

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 16 No. 45

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, November 19, 2020



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Patrick Bryant, Broker of Record



AN INTERSECTION WAITING FOR AN ACCIDENT TO HAPPEN - Coppin's Corners, located where Brock Rd. meets Reg. Rd. 21 just south of Uxbridge, is the number one intersection for traffic accidents on regional roads in the township. Others include Conc. 6 at Hwy. 47; Toronto St. S. and Elgin Park Dr.; and Sandford Rd. (Reg. Rd. 11) and Reg. Rd. 30. For more locations, and plans for reducing collision numbers, see story on page 3.

Photo by John Cavers

Online @ thecosmos.ca

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Feds promise money to speed up rural internet

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Uxbridge internet users, don't despair - you won't be left with online connection that makes dial-up look good. Pickering-Uxbridge MP Jennifer O'Connell recently announced the enhanced and expanded Universal Broadband Fund, a program aimed to provide reliable internet connectivity to all residents.

"During the COVID crisis, we are seeing now more than ever the importance of adequate and reliable internet connectivity," says O'Connell. "Here in our area, we are so close to the urban centre that we are often forgotten or not seen as a critical zone to improve."

The original UBF was designed as a \$1 billion program but has now been upgraded to \$1.75 billion, with the recognition of the

importance to act quickly in connecting all Canadians.

The program will also include a Rapid Response Stream with an accelerated application process, as well as \$150 million for shovel ready projects that can be started within the next 12 months. O'Connell says she is hopeful that Uxbridge will see some projects in this rapid stream.

During the November 16 council meeting, Mayor Dave Barton reported that the township does indeed have shovel ready projects with "applications to be submitted very soon."

"We needed a program that would be flexible and diverse - parts of our community have great service, while others have next to nothing," says O'Connell, who also mentions that another goal of this program is to introduce new technologies and competition

in the hopes of lowering service rates.

Barton, is looking forward to Uxbridge receiving the benefits of this program.

"Lots of our local areas have sub-par service and I know the importance of good connectivity, especially as we're now all working and learning from home."

Colleen Baskin, communications officer for the township, notes the economical benefits better service can bring to our town.

"It is easier to attract more businesses here if there is good internet, but at the end of the day, it is the service providers who need to be willing to invest in the community by building infrastructure," she says.

For more information about the Universal Broadband Fund visit https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/139.nsf/eng/h_00006.html

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Council & Committee Meetings Meeting Schedule for November 2020

Monday, November 23
10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 23
12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

2021 BUDGET OPEN HOUSES

Friday, November 27
9:00 a.m.

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

TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE 2021 BUDGET

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE Monday, Nov. 23

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

Visit <https://bit.ly/32W8sYy> for
instructions on how to join.



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Office of the Fire Marshal and
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ontario.ca/firemarshal

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Did You Know?

There is no overnight parking on Township streets 2-7am Nov. 1 to Apr. 1

www.uxbridge.ca/bylaw




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 November 16

Council Meeting

Be careful at these intersections:
Uxbridge council was informed Monday that the worst intersection for collisions in the township is at Brock Road and Regional Road 21 in Coppin's Corners.

Steve Kemp and Amanda Spencer, both from the Region of Durham, gave a presentation on the region's Vision Zero project, which is aimed at reducing the number of collisions involving fatalities and injuries and, hopefully, reducing fatalities to zero in the next five years.

The intersection at Brock Rd. and Regional Road 21 saw 24 such collisions between 2014 and 2018. However, it ranked 160th region-wide. But that intersection involves two regional roads. The worst intersection for collisions involving a township-owned road was at Davis Dr. and Conc. 6, which saw 10 collisions in the same period. That ranked 67th among municipal intersections in Durham.

Kemp noted there was a reduction in road traffic in 2020 because of the COVID-19 restrictions, meaning there was also a drop in the number of collisions involving injuries. He added, however, that fatality numbers were about the same.

In answer to a question from Mayor Dave Barton, Kemp said roundabouts lessen the chances of collisions involving injuries or fatalities because vehicles are travelling at reduced speeds. Spencer said roundabouts are being considered for several locations in the township in the next few years.

Spencer said there are a number of other counter-measures either being installed or being considered to further reduce the number of collisions. They include red-light cameras and automated speed enforcement installations. A red-light camera has already been installed at Lake Ridge Rd. and Regional Road 21 and the

automatic speed counters are in Goodwood and Sandford. She said they have resulted in 10,000 fines being issued since the beginning of September.

Councillor Willie Popp wondered why speed display boards are moved to different locations from time to time. Kemp said rotating them around locations is more effective than leaving them in place.

On pedestrian safety, Spencer said several pedestrian crossing enhancements are being considered for a number of locations within the urban area. Popp noted the region recently turned down council's request for a pedestrian crossing in Good-

wood at Regional Road 21 and Front St. because the location did not meet the warrant requirements. Spencer said that location could be revisited by the region sometime in the summer.

Township embraces diversity: Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey presented council with a report on the township's moves to embrace equity, diversity and inclusion in the township.

"Our goal is to embed ED&I principles at all levels of the organization," Honey's report said. She noted that all Uxbridge township staff and members of council completed anti-racism training this fall.

Among steps Honey recommends is to identify and confront bias and systemic barriers in recruitment, hiring and advancement of staff and volunteers, support workplaces free from discrimination, harassment and bullying and include more photos of visible minorities in township publications. The report also said the township will recognize by way of proclamations any celebrations or days of significance that promote understanding and inclusion.

Honey said the working group that prepared the blueprint for equity, diversity and inclusion talked with Uxbridge's anti-racism committee, the LGBTQ community and others,

and their feedback was included in the blueprint. Her report included a list of 23 key events that council might acknowledge and celebrate, including Pride month, anti-bullying day, orange shirt day and Black History Month.

Asked if that could lead to council revisiting its flag policy, which severely restricts what flags can be flown outside the township offices, Barton said council has already revisited the policy, which led to the display of the Pride flag for the first time this year.

"We will continue to discuss ways to make sure everyone feels comfortable within their own skin," he said.



Members Wanted for the Energy from Waste- Waste Management Advisory Committee

Works Department

November 19, 2020

Public Notice

The Regional Municipality of Durham (Region) is seeking volunteers for a two-year term (2021 to 2022) position on the Energy from Waste-Waste Management Advisory Committee (EFW-WMAC).

The committee is comprised of nine residents from across the region. Four committee members must live in the Municipality of Clarington and are appointed by Clarington Council. The other five committee members must live within Durham Region, but outside of the Municipality of Clarington, and are appointed by Durham Regional Council. The available positions are for the Region of Durham's appointed members. Interested Clarington residents should contact the Municipality of Clarington.

About the EFW-WMAC

The EFW-WMAC will meet on a quarterly basis and act in an advisory role to the Region's Works Committee on issues or concerns which arise with waste diversion, waste management, or environmental performance and monitoring of the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC). The Terms of Reference for this committee can be viewed at **DurhamYorkWaste.ca**. It is anticipated that the meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of March, May, September and November in 2021 but may be subject to change.

How to Apply

Interested residents who reside in the Region, but outside of Clarington, must provide a detailed resume with a cover letter outlining your interest and qualifications. Your knowledge of various waste management practices and EFW processes should be included in the submission. Previous participation or experience with committees/working groups will be considered an asset.

Submission Deadline

Submissions must be received by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. Please send resume and detailed covering letter to:

Melodee Smart, Administrative Assistant
The Regional Municipality of Durham, Works Department
605 Rossland Road East
Whitby, Ontario L1N 6A3
Email: Melodee.Smart@durham.ca
Fax: 905-668-2051

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3560.



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The Regional Municipality of Durham Works Department
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario L1N 6A3
Telephone: 905-668-7711 or 1-800-372-1102
durham.ca/EFW-WMAC



Our two cents

Ho Ho Hold the holidays

Once again, Scott Rutledge has brought a Christmas oasis to the corner of Brock and Church streets, with one side of his jewelry store covered in large, flashing blue and white snowflakes while a Santa sleigh and lighted Christmas trees adorn the front sidewalk.

On Saturday, a long line of customers snaked along Brock and down Bascom St. as they waited patiently to enter The Lemonade Stand's open house to kick off the Christmas shopping season. On Sunday, the Farmers' Market held its annual pre-Christmas event, although this year it took place outside The Second Wedge instead of in the arena. Everywhere you go, retailers are decorating their stores with holiday trimmings.

This is not unusual. It's at this time of year that most people begin to feel the Christmas spirit bubbling up. But this year, Christmas is going to be much different from those we have known in the past.

Numbers coming from across Canada - indeed, from around the world - show that the number of COVID-19 infections is increasing at an alarming rate and showing no signs of letting up. These increasing numbers come at the same time that we are being told two coronavirus vaccines are showing encouraging results in trials, with the teaser that a vaccine might be available to the public sometime in the Spring. The increasing numbers are also leading many people, including many health experts, to call for increasingly stringent restrictions on public activity and punitive consequences for those who choose not to follow them. The word "lockdown" is frightening to many political leaders, but more and more are beginning to hint that lockdowns could be coming.

Already we are being told to avoid the traditional Christmas gatherings and to limit our in-home Christmas dinners to the people that actually live in the home. No Santa Claus parades, no visits to Santa in the mall, no community Christmas dinners.

Despite all the warnings, there are still many, many people who refuse to take this threat seriously. Indeed, there is a video circulating on the Internet in which a front-line nurse describes how patients have told her there is no such thing as COVID-19 even as they lie dying because of it.

We have now been living with COVID-19 protocols for eight months and everyone is tired of it. But it could have been a much shorter period if people had simply followed the three basic, easy steps: wash your hands frequently, maintain a social distance and wear a mask. Yet even those simple procedures are too much of an infringement on freedom for many people. As long as such naysayers continue their selfish ways, we all will remain under the COVID-19 cloud for a long, long time.

Not all the blame should be laid on the shoulders of the deniers, however. Governments continue to put out confusing - and sometimes contradictory - statements about the pandemic and various governments take widely different approaches to handling it. Calls are beginning to increase for the federal government to come up with a national strategy to fight this scourge - a move we believe it should have made a long time ago.

In the meantime, we have Christmas to deal with. We would suggest that the best Christmas gift you could give your loved ones is to make sure you and they are as safe as possible. If that means giving up a few holiday parties, it's a small price to pay.



Letters to the Editor

Jack and I moved to Goodwood 25 years ago, not having any idea what type of community we would be entering. Little did we know how warm, caring, hard-working, talented and receptive the residents of Goodwood and Uxbridge would be!

Shortly after Hallowe'en this year, I was walking around the neighbourhood and was stunned at the display on the beautiful new electronic notice board at Goodwood United Church, where the week before I'd seen a cute pumpkin wearing a mask and safety instructions for pedestrians and drivers. Longtime local resident and very active member of the church, June Harper, had convinced the relatively new minister there to display photos of all the Goodwood veterans who had served in WW1 or WW11. Kudos and many thanks to June and her helpers for initiating this idea and helping to create such a beautiful display of remembrance! I suspect there are a lot of residents who were as moved as we were by this respectful display.

Sunday, Nov. 8, was another prime example of our amazing community, when thousands of beautifully decorated vehicles full of kids and adults of all ages paraded around Elgin Park, taking this opportunity to thank all our local veterans for their service.

There can't be many in this community who don't already know that Tish MacDonald was the instigator and brains behind this amazing drive-by. Even though Tish retired last spring, she still took the time to gather local forces, including her husband, Mike, and daughters as well as Sherrill Hodgson, president of the Uxbridge Legion, to make sure that our local veterans would still be honoured, even during this time of COVID-19. Each veteran that day was presented with a "loot" bag that included personalized letters of ap-

preciation from students at all of Uxbridge's elementary and secondary schools, along with hand-knit and ceramic poppies, a mask with a poppy attached to it and hand-drawn art created by students. Tish spent hours assembling these "loot" bags the night before the drive-by and on Sunday distributed one to each of the many veterans there.

Another very pleasant surprise was finding two letters of appreciation for Jack's service in his "snail mail" box this week, one from Uxbridge Public School and the other from Uxbridge Secondary School, displaying what is now obviously a tradition to insure the slogan "Lest we Forget" will carry on long after the students have graduated and moved on.

Our most sincere thanks to Tish for her continued outstanding service to and example for our community.

On a more selfish note, Sunday was a perfect opportunity for us to greet many friends we've made through various activities we're involved with in Uxbridge, but have not been able to see for several months now!

We are also extremely fortunate to have the best neighbours anyone could ask for and even though some have moved on to other locations over the years, we have always had wonderful new folks settling in here, making us feel like we're not still the new kids on the block! This year in particular has given us a special opportunity to get to know many of them a little better and we indeed feel blessed to be living in what is now better known as "Schitt's Creek"!

**Joan Andrews
Goodwood**

I will start my letter with a plea for understanding. I was very excited to (try to) join in with celebrations for our veterans on Saturday, Nov. 8, at Elgin Park. My daughter and husband are serving in the Netherlands

presently, and I myself have a background as an MSE.

But I didn't actually make it into the park, sadly. After an hour stuck on Main St. S., it was obvious it was going to be a couple of more hours to reach the turn onto Elgin Park Dr. and then to enter off there. The most disappointing part of this experience was the lack of direction from traffic persons, and or any kind of signage. The car ahead of me, caught in this same 'parking lot' situation, was eager to leave town for an appointment. I, too, had made plans for 3 p.m., that's why I left at 12:30 for the Remembrance event. Now it was 2 p.m. and I was going nowhere. Then I was told that Main St. S. was blocked at Elgin Park Dr., meaning I couldn't go south, by-pass the line up, and leave from there.

Chaos then ensued as vehicles did six point turns, trying to turn and go back to Reach St. I followed the car ahead of me on this venture and 15 minutes later we were driving to Lake Ridge Rd. on Reach St.

The irony of hearing bagpipers playing while this craziness was going on was not lost on me.

If there had been better policing on the roads, foreknowledge of road closures (did I miss that somewhere?) and parking overflow off-site, this would have been a great day for everyone. The weather cooperated so beautifully, too.

**Theresa Pilniuk
Uxbridge**

Re: Letters, Nov. 5 edition

Is this [Mr. Yetman's] a real letter or someone's idea of a prank?

I can understand why [the *Cosmos*] placed a disclaimer prominently below the drivel that this letter contains. His "facts" are about as reliable

...continued on page 9

**The Uxbridge
COSMOS**

Publisher/Editor: Lisha Van Nieuwenhove 905-852-1900
Advertising/Sales: 905-852-1900

38 Toronto Street North, Unit One, Uxbridge Ontario L9P 1E6
E-mail: Lvann@thecosmos.ca Web site: Thecosmos.ca

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Wandering the Cosmos

column by Conrad Boyce

Yankees

The first U.S. citizens I really got to know were almost as new to the American experience as I was. Hawaii only became a state in 1959, and when my family mysteriously moved there from Alberta in the fall of 1963, I discovered Hawaiians were still getting used to the idea. Kennedy was the first president they voted for, and when he was assassinated that November, it hit them hard. Sometimes I think Hawaiians have voted Democratic ever since because they're still grieving. I loved the Hawaiians.

I really didn't have another close encounter with an American (this one was from Texas) until the summer of 1969, after my second year of university. I was working as a tree planter in the Rocky Mountain foothills, based in Hinton, just east of Jasper National Park. My girlfriend was working in Jasper town, so I'd hitch-hike in to visit from time to time.

One July evening I was sitting on a Jasper bench when the Texan approached and asked if I was local. I confessed I was Albertan. He complimented me on how well we treated tourists, how beautiful the park was, and asked how early the rangers had to get up each morning to set up the mountain backdrop. I was stunned. Still am. This man, who seemed of fairly normal intelligence, actually sincerely believed that the mountains behind Jasper were like a painted movie set, erected for the pleasure of the travelling public. I'm not making this up. The mind boggles.

I confess that this encounter coloured my view of Americans for quite some time. In the intervening five decades, of course, I've met thousands more U.S. citizens on their home turf, from Alaska to New Orleans, from Manhattan to West Virginia; the vast majority of them have been as pleasant as that Texan was, and most of them have been considerably more enlightened. But...

When I was growing up, the United States had a reputation as not only the most powerful nation in the world, but the most advanced as well. Over the years, however, I've been baffled by how, in so many ways, the country refuses to get dragged into the 20th century in terms of social progress. It's almost as though it stubbornly refuses to move past the glory days of the 1780s, when the Yankees threw off the British oppressors and founded their nation. Its ridiculous electoral system dates from that time. So does its gun culture; the Second Amendment of the Constitution and its "right to bear arms" was created for the colonial world, not for the modern one, but it remains the major reason most world citizens are frightened by the prospect of even visiting the U.S., let alone living there.

Almost every "developed" nation in the world has had universal health care for decades. Not America. And even though Lincoln's Emancipa-

tion Proclamation was proclaimed in 1863, the U.S. remained overtly discriminatory for another century, and remains deeply racist today.

Like most of you, I suspect, I was profoundly shocked when Americans voted in Donald Trump in 2016. I've disagreed with the politics of most U.S. presidents, but at least they seemed to be decent human beings (with the possible exception of Nixon). But here was a guy who didn't just play a boor and a bully on TV. He proved himself to be those things (and worse) almost daily over the last four years.

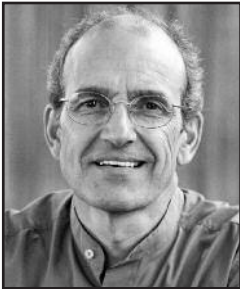
Again like most of you, I breathed a sigh of relief last week when Biden was finally declared the victor, and when civil war didn't immediately break out (although thanks to the aforementioned gun culture, that remains a dangerous possibility). The Donald can go back to the totally unreal world of reality TV, perhaps become a commentator on public health for Fox News, or become a golf course designer like his buddy Jack Nicklaus (there's one sort-of-hero I've lost a lot of respect for).

But why, after all they've seen and heard from him over the last four years, did more than 72 million Americans still vote for the guy? That's a real puzzler, one that's kept me awake a lot over the last two weeks. Why, as my wife frequently points out, do Americans seem bright and friendly one on one, but so often behave ignorantly in groups?

A clue, I think, lies in the fact that even though Charles Darwin proposed his theory of evolution more than 160 years ago, an elegant theory long since adopted by every reputable biologist in the world, and even though the vast majority of Christian and Jewish theologians are quite prepared to accept that the Book of Genesis was written allegorically, a very large percentage of Americans persist in the belief that God created the world in just six days, and only a few thousand years ago.

I don't think these Americans are stupid, or even willfully ignorant. I believe they're just relentlessly (and sometimes aggressively) stubborn in the face of facts. No "expert" is going to tell them what to believe or what to do. No biologist is going to tell them they share DNA with a gorilla. No doctor is going to tell them to wear an uncomfortable mask. No "socialist" politician is going to make them help pay for their neighbour's health care, even if it benefits them or their family down the road. So they vote for the ultimate anti-expert.

I guess I understand this stubborn streak. It goes back to 1783, when they beat those arrogant, superior British. But all the same, I wish that segment of American society could just drop their hard-skinned attitude, and look at the world as it really is. Like the Texan in Jasper, just open your eyes. And your minds. And your hearts.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

A tradition of helping the hungry

He didn't have to do it. Still in an RCAF uniform and duty-bound to King and Country in April 1945, nevertheless Joe English stepped up. He and his entire Lancaster crew had completed the requisite 30 operations, a full tour, over occupied Europe. They all had done their bit in the war, but Joe and his entire crew volunteered for one more flight.

"The Germans say they'll permit bombers to fly in low over the big Dutch cities – Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht, the Hague," their RAF commanders told them. "People are starving there. They need us to drop tons of food." "As far as I was concerned," Joe said, "it was about improving people's lives."

Seventy-five years ago last spring, in the last days of the Second World War in Europe, Canadian, British and American crews flew "Operation Manna" flights over those cities in the Netherlands. The Germans said they'd allow the bombers to pass through safe corridors of air. A few crews were still shot down. Nevertheless, those volunteer bomber crews delivered over 10,000 tons of food in the last 10 days of the war. They probably saved three million Dutch civilians' lives. I thought about Joe English and a tradition of helping the hungry as I spoke to Patti Maloney, co-chair of the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, in town this week.

"When the pandemic hit in the spring," she said, "we lost some volunteers out of fear for their health. But we've replenished, about 50 people helping now."

Maloney arrived in town about 20 years ago, when she began a teaching position at Uxbridge Public School. She instructed English at the French immersion school and special education. And while she still supply-teaches and helps her husband with a home-operated business, Wednesday afternoons she joins volunteers in the basement at St. Andrew's Chalmers Presbyterian Church helping to dispense food. It sounds pretty straight-forward, but there's more of the Joe-English-kind-of-gift from volunteers than meets the eye. The Loaves and Fishes crew does a lot of heavy-lifting to bring frozen and cold foods from the lower floor of the church. Volunteers do thermometer checks of clients, dispense hand sanitizer and clean surfaces constantly. And in order to abide by physical distancing standards, only 10 volunteers can serve clients at the church at a time.

"It's a humbling experience for both volunteers and clients," she said. "And our users are – with few exceptions – grateful, gracious and thankful."

Over its 31 years' service, the food bank has

traditionally supported seniors in need, citizens with disabilities and people feeding large families. But COVID-19 shook the traditional model to its roots, last spring. Suddenly with families reconfiguring, Maloney said, not only were moms and dads at home, so were their children, and so were *their* children. A summer 2020 study of Toronto's Daily Bread Food Bank redefining "food insecurity" revealed that cuts to social assistance, precarious employment, lack of affordable housing and the pandemic have driven monthly visits in Toronto from 83,000 in 2019 to nearly 114,000 in 2020.

"Typically, we serve 80 to 100 in a month," Maloney said. "But that now represents feeding more than 250 people. ... We're seeing people who've said never in their lives would they have thought they'd use a food bank as new clients."

When I asked about the food bank's greatest needs, at the top of the list is more space. While extremely grateful for the church's generosity, the food bank could better serve if it had fewer stairs, maybe as much as 2,000 or 2,400 square feet, and access to parking in the downtown area. Of course, the food bank could use cash; Maloney said each week volunteers purchase fresh food, baked goods, meats and dry goods for food bank users.

"They're not glamorous," she added, "but we're always short of canned vegetables and canned fruit."

On its second or third food drop over the Netherlands in April 1945, Joe English's crew worried about German anti-aircraft gunners who might not abide by neutral corridors of air for the low-flying bombers loaded with food. But flying at just a few hundred feet off the ground in daylight (unlike their bombing missions at 20,000 feet at night) they spotted something unbelievable on the ground. The Dutch women had taken their finest linens – curtains, table cloths and skirts – and spelled out their gratitude in huge letters on the ground. "Thank you, Boys!" the message said.

"The food packs we delivered," English said, "were the best kind of bombs we ever dropped."

Stepping up during a war might seem too dire a comparison with offering a food or financial donation to the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank in 2020. I think not. In this war versus the pandemic, hunger is more than collateral damage.

"Each Wednesday," Patti Maloney admitted, "it's a mixed feeling, seeing devastation among our clients, but it's inspiring to see them treated with respect and dignity."

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



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Remains of lost dog found not far from site of disappearance

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On June 30, hundreds of Uxbridge community members began rallying together to help search for missing dog Shep, an 11-year-old, blind, golden retriever who went missing after he wandered off into the woods while on a walk at the Thistledown Pet Cemetery, just south of Uxbridge. After months of wonder-

ing, this past weekend Shep's remains were found.

Stephanie and Keith Russell were walking their two dogs just south-west of Thistledown, and found the remains under a tree.

"I like to think he lay down in the shade, and too tired to go on, he simply went to sleep and never woke up," says Cindy Ouellette, one of the original searchers and a friend of Collette (Cauli) Brown, Shep's owner.

Shep was identified by his collar and ID tags.

"There was an outpouring of love and appreciation for a dog who had faithfully served his beloved human, Jim Brown, who had become injured as a first responder while on duty. Jim sadly passed away and Shep was living out his senior years, enjoying his walks with Cauli and the family," says Ouellette.

She passes on thanks and apprecia-

tion from Shep's family, who is once again grieving.

"There is a closure, a peace, knowing his collar and tags are finally back at home with Cauli, where they belong, and that Shep is reunited with Jim, who was waiting for him just on the other side of the Rainbow Bridge."

Thistledown is arranging a memorial service for Shep; the date will be announced on their Facebook page.



The remains of Shep, a Golden Retriever who went missing at the end of June, were found over the weekend.
Photo from owner's Facebook page

Uxbridge, region in the orange

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

After several days of high COVID-19 case counts, this past Monday, Durham Region entered the Orange-Restrict category. Uxbridge is now under tighter restrictions to help limit the transmission of the coronavirus.

In the Orange category, gathering is restricted to 10 people indoors and 25 outdoors, with 50 indoors and 100 outdoors permitted for organized public events. Workplace screening is also required, along with reduced serving hours in bars and restaurants. Non-essential travel should be avoided and the public is reminded to wear a face covering when out in public and to observe physical distancing guidelines.

As of press time on Tuesday evening, Durham Region had 375 active COVID-19 cases, with two in home isolation in Uxbridge.

More information about the Orange-Restrict category can be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-response-framework-keeping-ontario-safe-and-open#orange>

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ASIAN CARP ARE COMING - Four species of carp native to Asia have been introduced into the southeastern U.S. and are wreaking havoc as they overwhelm and alter aquatic ecosystems. They are likely to invade southern Ontario in the next few years, thereby changing waterways forever.

On Tues., Nov. 24, at 7 p.m., North Durham Nature will host an online presentation featuring Andrew Reeves, author of "Overrun: Dispatches from the Asian Carp Crisis." Learn about these fish, how they got here and what it means for our Ontario lakes. Contact Cara Gregory at northdurhamnature@gmail.com to register.



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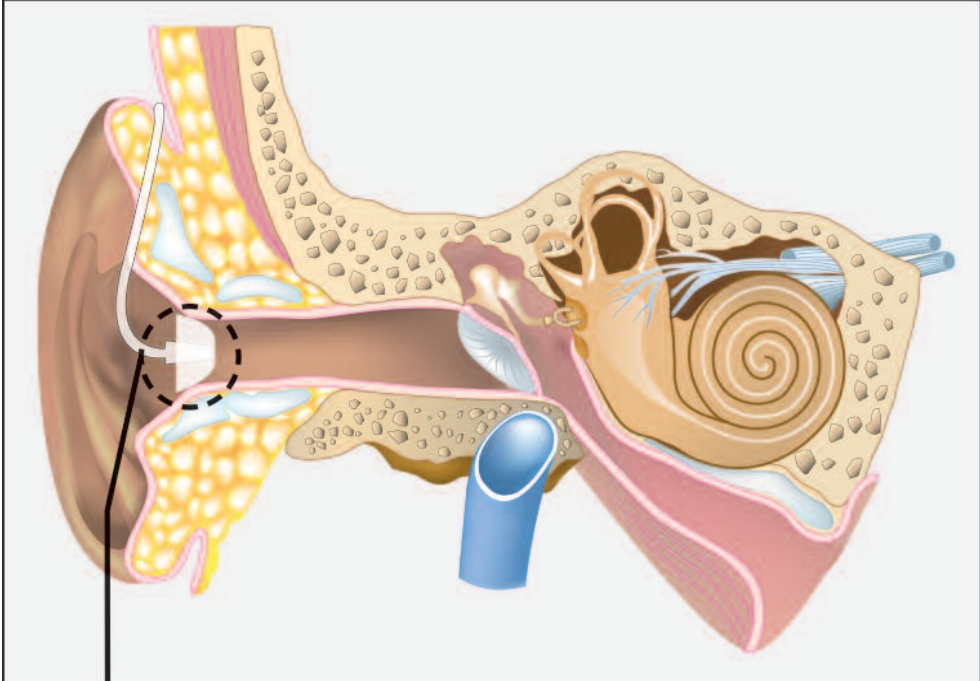


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'Drama Diablo' wins international tattoo art awards

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Uxbridge tattoo artist Jason Howran, also known as the Drama Diablo, brought home a double first place win from the International Tattoo Awards, held Nov. 1. Howran won in both the Best Realism Tattoo and Best Traditional Tattoo categories, placing first among 10,000 of the world's top tattoo artists.



While these two recent wins were in the realism and traditional tattoo categories, Howran says he is a bit of a jack of all trades when it comes to tattoo art.

"I've been a tattoo artist for 19 years, and back when I started out, tattooing was still taboo. We pretty much trained to do all styles."

Howran says he continues to tattoo in many styles and likes to keep his business high end in Uxbridge.

The Drama Diablo opened his Uxbridge studio, Heart 2 Hand Tattoos, on August 13, at 10 Brock St E.

"I love it here. Uxbridge has the small town vibe but with everything the big city has to offer," says Howran.

Despite opening up in the middle of the COVID pandemic, Howran says business has been pretty good so far.

"I'm a natural worker, I've liked finding ways to adapt and make it work despite the circumstances."

Howran says he works 15 to 17 hour days, seven days a week.

"Lots of people gave up when it got tough, but I'm not like that."

It hasn't always been tattooing for Howran - he used to be a touring DJ, and the name Drama Diablo was his stage name.

"Drama was given to me because I used to call out celebrities for being stuck up," says Howran. "The diablo part came from when I was a resident DJ in Dominican Republic. The locals called me diablo because of my face tattoos. I just ran with it because it sounded nice with drama!"

The Drama Diablo will fit in local customers within two weeks. Find him online at www.heart2hand-tattoos.com

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Focus on Finance

with Tammy Scuralli, Edward Jones

Long Term Care Insurance

When developing a retirement strategy, it's important to plan for the expected and prepare for the unexpected. For many, the costs associated with long-term care are unexpected. Taking the time to discuss and understand your needs can ensure that long-term care is a part of your retirement strategy, not a surprise that could derail it.

What is long-term care insurance? Long-term care insurance provides funds to help pay for costs associated with long-term care needs.

How does it work? Long-term care insurance pays you a tax-free income that you can use to help offset the costs of long-term care services,

whether they are received in a facility or in your own home.

Long-term care insurance can help cushion the financial, emotional and physical costs associated with chronic care. It can provide flexibility and choice, and help protect the assets and lifestyle you've worked hard to build.

Who needs long-term care? People who can no longer perform "activities of daily living," such as eating, bathing or getting dressed, may need long-term care. In addition, someone living with a severe cognitive impairment, such as Alzheimer's disease, may have a need for ongoing care.

Prepare with confidence. It's always better to have choices. For long-term care, those choices may involve:

- where to receive care
 - what types of services are preferred
 - when to involve family members
- Talk to your financial advisor to see if long-term care insurance is right for you.

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Letters, continued from page 4

as those contained in a speech (any one you choose) by the 45th president of the United States. The denial of COVID-19 must be a tragic read for any one who has lost a relative or friend to this terrible scourge.

Shame on you, Mr. Yetman.
Doug Moffatt
Uxbridge

In his column in the Nov. 5 issue of the *Cosmos* concerning COVID-19, Roger Varley is not wrong; he has hit the nail on the head, fairly and squarely. His piece is in marked contrast to the letter from Al Yetman. A good deal of what Mr. Yetman writes is simply false. He wrote that "Ontario's own web page includes a sentence that masks do not protect anyone against COVID-19." I challenge him to provide the link to any recent web page of the government of Ontario that makes such a claim.

He wrote that the same position is taken by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in the U.S., by Dr. Anthony Fauci, who is the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the U.S.A., and by the World Health Organization (WHO). A cursory check of the web sites of the government of Ontario, the CDC and WHO quickly confirms that these organizations strongly recommend the wearing of masks as a means to help control the spread of COVID-19. As for Dr. Fauci, during an early stage of the pandemic, he did not promote mask-wearing, but soon changed his position.

Mr. Yetman is critical of the media for spreading what he calls "misinformation." He criticizes those writing into the *Cosmos* about COVID-19 as "clueless" and not having "done any real research." In the eyes of the vast majority of people, including all medical experts, people like Mr. Yetman are the propagators of COVID-19 misinformation.

As for research, if Mr. Yetman wishes to write letters to newspapers, he would do well to acquire the skill for doing some credible research. The quality of his research seems to be matched by the quality of his arithmetic.

Mr. Yetman's calculations are badly out of whack. In criticizing the CDC's reporting on COVID-19 deaths, he writes that the CDC's numbers were wrong – "overblown by 94 per cent," meaning that "roughly 9,000 people died from COVID-19 only, instead of 200,000." If a reported number of 200,000 is exaggerated by 100 per cent, the true number would be 100,000. If "overblown by 94 per cent," the true number would be 103,093, not "roughly 9,000."

A smidgen of real research quickly reveals the web page from which Mr. Yetman obtained his information, and how he has misrepresented the information therein. What was really stated is that in only six per cent of death records was it recorded that the cause of death was simply COVID-19. The other 94 per cent listed COVID-19 in conjunction with an underlying factor which enhances susceptibility to COVID-19. Cold comfort!

Earle Lockerby
Sandford

We need look no further than Conc. 6 in Uxbridge to verify that the popular cliché, "a bump in the road," used to describe a bothersome hindrance en route to a goal, is a most apt metaphor. A very literal BUMP in the road, located at our distinctly "un-level" railway crossing on Conc. 6, is just such a bothersome, long-standing, restraint on the otherwise steady progress of Uxbridge toward utopian repute. Aside from having its status as A BUMP officially proclaimed by signage, nothing has been done to rout this vehicle-shattering, bone-shaking nuisance, at least not during the six years I have called Uxbridge home.

Short of turning my vehicle into a

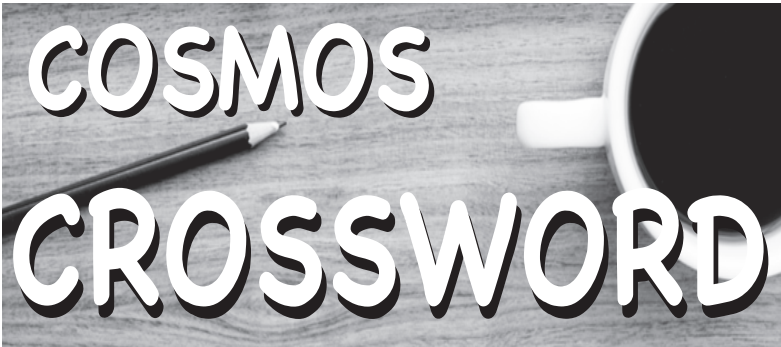
hovercraft, I have found no way to avoid a rough ride across the sinking tracks. Or is it a case of rising road? Or both?

But perhaps I expect too much of the powers that be? And what powers do actually govern THE BUMP? Uxbridge Township? Our beloved York-Durham Heritage Railway? The giant Metrolinx crown agency? It's all very complex, but hey, isn't that why we elected our present council - to pin down a solution to such a convoluted public problem? I expect that Uxbridge Township owns the roadway. I know Metrolinx owns the ancient rail line. And YDHR is the sole user of those rails. If THE BUMP is to be beaten, it's looking like delicate, three-way negotiation may be required.

We know that the pockets of the YDHR are not so very deep. YDHR struggles valiantly to maintain equipment, while providing unique, theme-based rail excursions for tourists and locals. Skilled volunteers complete some maintenance and repair work on the 20 km rail link to Stouffville, but if a major fix is needed, I believe Metrolinx steps in, and YDHR is hit with a locomotive-sized repair bill. Turning THE BUMP into a smooth, level crossing is likely outside the resources and the responsibilities of YDHR. So, is a new level crossing worth some tax dollar consideration? I think so. Just imagine the utter bliss of travelling Conc. 6, minus THE BUMP. Uxbridge would be on track to full utopian standing.

Our elected officials must surely wish THE BUMP gone. They, too, must suffer regular and uncomfortable encounters with THE BUMP. We all suffer, perhaps not always with saintly silence, as THE BUMP metes out its punishments with equal force and uncaring persistence. Perhaps, one day, hopefully soon, council will finally be jolted into action, and do its LEVEL best, to BANISH THE BUMP.

John Tomlinson
Uxbridge



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Across

- 1 Cookbook abbr.
- 4 Nada!
- 7 Caustic substance
- 10 Perched on
- 12 Pitching measure
- 13 "Where's the ___?"
- 14 Big sleep
- 15 Home Depot promotes it
- 16 Broadway's Mame
- 17 Certain sorority woman
- 19 Postpone
- 21 Stars and Stripes land
- 23 Orchestra instruments
- 26 Penetrate (2 words)
- 30 Reef dweller
- 31 Summer wear
- 32 Intent
- 34 Religious celebration period (2 words)
- 39 Famous
- 40 Crack, so to speak
- 41 Reliable (2 words)
- 43 Type of orange
- 47 Aqua-___
- 50 ___ and Tina Turner
- 52 Old Italian coin
- 53 Passable
- 54 Venus or Mars
- 55 Assert
- 56 Moxie
- 57 Collar a suspect
- 58 Pompous fool

Down

- 1 Bulletin board item
- 2 Covered walkway
- 3 Magnificence
- 4 Homer Simpson's neighbour
- 5 Purple flower
- 6 Settle, a concern (3 words)
- 7 Money in Moldova
- 8 Want a lot
- 9 Newt
- 11 Solomon islands locale
- 13 Marshy stream
- 18 Query
- 20 ___ system (re: blood)
- 22 Sergeant's order
- 24 "Good grief!"
- 25 ___ tsu massage
- 26 Exist
- 27 Exude
- 28 Pizzazz
- 29 Belonging to a lady
- 33 "I did it ___ way"
- 35 Drenched
- 36 "Tea for ___"
- 37 Roman pot
- 38 African antelope
- 42 Gumbo
- 44 ___ l'Italia!
- 45 Cupid's back up
- 46 Statutes
- 47 Cut off
- 48 Four-stringed apparatus
- 49 Afternoon siesta
- 51 Lessen gradually



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