

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 44

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, November 12, 2020



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THEY CAME TO SHOW HONOUR & RESPECT - A gorgeous Sunday afternoon in Elgin Park saw hundreds of people wind through Elgin Park for an 'Honour Our Veterans Drive-by Parade.' Vehicles lined up for hours waiting for the opportunity to pay respect to the assembled veterans. In the foreground, veteran Norm Goodspeed; behind him is Heidi Cushing. For more, see story below.

Photo by Justyne Edgell, inset by Caitlin Christoff Taillon



Inside Your Cosmos

Culvert stalls againpage 3

Varley's in a good moodpage 4

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Thousands come to say 'Thank you for your service'

by Roger Varley

Thousands of people, including many from outside the region, descended on Elgin Park on Sunday to honour Uxbridge's veterans.

Because the traditional Remembrance Day ceremonies at the cenotaph are cancelled this year due to COVID-19, Tish and Mike MacDonald organized a drive-through parade to provide residents with an alternative way of paying their respects to those veterans still with us and those who have fallen. By any standard, the day was a resounding success.

It is estimated that about 2,500 vehicles drove past the veterans as they lined the inside path in the park, all with appropriate distancing. Such was the traffic that at times Main St. S. was jammed and at a

standstill from Reach St. to Elgin Park Dr.

The route through the park was lined with hundreds of small, paper Canadian flags and dozens of large poppy signs. An Uxbridge Legion colour party stood at the beginning of the pathway and an honour guard of Uxbridge firefighters was positioned at the end. As the parade continued, the Uxbridge Legion Pipes and Drums played in the centre of the park.

Beside every veteran was a sign identifying them: Lois Torrance, Harry Thornton, Alan Stephens, Geordie Steerment, George Robson, Tim Richardson, Jim Parks, Len Nicholl, Barrie Mellor, Rob Markell, Wattie Maitland, Ryan Lavrench, Jack MacQuarrie, Ray Lastwick, Jim Kennedy, Philip Joseph, Sherrill Hodgson, Gene Fisher, Ron Down, Betty Dalrymple, Heidi Cushing, Norm Goodspeed, Tracy

Cumming, Doris Clarke and Alan Bainbridge. Lavrench, currently still serving in the forces, was the youngest veteran and Doris Clarke, at the age of 101, was the oldest. Military vehicles from the Ontario Regiment were stationed at a couple of points along the pathway, each one bearing the name of a current serving member: John Drygala, Rob Brooks and Mitch MacFarlane.

Almost every vehicle that drove through was decorated in some way with posters, poppies, flags, balloons or messages scrawled in marker on the sides. A number of cars carried members of Uxbridge's Scouting and Guiding organizations. The parade was led by a squadron of antique cars and hot rods. At one point, a phalanx of 37 motorcyclists rumbled past, made up

...continued on page 6

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for November 2020

Monday, November 16, 10:00 a.m.
GENERAL PURPOSE AND
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
MEETING

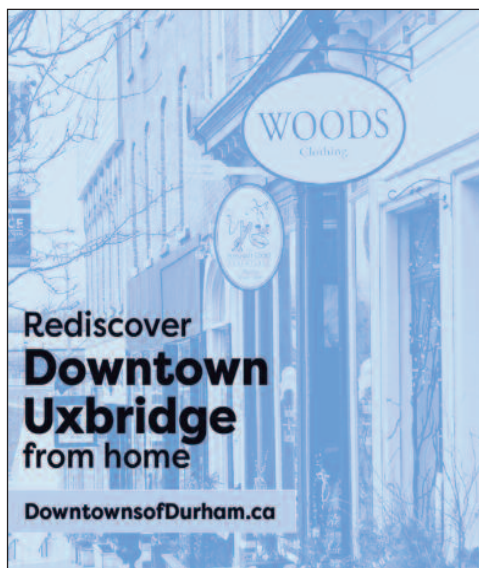
Monday, November 23, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 23,
12:00 p.m. and 7:00 pm
2021 BUDGET OPEN HOUSES

Monday, November 27,
9:00 am
MUSIC HALL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING

Proclamation

Friday, November 20
TRANSGENDER DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE



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

Keep fire safety in mind as temperatures drop!

The Uxbridge Fire Department is urging everyone to keep fire safety in mind as the temperatures turn colder.

There are some simple things people can do to stay fire safe during the colder months:

- Have all fuel-burning appliances inspected annually.
- Keep chimneys and intake/exhaust vents for furnaces and heating appliances free of debris, ice and snow accumulations to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) build-up from inefficient combustion.
- Burn dry, well-seasoned wood in fireplaces and woodstoves to reduce the risk of excessive creosote build-up in chimneys.
- Allow ashes from your fireplace or woodstove to cool before emptying them into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Keep the container outside.
- Keep space heaters at least one metre (3 feet) away from anything that can burn, including curtains, upholstery and clothing.
- Replace worn or damaged electrical wires and connections on vehicles and extension cords and use the proper gauge extension cord for vehicle block heaters.
- Consider using approved timers for vehicle block heaters rather than leaving heaters on all night.
- Ensure that vehicles are not left running inside any garage or building.
- Ensure there is a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas of your home.
- Install CO alarms to alert you to the presence of this deadly gas.

The Uxbridge Fire Department reminds everyone that the Ontario Fire Code requires smoke alarms to be installed on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide alarms are required outside all sleeping areas if the home has a fuel-burning appliance, a fireplace or an attached garage. For more information about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, or fire safety, contact The Uxbridge Fire Department (905) 852-3393.

TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE 2021 BUDGET

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Monday, Nov. 23rd

Two times to participate:
12:00-1:00pm and 7:00-8:00 pm

These virtual meetings will be streamed
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What **heating equipment** in
my home can cause fires?



FIREPLACES AND
FIREPLACE INSERTS



WOODSTOVES



CHIMNEYS

How do I keep **myself** and my **loved ones** safe?

- Ensure woodstoves, fireplaces and fireplace inserts are installed by a **qualified technician** according to **manufacturer's instructions**.

- Have your heating system, vents and chimneys inspected and cleaned annually by a **qualified service technician**.

- Ensure all outside heating vents are **not blocked**.

- Allow ashes from your woodstove or fireplace to cool before emptying them into a **metal container** with a tight-fitting lid. **Keep the container outside.**

- **Always use a fire screen around the fireplace!**



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and **carbon**
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of your home.

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every month.



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UXBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT
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uxbridge.ca/fire



Office of the Fire Marshal and
Emergency Management
ontario.ca/firemarshal



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Culvert work stopped for safety reasons

by Roger Varley

Work on the new culvert on the south side of Brock Street West has stopped for the time being because of safety concerns.

Deputy mayor Willie Popp said Tuesday the contractor, Brennan, had some safety concerns regarding the Mondo Hair Salon on the east side of the excavation and Royal LePage on the west side. He said there has been some "subsidence" in both buildings.

Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey said the contractor showed "an abundance of caution" and advised the Royal LePage staff not to work in the building.

"It's temporary while the engineers inspect the site," she said.

"It's not clear what the danger is," Popp

said, adding Brennan stopped the work because they are the ones responsible for safety.

There appeared to be some difference of opinion between engineers from Aecom, the contract manager, and Brennan, so a third engineering opinion is being sought. Popp said once a report is available on the current condition of the excavation site, any necessary safety measures will be put in place and the construction will resume. In the meantime, Centennial Dr. remains closed to through traffic. It was originally set to re-open at the end of January.

On the north side, construction has finished to all intents and purposes and the parking lot has been paved. However, Popp said it is up to the contractor to determine when the parking lot will be re-opened.



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MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Uxbridge Cosmos erroneously published the incorrect winners' names in the Nov. 5 edition of the newspaper. The correct October Trip of the Month winners are mentioned below. The Cosmos apologizes for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

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

The 'Nashville Country Christmas' trip was won by Diana Wakefield, Ticket #289, sold by Dennis Misurka.

2nd place draw winner (\$150), Bruce Watt, Ticket #369, sold by Kerin Lloyd.

3rd place draw winner (\$100) Carl Cornell, Ticket # 306, sold by Steve Snoddon.

Congratulations to our October winners and best of luck to all our ticket holders for the November draw for 'Diver's Delight'. Includes round trip non-stop airfare to Roatan, Honduras (with airport transfers), 7-night accommodation at the 4-star Henry Morgan Resort, beachfront suite, all meals, drinks, snacks. Two day complimentary snorkeling excursion, daily activities, nightly entertainment and all gratuities.

As restrictions are still in place for travel, a voucher for \$2,500 from Getaway Travel or cash option of \$2,250 available instead of the trip.

The Trip of the Month Club for 2021 tickets are available for sale from any Uxbridge Rotarian. Exciting travel destinations within Canada and the Caribbean.



The solution to COVID-19 is right in front of your nose.

- Wear a face covering.
- Keep 2m apart from anyone outside of your household.
- Limit your close contact to your household only.
- Wash your hands often.



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Our two cents

We're blaming it on the neighbour

We're hoping that you, dear reader, are one of the few people who *didn't* notice the mistakes and oversights that were peppered throughout last week's paper. The jump that was announced on page 1 to page 11 - but the story wasn't continued on page 11 (long story, suffice to say it was a technical error). The Rotary ad that contained the wrong winners. The name of the new-to-Uxbridge store taking over from H.H. Goode. Oh, it was not the finest issue of the *Cosmos* to ever hit newsstands and mailboxes, we admit it. BUT (of course there's a but) in our defence, we were being good global citizens. We were standing on guard for our great nation, as it were, paying close attention to world events as they were unfolding before our very eyes, contemplating the entire time how those events would affect Canada.

We were trying to put together a newspaper while watching the results trickle in from the U.S. election. We were trying to walk and chew gum at the same time. And we tripped.

Now, we may have been the only ones in the township putting together a newspaper on Tuesday night, but we know we weren't the only ones watching the election and accompanying commentary. It's stunning, really, to think about how involved in American politics we Canadians are. Especially when you consider that our neighbours to the south likely don't return the favour. Why do we care so much? Well, it could be because we share the longest land border in the world, and an awful lot of people and stuff travel back and forth across that border. It could be because the U.S.A. is our biggest trade partner, and if trade goes down the potty with them (and we don't want to rely on China a whole lot right now for myriad reasons), then we all individually suffer. It's definitely because whoever is in the top seat in the White House makes decisions that affect how the States treat the issue of climate change, and that's something that everyone should care about.

The saying goes, when the United States sneezes, Canada catches a cold. Our fates are inextricably entwined. So how dare they put a newsworthy event like an election on a paper publishing night? We'll blame them for what went awry last week. Why not? It's worked for the past four years...

CORRECTION

In the Nov. 5 edition, the *Cosmos* ran a story on page 7 regarding H.H. Goode selling its 110-year-old business to Sharpe Family Supplies of Guelph. The name of the business is actually Sharpe Farm Supplies. The *Cosmos* apologizes for the error.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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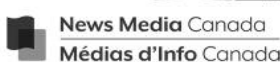
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9,500 copies of The Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge: 8,800 delivered by mail, 700 available in stores and boxes.



Letters to the Editor

This letter is a thank you to a family I have never met.

I love Hallowe'en with its decorations, treats and excited, costumed children. I was not looking forward to how different it would be this year. Then, a family on my street went to enormous effort to transform the front of their home into a real "Hallowe'en House." The whole front lawn was a cemetery, with a family of skeletons, even a dog! There was so much to see, I hardly knew where to look first. Even their garage doors were framed and contained pertinent scenes.

In a year when a fun time for the children was toned down for COVID, this was so much appreciated. I extend a very big thank you to the family at 59 Oakside Drive for this real Hallowe'en treat.

*Dawn Gillespie
Uxbridge*

The Hobby Horse Arms has closed. Our only English pub, with fish and chips in English beer batter, the best Caesar salad, along with many other delicious dishes which will be hard to replace.

But harder to replace will be the many hours that Jim and Nancy Byers and their children gave to this community pitching in and assisting whenever they were needed.

Many people from other communities travelled to Uxbridge to experience the delicious food and the friendly community activities at the pub, as well as the professional gardens that Nancy designed and cared for.

The Hobby Horse Arms was the first business in Uxbridge to set up a tourist centre to let visitors know what heritage attractions were open, what was playing at the Music Hall and what programs that were coming up, and Jim made sure his staff were all trained to answer questions and guide the tourists.

Jim also worked closely with the Foster Memorial committee, offering a discount on dinner if the patrons were attending a 'Friday at the Foster' concert. Throughout the years, Jim could always

be counted on for a gift certificate as a prize or his participation to promote an event.

It is hard to replace the community spirit and dedication that Jim and Nancy Byers and their family gave over the years to this community.

Thank you, Byers, you will be missed.
*Bev Northeast, Brad Shortt & family
Goodwood*

Re: Letter from Mr. Yetman, Nov. 5 edition

In this letter, [Mr. Yetman] claims that only some 9,000 Americans have died from COVID-19, saying his information is from the CDC. He also claims that the CDC and the Ontario government say that masks don't work and that Anthony Fauci and the WHO agree with this.

I found all this hard to believe, so I checked these sources for myself. Going to the CDC website one of the very first warnings is to wear a mask as shown in this link:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Going further, the CDC says that over 234,000 Americans have died from COVID-19. Here is the link to their data tracker. I could find no statement that they had made a mistake and over reported these shocking deaths:
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days

I checked what the Ontario government says about wearing a mask on their website - here's that link:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/face-coverings-and-face-masks>

Finally, here is the link to what the WHO has to say about masks:
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-mask>

As for Dr. Fauci, he has been quite clear for some time that people should be wearing masks and that COVID-19 is not just another flu. It is true that earlier this year, wearing masks was felt to be helpful but not necessary. Also,

masks were in short supply and needed for medical personnel. The early data suggested that contact was the main transmission, and the large droplets from coughing would only travel a short distance. Now, of course, a lot more is known and the spread of aerosol clouds of COVID are extremely serious. This is where masks protect you from both catching or spreading this disease.

I would very much like to know the sources Mr. Yetman referenced in his letter. If he is going to write about this subject and say things that go counter to what most medical evidence shows, he owes it to all readers to give his sources. Until I see such evidence, I will continue to wash my hands and wear my mask.

*Arthur Beatty
Uxbridge*

The Optimist Club of Uxbridge is de"light"ed to inform everyone that the Fantasy of Lights will go ahead this year!

This year will be a drive through event only. We have been working hard to make this event even more spectacular and we think you will all be pleased.

This is a free event but we will be accepting donations at the exit either by cash or tap to donate. The funds raised at this event go to supporting youth activities in our own town. The Youth Centre, Scouts, scholarships at the high school and of course the Optimist Pump Park are just a few of the things we fund.

The Optimist Fantasy of Lights will open on Dec. 5 and will run until Jan. 2, 2021. It will be open every night from 6 - 9:30 p.m. Entrance will be off Elgin Park Drive.

We will also be selling Christmas trees again in the Uxbridge Canadian Tire parking lot.

We appreciate all the support we have received over the years from our friends and neighbours in Uxbridge and beyond.

*Jan Wilson
Secretary/Optimist Club of Uxbridge*



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

What a week it's been

After so many months of gloom, as has been apparent in most of my recent columns, I just had one of the best weeks I've experienced in years. As I write this, I am feeling energized, buoyant and, if an atheist can use the expression, blessed (thank you, Rev. Mark Kinghan!).

The week started for me last Wednesday. As is my habit, I strolled over to the *Cosmos* office to pick up the latest edition hot off the press. I walked through the door to be greeted with birthday signs, balloons and Lisha and Sue singing "Happy Birthday." There were cards and presents for me to open and a small chocolate birthday cake with the number 80 on top. I was blown away.

A little later, I went for my daily coffee at The Bridge, where I was treated to a birthday freebie. A good friend came by with a present and, back in my apartment, just as I'd settled in for the evening, Mayor Dave Barton was there to present me with a congratulatory certificate from the township. I was so touched that I insisted on shaking his hand, COVID be damned. (We both used hand sanitizer immediately afterwards.) Later, I had lovely long chats with my sons. But there was also something else that was special: I received hugs for the first time in I-don't-know-how-long.

To top it all off, that was the day the current spell of warm, sunny weather started.

Soon after my visit to the office, Lisha posted about it on Facebook and I was touched that so many people responded with good wishes. But the power of social media really showed itself on Sunday at the Remembrance Day drive-through. I was on hand for the whole event (because I'm a reporter), but I was staggered by how many people had seen the Facebook post and wished me "happy birthday" as they passed by. Once again, I've been impressed by and grateful for the generosity and warm-heartedness of the residents of Uxbridge. I haven't felt this happy in years.

Of course, the beautiful weather of the past week and the result of the U.S. presi-

dential election had a lot to do with it, but somehow life has just felt so much better. I feel exhilarated. So much so that I couldn't contain it and on Saturday, as I sat drinking my coffee, I stopped two random children (with their moms' permission) and told them they could get any book they wanted in Blue Heron Books. I felt almost like Scrooge waking up on Christmas morning.

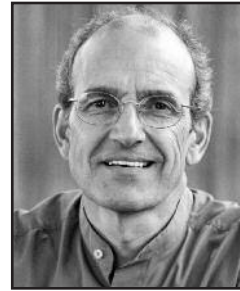
It seems to me as I people-watch with my coffee in hand that a lot of folks have a bit of a spring in their step of late and it was good to see the patios pick up again. On Saturday, Brock was fairly bustling and I watched one young couple as they engaged in a scavenger hunt as part of someone else's birthday. And passersby continued to wish me "happy birthday."

Yes, there are a couple of black pixels on the wider picture - (namely the deep divisions in the U.S. and the climbing COVID-19 numbers here at home) - but I believe most of us are just happy to see the end of that rancorous, nightmarish show they call an election in the U.S. The U.S. still has some major problems to overcome, but at least we won't have four years of daily news being dominated by Trump.

I know this isn't the kind of column I usually write and I hope it isn't too cornball, but I just couldn't bring myself to criticize, complain, pontificate or admonish this week. As Scrooge said as the end of *A Christmas Carol*: "I don't deserve to be so happy (but) I can't help it." It seems to me we could all use that feeling a bit more often.

Tell me, am I wrong?

P.S.: The above column was written on Sunday. It was only on Monday morning that I found out that Mayor Barton had also posted about my birthday on Facebook and (this is embarrassing) Lisha pointed out to me that she had flagged my birthday in the Classifieds section of last week's paper! No wonder I received so many good wishes! Thank you, everyone.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

After demonization, what?

We arrived in Normandy that spring in time for the anniversary observances of the liberation of France. Street posts, balconies and memorial parks were festooned in patriotic bunting, streamers and the national flags of France, Britain, America and Canada. And Germany!

"Why is the German flag with red, gold and black included?" I asked our tour guide on the trip.

"New theme this year," she said. "Remembrance and reconciliation."

It stood out even more so after that. All of the ceremonies organized for the D-Day and Normandy liberation had that same look. Not only did the Tri-Colour, the Union Jack, the Stars and Stripes and our Red Maple Leaf fly over the events. So too did the current flag of Germany. At one point, I happened across a group of sailors from the French Navy. In my high-school French, I asked them about the reconciliation element of the planned D-Day commemorations.

"We think reconciliation is a good thing," they all said without prompting. "It's time."

Memories of that unique time in Europe came flooding back to me the other night as I listened to President-elect Joe Biden address fellow citizens with his message of healing the soul of America. His campaign all along carried that intention of trying to deal with the problems under which he sees his country's reputation faltering - the pandemic, economic downturn, systemic racism and the challenges of climate change. But Biden's choice of words I thought appropriate and highly relevant for so much of what we continue to face this year 2020.

"Let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end here and now," Biden said on Saturday night. The President-elect, I believe, truly wants to end the past four years of division in Congress, the deepening hatred between whites and blacks and the political rift over stopping COVID-19.

And I'm reminded that such mending and forgiveness is possible. Among the examples, I remember that image from the Vietnam War of young Kim Phuc after the U.S. napalm attack in 1972, that she later met and forgave the man who planned that bombing. Another came out of the Holocaust, which killed the majority of Corrie Boom's family from the Netherlands; and yet she forgave the perpetrators. When civil rights activist John Lewis died recently, we learned at his funeral that he forgave George Wallace, the former segregationist governor of Alabama, responsible for triggering police attacks against peaceful demonstrators in the 1960s. Perhaps most stark and yet equally

credible - given the nature of the man - when Nelson Mandela met those who had imprisoned him during South Africa's apartheid regime for 27 years, he had this to offer:

"We especially need to forgive each other," he said, "because when you intend to forgive, you heal part of the pain, but when you forgive, you heal completely."

It's a small thing, but as we directed cars and trucks through the wonderful Honour Our Veterans drive-by event in Elgin Park on Sunday, well before the event began, hundreds of vehicles were backed up waiting to pass the vets. I was in the middle of that traffic jam, but despite my ineptitude at prioritizing all those well-wishers on the hill, I saw and heard very little complaining. Despite the inconvenience of having to wait, everybody seemed glad to be there and the chance to applaud the vets as an alternative to a Remembrance Day at the cenotaph.

As an intriguing sidebar, I read a survey conducted earlier this year by Ohio State University. Published in the journal *Communication Research*, it questioned young people who read short narratives like the ones they might see in TV episodes, and asked if they preferred villains being punished or forgiven. It turns out - in their entertainment at least - that people prefer punishment over forgiveness.

"(The majority) have a gut-level response that people should be punished for wrongdoing," the study concluded. "Seeing a lack of punishment requires a level of deliberation that doesn't come naturally." I guess that proves reversing demonization has a long way to go in America. I mentioned earlier my encounter with the sailors from French warships on the beaches of Normandy. They had readily admitted that a sufficient number of years had passed since the end of the Second World War - now 75 years ago last spring - to consider reconciliation. They pointed at the flotilla of warships sailing along the coast that spring day. There were French warships sailing with Allied ones and German ones. They'd said, yes, it was time for reconciliation with Germany.

"Yes, I understand," I responded. Then I asked a tougher question. "Have you made friends with any of the German sailors?"

The young men looked at each other and said, "No. Not really."

I guess it's one thing to end an era of demonization, but quite another to build friendships with former enemies. Time remains the great healer.

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



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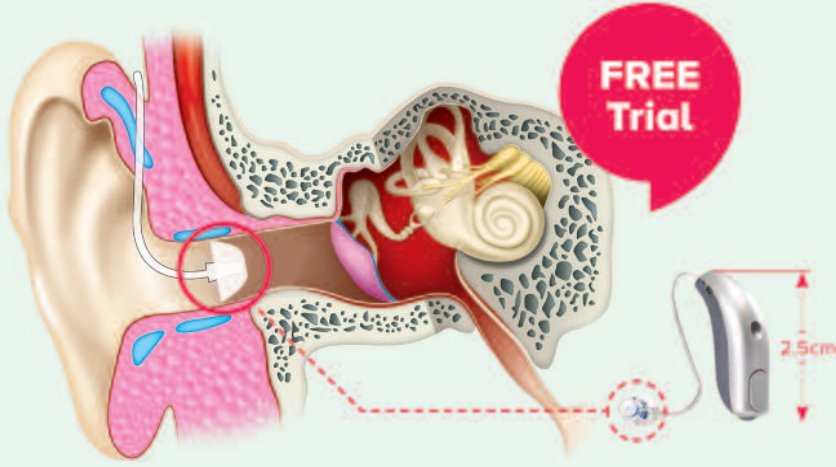
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Drive-by honour, from page 1

of bikers from several riding associations, including the Widows' Sons, the Rusty Nuts and the Red Knights, whose membership consists of firefighters. One of the

motorcyclists stopped his bike in front of every veteran, dismounted, stood at attention and saluted.

In the conversations the passing parade had with the veterans, the most heard comment was: "Thank you for your service."

Such spontaneous actions and conversations

led to an average through time of about 90 minutes. The parade started at 1 p.m. and the

last vehicle cleared the route at 4 p.m. even though the gates to the park were closed at 2:45 p.m. Each vehicle that passed through was given an information sheet containing short biographies of all the veterans along the route.

Also on hand for the parade were MP Jennifer O'Connell and MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy.

Sherrill Hodgson, president of the Uxbridge legion, was overwhelmed.

"My heart's just pounding," she said. "It is for all of them [the vets]."

Heidi Cushing described the day as "fabulous."

"I can't believe how many people have come," she said.

HANDLEY, Harvey Roy

(Retired from CBC)



Peacefully passed away at the Markham Stouffville Hospital on Friday, November 6, 2020. Harvey, at the age of 95, was the loving husband of the late Mildred (2012). He was predeceased by his brothers Norval and Gordon, and by his sister Elvira Sparrow. Harvey is survived by his brother-in-law Ted and his wife Corinne Croxall, and will be remembered by his several nieces and nephews.

A private family graveside service will take place at the Uxbridge Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low

Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). If desired, a memorial

donation to a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences can be made at www.lowandlow.ca



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