs of an extended nursing home stay.

You should consider all forms of insurance as part of your overall financial strategy. The future is unknowable, and as a Millennial, you’ve got plenty of future ahead. This column, written and published by Edward Jones, Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund, presents general information only. For more information, please contact Tammy E. Scuralli, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones, at 905-852-1244.



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Across

- 1 Look up and down
- 5 Diner order
- 8 Customer
- 12 Rounded end of a hammer
- 13 Musket's end?
- 14 Remove
- 15 Serb, Croat description
- 16 Curves in math
- 18 Policeman
- 20 Hindu holy man
- 23 Cut across
- 27 Trinkets
- 28 Spiced stew
- 31 Comme-ci comme-ca
- 32 Barbecue offering
- 33 DNA related perhaps
- 35 Time of arrival, for short
- 36 Book after Joel
- 38 Change back
- 39 Fishing pole
- 40 Get off a ship
- 42 Woodworking tools
- 44 Ocean current type
- 47 Rare
- 50 Jump around playfully
- 54 Big name in construction
- 55 Aggravate
- 56 "American ____"
- 57 Identical ____
- 58 Whatever
- 59 Whirling water

Down

- 1 Special ____
- 2 Goopy stuff
- 3 Grazing area
- 4 Concluding stanza
- 5 Strengthen, with "up"
- 6 Jeans inventor
- 7 Shell shape
- 8 About-faces
- 9 Perched
- 10 Barely manage, with "out"
- 11 ____pite, rest
- 17 Neck adornment in Hawaii
- 19 Jumper
- 20 Electrical unit
- 21 Japanese cartoon art
- 22 Grill grub
- 24 Executors
- 25 Prevent legally
- 26 Throughways
- 29 Bone marrow disease
- 30 Hostel
- 34 Parachute part
- 37 Bar room
- 41 Sleep clinic study
- 43 Eagle's home
- 45 Severed
- 46 Pitch-black
- 47 Month earlier
- 48 Contemporary
- 49 Special effects maker, abbr.
- 51 Quirky
- 52 Trendy
- 53 Carry on



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The Uxbridge
COSMOS



Film with Foote

column by John Foote

Movies that truly scare me

When I was a kid, the old Universal monsters - *Dracula*, *Frankenstein*, the *Mummy*, the *Phantom of the Opera*, and the *Wolfman* scared the bejeezus out of me. Imagine sitting in a dark old house, my father in the middle of the couch, my brothers and I are on either side of him, a blanket around us all, close to midnight and our eyes fixed on the television. A woman pulls the mask off a hideously deformed man playing the organ, his face first visible to us (scare one), then he turns to her, (scare two), and finally the camera closes in on the creature as he turns to the woman in full. This was *Phantom of the Opera* (1925), the first silent film I had ever seen.

Sitting in an Egyptian tomb, a young scientist speaks aloud words from Sacred Scrolls bringing a long dead mummy back to life. We see the eyes gleam with light and the centuries-old mummy moves, coming across the room to retrieve the scrolls and walks into the desert night. The young scientist's mind cannot handle what he has seen and he begins to laugh, babbling insanely, "He went for a little walk! He went for a little walk!" It was the single most frightening sequence in *The Mummy* (1932).

Most terrifying of all was Larry Talbot seeing what he dreads most, the full moon. He collapses into a chair and before our eyes, the man becomes *The Wolfman*, the stuff of many nightmares.

These were the Friday nights of my childhood, off to bed at seven, awakened by my Dad at 11:15 to watch *Fright Night Theatre* on WKBW out of Buffalo. No doubt this was the place my lifelong obsession for all

things cinema was born.

As I grew, I studied the history of film, the development and tried to see everything I could. Genres evolved, and my beloved horror films went through the greatest change. By the time I was a teenager, though, I knew that mummies coming to life, vampires and werewolves did not exist. They were borne of the supernatural tales out of Europe and early America.

In 1960, a truly terrifying monster was unleashed on unsuspecting audiences in Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* (1960). This was one scary film, mostly because it is plausible. Unassuming, decent looking young boy next door is a serial killer! How often have we heard this on the news?

Realism scares me. Authentic portrayals of terrifying events scare the h*** out of me.

Devil worship in *Rosemary's Baby* (1968), demonic possession in *The Exorcist* (1973), a killer Great White shark feasting on bathers in *Jaws* (1975), a seemingly superhuman killer in *Halloween* (1978) - these are the kind of films that scare me. And still, film makers upped the ante.

Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991), John Doe in *Seven*

(1995) - they scare me because they are real possibilities. Brilliant monsters capable of terrible acts of violence, they are both horrifying. Something happening to helpless children, women or the elderly scares me.

Serial killers such as Kevin in the terrifying *We Need to Talk About Kevin* (2011) scare me because we hear of them snapping at Columbine or Parkland. They exist, they walk among us, their own parents do not suspect the madness building.

Vicious aliens (because I believe in them) scare me too, especially in *Under the Skin* (2015), *Annihilation* (2017) and *A Quiet Place* (2017) -

they all cause absolute raging terror within me. I personally believe that other planets far from us are inhabited and centuries ago they were regular visitors to Earth, but they stopped coming. Why? Did they see the cruel, inhuman acts man was capable of? Perhaps. If they should ever return, can you imagine their intellect, having found us? Their weaponry could be terrifying.

Religion as a cult, as a theocracy both scares and worries me. *The Crucible* (1996), because it actually happened, frightens me, perhaps more because it has happened since 1692 with McCarthyism in the fairies. Religion as theocracy is dangerous as

history has proven, that scares me.

Most of all, mankind itself terrifies me, so films about man's vile behaviour to one another will always and forever scare the heck out of me. Think of the line "terminate with extreme prejudice" to gain insight into man. Watch *Schindler's List* (1993) to experience true horror. Nothing supernatural, just a deep, hate-driven madness causing unspeakable horror. A little girl in a red dress, moving naively through the chaos of the Jewish ghetto, later to turn up dead, on a wagon. THAT, above any type of horror film, was truly terrifying.

Gelette, Glenn M.

July 7, 1936 - October 19, 2019

*In Loving Memory
of
Glenn M. Gelette*

"Where you used to be, there is a hole in the world, which I find myself constantly walking around in the daytime, and falling in at night. I miss you like hell."

Edna St. Vincent Millay

All my love, Carol

Harrot, Robert Allan

Peacefully at home with his loving family by his side on Thursday, October 8, 2020, Robert Allan Harrot of London in his 84th year.

Beloved husband for 55 years of the late May Harrott (2016). Loving father of Stephen (London); Judith Barth (Uxbridge); Catherine and Peter King (Goderich); Elizabeth and Glenn Campbell (Dutton); and Beverly (London). Cherished grandfather of Ryan and Nikki Barth, Matthew and Lily King, and Andrew and Fionna Campbell. Dear brother of Don and Janet Harrott of Redding, Ca. Predeceased by his son-in-law Ken Barth (2012).

At Robert's request there will be no visitation or funeral service. A private celebration of Robert's life will be held at Woodland Cemetery. Donations to the Elgin County 4H Club, 44219 Sparta Line, St. Thomas, ON, N5P 3S8 or the charity of your choice gratefully acknowledged.

McFarlane & Roberts Funeral Home, Lambeth, 519-652-2020, in care of arrangements. On-line condolences are available through www.mcfarlane-roberts.ca

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MOORE-TRATNIK, Erin

Nov. 27, 1960 - Oct. 10, 2020

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Erin after her second battle with cancer. Erin passed away peacefully in her 59th year at Markham Stouffville Hospital on Saturday, October 10, 2020.

Beloved wife to Erich Tratnik and devoted mother to Mitchell and Jessica Tratnik. Cherished daughter of late Kenneth and Elma Moore. Dear sister to Jim (Barb) Moore of Cannington; Rick (Candice) Moore of Oshawa and Tom (Joanne) Moore of Coboconk. Erin will forever be loved and remembered by her nieces, nephews, cousins and other friends and family.

She owned a successful business in the advertising industry and will be remembered as a talented and dedicated colleague.

Erin's heart overflowed with kindness and compassion to humans and animals alike, and her love will continue to shine through all the lives she has touched. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy (www.wildlifeconservancy.ca/donate), where Erin spent many of her days enjoying and photographing the animals.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). Online condolences can be made at www.lowandlow.ca



Gerald Lawrence
Manager/Sales Representative



Marie Persaud
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Shane Coxworth
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Judy Esmonde
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