

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 39

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, October 8, 2020



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IT'S GETTING CHILLY IN HERE - Tim Morrison (left) and Brad Adams spray a layer of water on a cement ice pad at the Uxbridge Arena, preparing the space for opening on or around October 14. The ice on both pads needs to build a few more centimetres, be painted white, as well as have logos and lines painted in before it's ready for play. Facility operators and arena user groups say COVID protocols are in place and they're ready to put blades on the ice. For more see story below. *Photo by John Cavers*

Arena opening no longer on ice

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Many in the township have much to be thankful for this weekend - the ice is going in at the arena.

Crews began chilling the arena on last Friday afternoon and began flooding the two ice pads earlier this week. Installing the ice should take approximately two weeks, and, according to a release from the Township, the arena plans to reopen on Oct. 14, if not sooner.

"North Durham Minor Hockey ... [is] excited to initiate our programming at the Uxbridge Arena," said Doug Dunlop, director of finance for the North Durham Minor Hockey Association (NDMHA). "As of early September, we've had substantial registration - around 1,000 kids, which is close to other seasons, irrespective of COVID. This shows that people are keen to get back to play. There's a great interest in getting back to hockey."

The NDMHA is one of many user groups of the arena that wanted back on the ice, and approached the township after council had decided back in September to hold off on opening the arena.

"We reached out to council shortly after the last vote with regards to opening the arena," said Dunlop. "Our planning starts in July, and we've been working with township staff since then, working out fee structures, etc. We needed to know what was happening because we have to know our ice time to work into the costs. We understand that it's a financial issue for the township, too, but if we can't secure a start date, we can't use Uxbridge."

In a report presented to council on Sept. 2, community services director Amanda Ferraro outlined the COVID-19 safety protocols that will be in place at the arena. This includes treating each ice pad as a separate building, with a total of 50 people being al-

lowed in each one at any time. That 50 includes skaters, coaches, officials and spectators.

The separation of the two pads will be extended to the lobby which is divided with a barricade. All dressing room washrooms and showers will be boarded up and hockey players will have to arrive wearing their equipment. Time will be allowed between each user group to let staff clean and disinfect areas.

In the same release cited earlier, Mayor Dave Barton revealed that both council and township staff feel confident about opening the arena during a pandemic.

"After consultation with our user groups, we have a solution that keeps our participants safe, gets kids on the ice and shares the financial risks. It was important to ensure the costs of a sudden or unexpected closure were not completely borne by our taxpayers," said Barton.

...continued on page 8

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Catch up on what movies John Foote's watching

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for October 2020

Monday, October 12
THANKSGIVING MONDAY
-NO MEETING

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

Wednesday, October 21
7:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
MEETING

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

Proclamations for the month of Oct.
Saturday, October 24
Childhood Educator Appreciation Day

Saturday, October 24
World Polio Day

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Township of Uxbridge hereby proposes to dispose of the following lands and transfer the lands to the adjacent property owner at 20 Main Street.

The property legally described as Part 2 on Plan 40R-31044 is surplus to the needs of the Municipality.

FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the Township Council, at its regular meeting held on September 28, 2020, declared by Resolution No. 2020-07 the aforementioned lands to be surplus to the needs of the Municipality. A copy of the plan showing the location of the lands may be viewed in the Office of the Clerk.

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 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.

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to Uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders

U20-26 Snow Removal from Municipal Parking Lots - Closes October 13th, 2020 at 2:00 pm

All bids must be received by the Township by the deadline stated. Bids may be delivered electronically via the Township's website or in in-person at the Township Office located at 51 Toronto St. South. Public tender openings are not happening at this time. Bid results will be posted at uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders in a timely manner.

Missing

In the afternoon of September 25, 2020, the crossing guard's chair and sign went missing from the Colborne St. and Victoria Dr. crossing. If found, please return to Town Hall



Meet the Fire Department

Oct. 8th - Zehrs 5-7pm
Oct. 9th - Vince's Market, 5-7pm



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The Township offices are closed Monday October 12th



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

Grocery store is getting a facelift

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

The centre of Uxbridge is getting a makeover!

No, not downtown Brock St., where a new culvert is being installed. Zehrs, arguably the social centre of Uxbridge, as well as the largest grocery store, is getting a fresh new look.

"It's long overdue," says store manager Greg Niarchos. "It's tired looking right now. We're going to make it more open, give better sightlines, make it feel more like a market."

Shoppers at the local grocery store will have noticed that the salad bar, which stood just to left inside the front doors, has disappeared, as has the fresh seafood section. More changes are slated for the right side of the store, says Niarchos.

"We're going to be focussing more on fresh foods at the front of the store," he explains. "There will be a sushi bar in the store making fresh sushi [made by the popular sushi brand Bento], there will be

more options in the hot deli section. We're going to have a panini press, and meat and seafood will both be at the back of the store - together but separate, of course!"

Niarchos also told the *Cosmos* that

the organic/Natural Value section will almost double in size. A consultation room is being placed in the pharmacy section, and the on-site dietician will also have a room in which to speak with customers who wish for more privacy.

"And even though all these plans for the renovation were made pre-COVID, everything we put in place now will be COVID-safe," says Niarchos.

Along with the all the visual upgrades, there are infrastructure changes happening too. Every light in the store will be switched to LED, and many of the fixtures, fridges and freezers are being replaced with more energy-efficient units. Fibre optics are also being installed, which will enhance the Wi-Fi signal throughout the store.

"We also have a natural gas gen-

erator, and solar panels on the roof," explains Niarchos. "On humid days, when we run the air conditioning, we can run entirely off the grid."

Niarchos says the entire project is expected to take between eight to 10 weeks to complete, and that the grand re-opening of the store will take place Dec. 11. Regular store hours are in place during the construction, including the Seniors' Hour between 7 - 8 a.m. Construction is being done overnight.

"Bear with us!" laughs Niarchos. "We have expert cleaners coming in after the work has been done overnight, and they're on site until noon or so."

Niarchos said he was not allowed to disclose the dollar value of the renovation, but said it was the logical next step for this store location, which was built "sometime between 1989 and 1991, I think." When it first came to Uxbridge, Zehrs occupied the space that now houses Staples and Dollarama.

"We're the big grocery store in town, and we're doing this for the

town," explains Niarchos. "Zehrs is the smaller town branch of the Loblaw network, and that's why we're here. Uxbridge is a family, it's a community, and everyone gets together on things. That's what we do here."

For more information on what in-store services are available at the Uxbridge Zehrs location, visit zehrs.ca



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COSMOS 

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Our two cents

Here for the long haul

You'll notice when you turn the page that the *Cosmos* has devoted page 6 in this week's edition to celebrating National Newspaper Week. It runs Oct. 4 through to the 10th, and its purpose is to remind Canadians about the important role that newspapers play in our society today. That's a pretty tough sell these days - it's so easy to say everything is online, everyone goes online to get what they need, online online online. But you see, they *aren't* getting what they *need* online. Oh sure, if they need the latest dirt on the Kardashians, they can go online. In a small town, though, it's the local newspaper that tells them what they *need* to know.

Newspapers - indeed, the whole news industry - have been taking a beating lately. The *Cosmos* has been taking a beating lately. Some people, including our mayor and some township staff, took issue with a story that we ran back at the beginning of September. The mayor went so far as to include a letter on the Township Page (found in the *Cosmos*) which directly insulted the *Cosmos* and everything it works so hard to achieve every week. So sure were we, however, that we had done our due diligence with regards to the story in question that we allowed the mayor to print his message, and also published a letter to the editor regarding the same issue.

The matter eventually landed on the desks of the National NewsMedia Council (NNC), a self-regulatory ethics body for the news media industry in Canada. It serves as a forum for complaints against its members (of which the *Cosmos* is one) and promotes ethical practices within the news media industry. After a thorough investigation, the NNC declared that the article in question "presented both the ... allegations and the response from the mayor and municipal office" and that "there are no grounds for further action on this complaint."*

Contrary to what some may think, we do have integrity, and what we do is not meaningless. The *Cosmos* exists to serve Uxbridge. To inform, to educate, to entertain, even. Every single thing that goes into this newspaper is purposeful and meaningful. And copies of the paper are delivered directly to mailboxes each week because we know that what we are publishing is worth looking at and reading.

Whether you're reading this in paper format or online, thank you. You are the reason we continue to defy the odds. Happy National Newspaper Week.

*The full version of the NNC's decision is available to read at thecosmos.ca

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

Support our local businesses so they can support The Cosmos.

Because without them, we can't continue to deliver the news you want and need.

The Uxbridge COSMOS

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

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Letters to the Editor

I want to say 'Amen' to Susan Elsworth's letter regarding the Uxpool [Oct. 1 edition]. I just got home from my swim time at Uxpool and it was a wonderful opportunity to get out of my apartment and enjoy my main source of exercise. It sure is an essential service to me.

I do hope council opens up the membership aspect of Uxpool and not just offer a drop in fees. The cost for me is double the monthly price when I pay a drop in fees, as opposed to a monthly membership fee.

I feel anguish for Susan Elsworth having to pay both fees just for a 45-minute swim.

It would be great if council encouraged Uxbridge residents by offering continuity and permanence in a public service, instead of temporary, day by day, experiences on so many levels.

Theresa Pilniuk
Uxbridge

Where's the bus?

It's Thursday afternoon and I realize that I have not seen a DRT bus pass my house in the last week. They used to pass on a regular basis, stopping the odd time to discharge or pickup a passenger or two.

Upon investigation, I find that DRT has changed the way it serves Uxbridge. Previously, there were scheduled services to Port Perry, Beaverton, Newmarket and Pickering; now only Port Perry remains with a fixed schedule availability. DRT has changed its service to an on-demand service - you now need to phone ahead for the bus.

DRT changed the service and didn't even bother to post notices of the change at individual bus stops. DRT used to post a notice at the stop when the frequency or routing changed. In fact, there was a situation a few years ago when DRT posted a temporary routing change (one or two trips af-

fect) due to the closure of Brock and Toronto Streets for Remembrance Day services. That poster remained in place for at least a month after November 11. So what happened this time? Why no notices at the individual bus stops?

Why can Uxbridge residents no longer get to the Toronto St. shopping district without calling DRT for an "on demand" bus? Port Perry residents can get to all their shopping districts. Why is Uxbridge being treated so poorly in respect of its local bus services?

Grant Baines
Uxbridge

I am an avid birdwatcher and photographer and have many feeders and birdhouses dotted about my property in Siloam. A neighbour has an outdoor cat that has decided to spend all her time in my garden catching, killing and eating wild birds and chipmunks. I've returned the cat (against whom I have no hard feelings) to the neighbour multiple times over the past three years and requested they keep her indoors, but to no avail.

Last week I watched the cat leap up the feeder pole and grab a tiny nuthatch and I raced outside to intervene. The cat dropped the bird, which I quickly scooped up and held gently for the next 45 minutes not knowing if it would survive the bite it had received. During that interval, the cat grabbed a chickadee, which was, in turn, rescued by my daughter. Outraged, she grabbed the cat and marched up the street to return it to its home. The neighbours didn't seem to know how to respond. Oh dear, they said. Yes, we've tried a collar, but she's good at escaping. They obviously weren't in any sense either moved or motivated by my daughter's plea, because several hours later, the cat was back in my garden, once

again stalking small prey.

I realize I don't have the right to ask them to keep their cat indoors, and they obviously have no inclination to do so, despite my returning their cat to them on a regular basis throughout the year, including during perishingly cold winter evenings when the poor cat is perched outside on my window sill.

My request to owners of outdoor cats is that they feed them more so the poor animals aren't so darned hungry all the time. Oh, and perhaps the owners of outdoor cats should ask themselves this: if your cat lives, eats and poops outside, and most often in your neighbours' yards, what exactly is the basis of your relationship with the animal?

Chris Clark
(owner of indoor cats)
Siloam

As one might expect, your Sept. 23 issue brought forth a mixture of reactions to Mr. Nitschke's letter about COVID-19 in your Sept. 16 issue.

I was disappointed that you published a letter in the Sept. 23 issue in which the name of the writer is absent. When you provide an outlet for people with offbeat and ill-informed beliefs that they wish to publicize in your esteemed newspaper, decrying masks and physical distancing in this particular instance, they should be identified for who they are.

The letter in question ends with "Grandparents sticking up for children." Fortunately, most grandparents understand and accept the reasons for which all infectious disease experts are urging people, including children, to wear masks and, as much as possible, to practice physical distancing when outside of the confines of their own "social bubble" and in proximity to others. That is the socially responsible thing to do

...continued on page 9



Wandering the Cosmos

column by Conrad Boyce

Dinosaurs

For much of my life, I used to proudly boast of being born, and spending the first third of my life, in a most beautiful and fascinating province. Where else can you drive west from the majestic sweep of the prairie, and in a few hours run into the breathtaking power of the Rocky Mountains? The unmatched scenery ranges from the badlands in the southeast, to pristine glacial lakes in the west, to wildlife havens like the Peace-Athabasca delta in the north.

And if given the chance, I would cite remarkable cultural trivia like the fact that Alberta has been rat-free for decades; or that Edmonton is home to one of the most exciting dance companies in the world, the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers; or that the ingenuity of our native people could be glimpsed at places like Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump in the southwest. I could go on and on, and often used to, no doubt to the irritation of friends from less blessed parts of the country.

I even used to indulge in paleontological chest-thumping by boasting that most of the significant dinosaur fossils in Canada were found in those same Alberta badlands, that even the great reptiles of the Jurassic preferred Alberta to any other part of North America. We even have entire museums dedicated to nothing but dinosaurs.

What I would neglect to mention, of course, is that the great tropical forests of the same time period are also buried in Alberta, and are responsible for my home province contributing way more than its share to the global climate crisis. Since the discovery of Leduc #1 in 1947, Alberta governments and industry have been obsessed with extracting as much oil and gas and tar sands as they can get their hands on.

Speaking of government, Alberta politics is another topic I tend to avoid in polite conversation. If you're of advanced age like me, you may recall that Albertans for decades elected Ernest Manning and his peculiar movement called Social Credit to huge majorities in the provincial legislature. They finally got tired of Ernie in the late 60s and turned to the Conservatives, led by a former Edmonton Eskimo football player named Peter Lougheed, giving him equally ridiculous majorities (he even used to appoint some of his backbenchers to act as the opposition).

Despite my severe allergy to conservatives, with a large or small C, I was nevertheless somewhat encouraged by a couple of things about Mr. Lougheed. First, he called his party "Progressive", a sham which the national party finally gave up on. But it was unique in 1967, and a straw which more enlightened Albertans could grasp.

And in 1976, only a few years after first taking power, Lougheed established a remarkable entity called the Heritage Trust Fund. The fund took a percentage of all royalties from the oil and gas in-

dustry, and socked them away to "ensure Alberta's future prosperity", presumably with an eye to the day when the reserves dried up and Albertans had to think of something else to do.

Around this time, the environmental movement was beginning to take hold, and Alberta disciples were encouraged by one particular phrase in the Trust Fund mandate: to explore the diversification of the provincial economy. Could it be that Alberta could actually move to the forefront, be a pioneer in the development of renewable energy like wind, solar or geothermal? The prospect was very exciting.

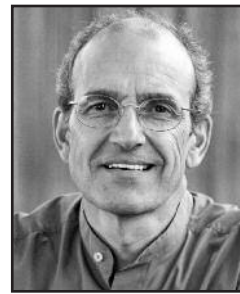
We were, of course, deluded. Lougheed and his Tories (who would stay in power for more than 40 years) had no such intention. We could have guessed when he spent many millions in 1981 on a golf course in the foothills, with money from the Heritage Fund. Next year will mark 50 years since Lougheed came to power, and Albertans have not budged an inch from their reliance on fossil fuels, as their economic mainstay or in their everyday lives.

There was a ray of hope in 2015 when Alberta voters momentarily lost their minds and elected an NDP government under Rachel Notley, whose dad Grant stood almost alone in opposition to Lougheed until 1984, when he was killed in a plane crash. His daughter had a glorious opportunity to move her province in a different direction, but she blew it, instead not just encouraging but almost insisting that Trudeau rescue the Trans-Mountain Pipeline, and nearly coming to blows with a genuine NDP government in B.C. over the issue.

Not surprisingly, her supporters deserted Notley, and she was turfed after one term. So now the Tories are back in a different guise, and they have reverted to their ancient battle call: to refuse to be dragged kicking and screaming into the twenty-first century, to aggressively ignore the evidence of climate change, to stick by their beloved fossil fuels until the globe draws its last gasp. Even the president of BP, probably the largest oil company on the planet, has admitted that his industry has to move on. But Jason Kenney refuses to read the memo.

Peter Lougheed's Edmonton Eskimos finally admitted this year that times have changed, that yes, their team nickname is offensive to many, and should be changed. If only Lougheed's successors would come to a similar epiphany, and recognize that Alberta business is fully capable of not just shifting, but providing leadership in the movement away from oil and gas.

How lamentable that the real dinosaurs in Alberta aren't under the ground, but in the legislature.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

When unity's needed most

I'm going to tell you about a person you've never heard of. But he helped save Canada. And I was fortunate to witness his work.

His mission began in November 1976. When the Parti Québécois won the provincial election and René Lévesque became premier of Quebec, a lot of Canadians were suddenly afraid. Lévesque's platform called for the separation of Quebec from Canada. At that time, I worked as producer/host at CFQC AM radio in Saskatoon. Dennis Fisher was the station's general manager. Right after the Parti Québécois victory, he called us together.

"The nation has never been so threatened," he said. "It's up to us to do something."

I remember looking around the room at my radio colleagues. Here we were situated in the middle of the Prairies, a long way from having any influence over the potentially divisive events unfolding in Quebec. Our two morning show co-hosts – Denny Carr and Wally Stambuck – were seasoned broadcasters. They certainly knew a lot of people, but even they admitted feeling helpless about events that might change the very existence of Canada.

"What if we broadcast a show of unity on Canada Day?" Fisher suggested to us. "What if we invited people from all across Canada to tell Quebecers how we care about them on our program? And what if we stage our Canada Day show in a place that epitomizes our message?"

Carr, Stambuck and I (their novice producer) wondered what Fisher had in mind. Was he planning to move the show to the national capital, or maybe to Quebec? No, he told us, the show would bring proud Canadians – by phone, by letter and in-person – to a town of 2,000 residents about a two-hour drive west of Saskatoon, near the Alberta border. The "Wal and Den Show" on the upcoming Canada Day – July 1, 1977 – would be broadcast from Unity, Saskatchewan!

Dennis Fisher was born in 1934 on a farm outside of Hague, Saskatchewan. He was the youngest of a family of 12. He first worked professionally as an illustrator. But his passion was country music, and he played bass in various bands around the Prairies; in 1958 he even played bass for Johnny Cash at a venue in Saskatoon. Showbiz acquainted him with local radio, and in 1959, he started as promotion manager at CFQC Radio, then station manager until he retired in 1991.

Even more than his station manager's position at QC, Fisher loved the stories from his part of

Canada. He took great pains to preserve Aboriginal culture on the Prairies. He had a vast network of First Nations and veteran friends. And he knew more about Louis Riel and the North West Resistance than most historians. In fact, I met Dennis when he knew I was compiling a book about steamboat commerce on western rivers in the 19th century. One day, he invited me to his office where he revealed a red, leather-bound journal. It was the actual diary of Louis Riel.

"It contains Riel's notes about rebellion," Fisher told me. "He even planned to capture a Canadian steamboat on the Saskatchewan River."

For a novice historian, this was gold. What's more, each spring Fisher would take me out to Batoche – where Riel had made his last stand against the Canadian militia in 1885. There, before the first sprouts of green grass poked up through Prairie earth, Fisher shared with me his discoveries of Gatling-gun shells, cannon fragments, jacket buttons and even debris from the home of Riel's military strategist, Gabriel Dumont. In 1985, Dennis spearheaded a campaign to erect a statue of the historic Métis leader.

On the day our Canada Day broadcast went to air – from 9 to noon, July 1, 1977, in Unity, Saskatchewan – our show included the personal messages of three Canadian prime ministers, most provincial premiers, industry and professional leaders from coast to coast, and hundreds of Prairie listeners – all expressing their visions of a united Canada. Alan Blakeney, then premier of Saskatchewan, even flew in for the occasion. He arrived in time to offer his personal wish to keep Quebec in Canada and to cut a huge July 1 birthday cake, shared by the residents of Unity.

"It's been a great 110th birthday for Canada," our two hosts said as the show wrapped up this uniquely Canadian broadcast.

My patriotic and passionate friend Dennis Fisher died peacefully last Thursday, Oct. 1, at age 86. His wife Jean was at his side. Jean's life partner accomplished much in his lifetime. But I'll always remember that he cared enough for Canada, its values and its legacy to step up when its existence was threatened. His message is as cogent in 2020 as it was in 1977. When some accentuate our differences as means to pull us apart, Dennis Fisher saw diversity as a thread to draw us closer, and make us stronger.

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

CANADA'S GARAGE

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WE WISH 2020 WAS FAKE NEWS, TOO.

**Happy National Newspaper Week to the
readers who need it most.**

OCTOBER 4-10TH, 2020

Few answers for council on grow-op concerns

by Roger Varley

A more than 80-minute deputation to council by a group of Health Canada personnel on Monday did little to relieve councillors' concerns or answer their questions about questionable cannabis grow-ops in the township.

When told that Uxbridge township wants to be notified of all applications for grow-op licences in the municipality, Health Canada representative Dionne Sadi-Hamilton said municipalities must be informed about applications. But Mayor Dave Barton replied that he's never received such a notification.

Another Health Canada rep, Cynthia Grant, added that the notification process does not extend to people growing medical cannabis, saying confidentiality issues prevent such notification. Councillor Todd Snooks commented that "confidentiality is trumping safety."

Barton told the Health Canada team that the township's problems with grow-operations has grown 40-fold since the initial legalization of cannabis. He claimed there are operations with thousands of plants "but we don't know where they are, if they're legal or illegal. We have no idea what's going on."

He asked how many legal grow-ops there are in Uxbridge. He was told the team didn't know, adding that growing medical cannabis is confidential. But later in the meeting, he was told there are no commercial operations in the township.

Councillor Willie Popp declared that "the rural areas of Uxbridge stink" with the smell of cannabis. He said there are locations with eight-foot fences, wrapped in windscreen and topped with barbed wire.

"There seems to be more concern for growers than ordinary residents," he said.

One such location is at the southwest corner of Regional Road 39 and Conc. 3, just south of Zephyr, where the entire property is surrounded by an eight-foot-high chain link fence, wrapped in windscreen and topped with barbed wire. The fence runs around the entire property. Inside are at least 10 large greenhouses.

Popp said residents in some areas can't enjoy their homes because of the constant cannabis odour.

"They aren't being considered," he said. "It would be great if we knew how enforcement was being handled."

He asked Health Canada if the municipality would receive any results to show how enforcement of cannabis regulations and by-laws is working. Grant said there is no mechanism to do that.

Councillor Pam Beach said complaints include odours, people erecting structures without permits and "barking guard dogs."

Barton pointed out that the township's by-laws require grow-ops to be situated on regional roads, with at least 100 acres, away from residential areas.

"Those have been completely ignored," he said, adding that sending by-law officers to such sites without any prior knowledge of what is there puts the officers at risk. Carl Poulin, head of the Health Canada team, replied that maybe by-law could be accompanied by police.

Grant repeated several times during the discussion that if the township provided information pertinent to the subject, "where we can help, we will." She offered that many problems result from the courts making rulings against the federal legislation covering cannabis.

"We don't enforce bylaws," she said. "We issue licences and tell them they have to follow by-laws."

At the end of the deputation, Barton told the Health Canada team: "It's a major issue for us here and we appear to be fairly powerless. You guys hold all the cards."



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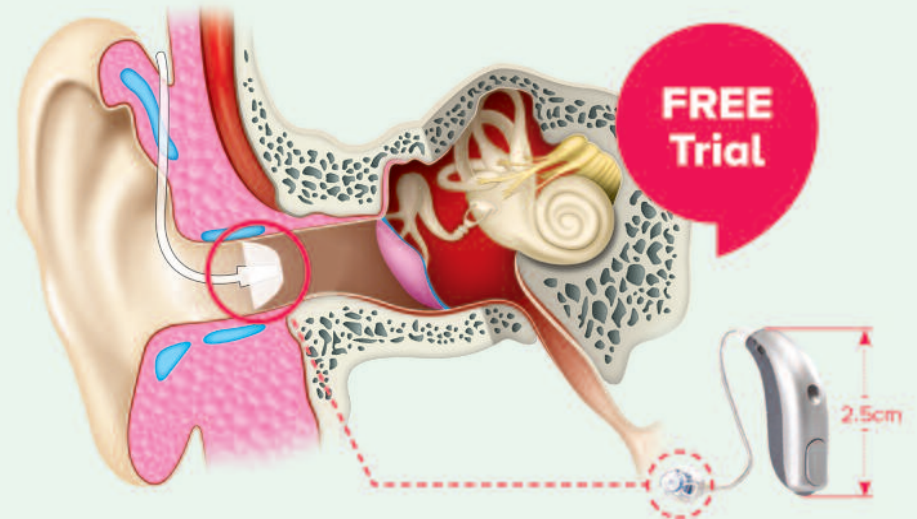
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Arena is open, from page 1

"This community is passionate about hockey and skating, and I am glad we were able to work collaboratively with users to make this hap-

pen," he said.

Dunlop did note that, because of COVID-19, the actual game of hockey has to be modified. He said that number of children per team has been cut by almost half. He also

said that bench staff (coaches, etc.) will be limited, but that a number of new positions have been introduced. "We'll have safety officers and people to help with dressing in parking lot, which has to happen 10 minutes before we go into the arena, and we have to make sure everyone leaves out the proper exit, that sort of thing. We're really working hard to be in collaboration with the facility."

As for play, the rules of the game have been modified as well. There will be no physical body contact in

the older age groups, and teams are going to focus more on skills and conditioning, playing three on three or four on four. Stopping for face-offs will also not occur as often, as continuous play will ensure there is a social distancing component to the game.


"The desire of our membership is to return to hockey in a safe way, and we're communicating these protocols to the membership," Dunlop explained. "We'll get back to traditional hockey when the time is right."


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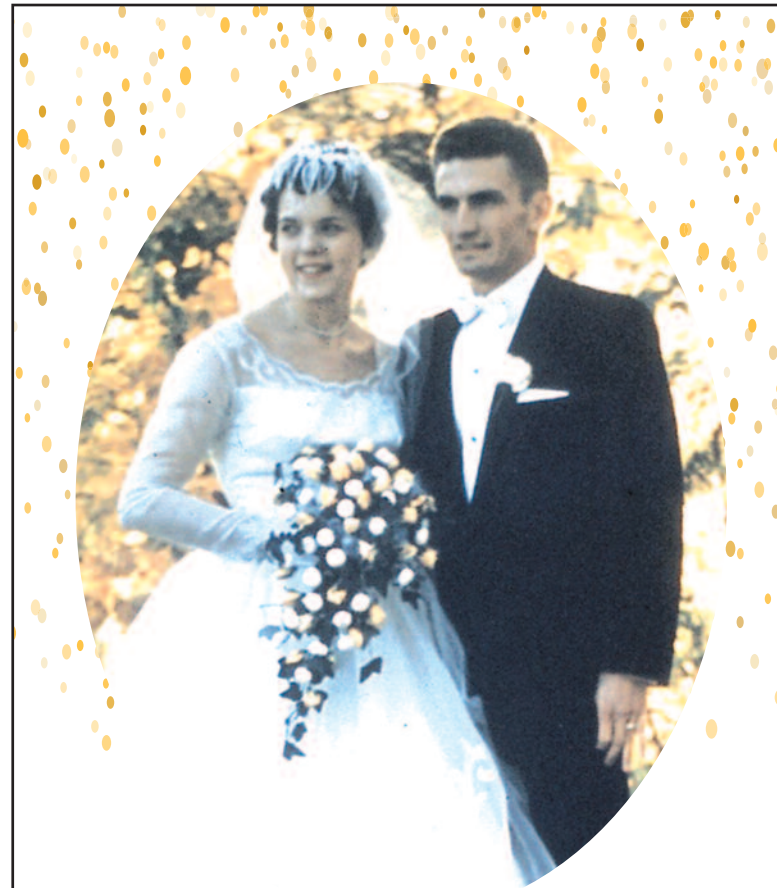
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Dale & Tracey & families

TOWN HALL

by Roger Varley
**Notes from the Oct. 5
Council Meeting**

Santa Claus isn't coming to town:

There will be no Santa Claus parade in Uxbridge this year.

In a report to council Monday, Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey said the parade, which was to have marked its 60th anniversary this year, has been put off until 2021.

Honey said 75 per cent of the \$7,500 budgeted for the parade will be deferred to the 2021 edition, with the remaining \$1,875 being extended to the Uxbridge Optimist Club to support that service organization's annual Fantasy of Lights in Elgin Park.

On-demand bus service for Uxbridge:
In a deputation to council, Michael Binetti of Durham Region Transit said the transit authority has taken steps to increase ridership following a drastic decline because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those steps include expanding on-demand service for all of Uxbridge.

Binetti said ridership is about 33 per cent of last year's volume. He estimated moves made by DRT will bring ridership back up to what were normal summertime levels.

He said low ridership routes are being changed to on-demand service in urban areas, as rural areas already are. He added that new apps are available to make it easier for people to plan transit trips, book them and pay on-line.

For Uxbridge in particular, he said the 905 route, which runs between Uxbridge and Oshawa, provides service every 90 minutes. But all of Uxbridge is in an on-demand zone. He said people using on-demand can book a vehicle 15 minutes ahead of time and be taken stop to stop. Service would be from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. Monday to Friday and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

While Binetti was making his presentation, Mayor Dave Barton used his cell phone to access the app and said he could arrange a ride quickly.

However, there are still hiccups. In answer to Councillor Willie Popp, who used the example of a resident living on Ewen Drive who wanted to go to Zehrs, Binetti said that resident would not be able to call on-demand but would have to walk out to Reach Street and go to a regular bus stop.

MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the September monthly draw for the 2020 Trip of the Month Club:

The 'Paris Please' trip was won by Bob Kirvan, Ticket #291, sold by Marion Martin.

2nd place draw winner, \$150, won by Willa Worsley, Ticket #132, sold by Elaine deBlicquy.

3rd place draw winner, \$100, won by Richard deBlicquy, Ticket #003, sold by Elaine deBlicquy.

Congratulations to our September winners and best of luck to all our ticket holders for the October draw for 'Nashville Country Christmas'. It includes round trip direct motor coach from Toronto to Nashville, with luggage handling at all hotels, 4 nights' accommodation, including 2 nights at the Opryland Resort, with breakfast daily, guided tour of Nashville, a Christmas Dinner Show featuring Trace Adkins, General Jackson Showboat lunch and cruise, Delta River Flatboat Ride and Ice Fantasy Entrance. As restrictions are still in place for pleasure travel to the USA, alternatives for the winner include a \$2,500 travel voucher or \$2,250 cash.

The Trip of the Month Club for 2021 tickets will be available for sale within 2 weeks and will feature trips within Canada and the Caribbean for exciting travel destinations. Hopefully places such as Baja, Jamaica and Lake Louise will provide tempting choices for our draw winners!

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Letters, from page 4

for the protection of grandparents, parents, grandchildren and everyone else. It is the negligent few who disregard the rules and guidelines for keeping COVID-19 in check who are largely responsible for the major increase in COVID-19 cases that we are now seeing.

These people are entitled to their opinions, but they should know that their head-in-the sand attitudes help to put us all at risk. They could benefit from better educating themselves about COVID-19 and disabusing themselves of the mythology that has grown up around it. By doing that, they would be doing society a favour, in-

cluding themselves.

Earle Lockerby
Sandford

I wish to thank Ms Coe for her letter [Oct. 1 edition] explaining the very serious issue of misinformation about the coronavirus. After consulting with experts, I've published an article on Covid-19 risk prevention. It boils down to this:

Time And Place, People And Space, Caseload and Consequence

Time: A 10-minute conversation on a sidewalk is low risk; a two-hour chat on the porch is higher.

Place: Indoors is riskier than outdoors. A stuffy, crowded bar is way riskier than a group picnic in a park.

People: The more people you encounter the bigger the risk. Keep

your social bubble small restrict it to COVID-savvy people.

Space: Keep your distance: two meters or one caribou.

Consequence: Will you interact with older or immune-compromised people? Better to be a COVID shield than a COVID spreader.

Caseload: The amount of virus circulating in your community should be main consideration when trying to determine the risks of any activity. If there's a 1000 new active cases where you live the risk is lower if it's a city of 5 million; stay home if it's a town of 25,000.

Stephen Leahy
Member, Society of
Environmental Journalists
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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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8 Rushes
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13 "___ Master" Phil Jackson
14 Nostalgic time
15 Bit of physics
16 Comfort
18 Hindis' devotional courses
20 Apportion
23 Automaton
27 Court's work level
31 One of the Three Bears
32 Post-apartheid org.
33 Weighed down
35 Transgression
36 Good vantage point
38 Looming
40 Web promotion resources
42 Money exchanges
43 Creates a movie
47 Carbon ___
50 No Mr. Nice Guy
54 Settled
55 Calculate
56 Vega's constellation
57 Computer information
58 Soapmaker's need
59 Right on!

Down

- 1 "I see!"
2 Bridle part

3 ET's craft

- 4 Sound quality
5 American poet ___ Pound
6 Tech expert
7 Little biter
8 Aromatic herb
9 Debtor's note
10 Blunder
11 "What did I tell you?"
17 Sidney Poitier film "To __ , with love"
19 Hot spot
20 Imperfections
21 Capital of Vietnam
22 Necktie
24 Herb
25 Offer one's two cents
26 Pungent flavors
28 Cereal grain
29 Big deal
30 Morning rose moisture
34 Snug retreat
37 Sinatra wear
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41 Half a dozen
44 Iranian coin
45 Type of current
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COVID testing eligibility has changed - here's what you should know

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Ontario is now in the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the province has recently updated who can get tested and where. To be eligible for testing at a COVID assessment centre you must fit into one of the following categories: be experiencing COVID-19 symptoms; have been exposed to a confirmed case of the virus, as informed by the Health Department or the COVID Alert app; be a resident or staff member of a setting that has a COVID-19 outbreak, as identified by the Health Department; be eligible for testing as part of a targeted testing initiative directed by the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Long-Term Care.

If you qualify for testing at an assessment centre, below are some local options you have for testing:

Lakeridge Health: complete the online registration form at covidswab.lh.ca to get an appointment at the North Durham COVID-19 Assessment Clinic (or any other site through Lakeridge Health)

Markham-Stouffville CAC: same-day appointments are available, you must first register at 289-378-2419

Ross Memorial Hospital: drive-through option (first come first serve)

Southlake Hospital: same-day appointments, you must register first by calling 905-895-4521 ext. 2162 option #1.

All those who do not qualify for testing at a COVID Assessment Centre, including those who are asymptomatic but personally wish to be tested, can be swabbed at a participating pharmacy.

Dr. Carlye Jensen, a local family physician, chief of staff at the Uxbridge Hospital and a physician at the North Durham COVID Assessment Centre, says now is not the time to relax precautions.

"Many people look at schools being open as evidence that we can all just forget about distancing. Not so! We need to be extra careful now that school is in - think of it as a risk budget- we have 'spent' our risk on school and opening of other areas

like salons and restaurants but these all hold risks. So, when you can make a choice where you avoid a risk and save your credit, you should!" Social gathering counts remain at 25 people outdoors and 10 indoors, with maintained physical distancing.

Douglas John HAMILTON

April 12, 1950 - Sept. 14, 2020

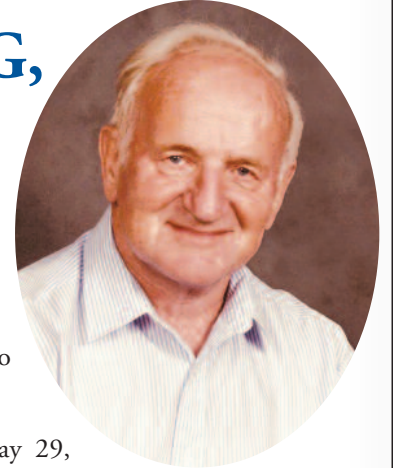
We always thought that the ten Hamilton Kids were invincible. But there is a crack in our love one another world...the fifth child, the third son...our Doug has died. He fought hard and worked with his doctor team. This gave him five more years. In this time he saw his three kids: Cheryl, Michael and Ashley mature in their lives and professions. He was always so proud of them. He saw Mike marry Melissa, he danced with Ashley at her marriage to Andrew, he welcomed and adored his granddaughter Mikayla and he knew that his grandson Landon was on his way. There were family vacations and many other fun family events like the reunions that he enjoyed so much.

Our Family is so thankful that he had his "Jake" at his side. Carol was his rock, his scheduler, his nurse and support. He was unique...the jokester, loved to tease and loved to reminisce about "the good old days". His favourite saying was "it is what it is" showing his positive attitude. We love and will miss you Douglas.

There will be a Celebration of Life in Uxbridge in the spring when, hopefully, it will be safe to do so. Doug would want a roomful of family and friends, laughter, food, drink and of course dancing.



STERNBERG, Joseph



Joseph Sternberg passed away peacefully on the morning of Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at his home in Uxbridge, Ontario in his 92nd year.

Joseph had a full life. Born May 29, 1928, in the village of Gesmold, Germany, he grew up during very difficult times. He was the eldest of 10 children and the only one who ventured abroad. When he came to Canada in 1952 to start a new life, Joe brought along his knowledge of farming. He was very touched by the kindness of Canadians towards him as a newcomer. He was forever grateful to the Government of Canada for letting him become a Canadian citizen. Joe travelled and worked his way right across Canada – from Halifax on the Atlantic Ocean to Kitimat on the Pacific Ocean. In 1963, he finally settled down in Tappen, British Columbia, with his new wife, Brigitte, and their first set of twins. It was here that he started his 45-year long career as a dairy farmer. Joe and Brigitte were always thrilled to welcome relatives, friends and exchange students from around the world.

Joseph and Brigitte were married for over 58 years. Their greatest achievement was raising their six children — Gabriele (Chris), Michael (Yolanda), Yvonne (Thomas), Teresa (Barry), Marcus (Leaf) and Thomas (Sharna) — a true family team with three girls and three boys, including two sets of twins. Having not been able to finish his schooling as a youth in Germany, Joe valued education and was involved directly and indirectly with his children's schooling. Not only did he like to read the books they brought home from school, he also loved to peruse their university textbooks when they came home to the farm. It gave him many opportunities to model his belief of the importance of lifelong learning.

Joe was a board member of the Okanagan College Board and Shuswap Hospital Board, and a trustee for the Shuswap School Board. He also really enjoyed being a member of the Rotary Club of Salmon Arm and being a member of the Knights of Columbus. Joe did all this to show his children that he really valued family and community.

He is Opa to 14 grandchildren — Ayleena, Zachary, Narmaya, Armaan, Noah, Nathaniel, Zhizhuo, Maxwell, Benoit, Jean-Luc, Renae, Baylee (Kevin), Carina and Joshua. He leaves behind the following advice to them: "Five minutes early is better than five minutes late, it shows respect;" "Whatever you do, do it with effort and determination, or don't do it all;" and finally, "Knowledge is much more valuable than money, no one can ever take it away." Opa will be fondly remembered as a 'people person' with a great sense of humour who loved to share jokes. His own bookshelf contained an incredible variety of reading material, including Archie comics, Agatha Christie murder mysteries, historical biographies and Louis L'Amour westerns. Most of all, Opa will be remembered for having an incredible sweet tooth (thanks Oma) and for his love of one-on-one conversation!

The Catholic Church community was always a big part of Joseph's life, whether it was in Gesmold, Ottawa, Calgary, Salmon Arm or Uxbridge. A Funeral Mass was held at Sacred Heart Parish in Uxbridge, Ontario, on Saturday, October 3, 2020, with arrangements entrusted to the Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, P.O. Box 388, Uxbridge, Ontario, L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). Burial of cremated remains to follow next year when the family can all come together to celebrate Opa's life. Donations in Joseph Sternberg's memory can be made to the Sacred Heart Parish Building Fund. A sincere thank you to Joseph's palliative care team and to Dr. Carlye Jensen! For online condolences, please visit www.lowandlow.ca

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