The Uxbridge

Volume 16 No. 46

your universe

Thursday, November 26, 2020



A FLAG OF SUPPORT AND REMEMBRANCE - Members of council joined representatives from PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Durham NW to unveil a flag marking Friday, Nov. 20, Transgender Day of Remembrance. From left, councillors Willie Popp, Pam Beach; Rev. Elizabeth Allen, head of the local PFLAG chapter; Mayor Dave Barton, and Brandon Underwood. For more, see story on page 3. Photo by John Cavers

'Tis the season for red - for more reasons than one

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Uxbridge is on the edge of the holiday season, the season of red, white and green. There will be more red this year, however - as of Monday, Durham Region is in the Red-Control zone of the province's COVID-19 framework. With rising case counts in the GTA, Durham is now under tighter restrictions in an attempt to control virus transmission north of the city.

Social gatherings are now limited to five people indoors and 25 outdoors. Businesses and workplaces are required to have advanced safety plans, precautions and screenings in place. Bars and restaurants have limited serving hours, and all non-essential travel should be avoided.

It's the traveling between regions that has many of local business owners wary about accepting customers in person.

"While we always want to encourage business it is a worry," says Kimberley Kelland of Kimberley Kelland Fashions on Brock St. E.

One idea that came out of a Monday evening BIA member Zoom meeting was to ask customers for ID before entering stores to verify whether they are from Durham, and not from a greater impacted area.

Rebecca Harman, owner of The Bridge Social, doesn't want to ward off out of town visitors just yet.

"About 90 per cent of our customers are visitors from out of town anyway, and always have been. People who come to use our trails and then shop. We couldn't survive without their

Harman says she and her staff are being just as careful now as they have been throughout the past nine months of the pandemic, and will continue as far into the future as needed.

"We will keep offering online shopping and curbside pick-up for anyone who is uncomfortable coming into the store. We are staying positive, remembering there there will always be risks, no matter what you are doing in life."

Keeping safe options open for all customers, is something business will be keeping in mind this holiday shopping season.

"I will be offering online shopping, porch pick up as well as delivery, for any customers who are looking to shop but would rather not come in in-person," says Kelland. "Since we have a small store, I'm also asking that my customers call before entering, just so that we can keep track of how many people come in at once."

Christina Curry, owner of Keith's Flowers, shares shop space with Kelland. She says she is confident that "the blondes of 14 Brock St. are taking every necessary precaution," by taking "sanitizing and health of our employees, community and clientele very seriously."

As of press time Tuesday, Uxbridge's active COVID cases had jumped up to eight. Durham's total active case count is 428, with 13 currently hospitalized. For daily updates on case numbers, visit durham.ca/COVIDCases



Inside Your Cosmos

Follow the Holiday Trailpage 7 Gingerbread onlinepage 11

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Uxbridge at a Glance

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The Township of UXBRIDGI

Trail Capital of Canada



MORE INFO www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for November, 2020 Friday, November 27, 9:00 a.m. MUSIC HALL ADVISORY BOARD **MEETING**

Meeting Schedule for December 2020

Monday, Dec. 7, 10:00 a.m. COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday, Dec. 10, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **BUDGET MEETING** Monday, Dec. 14, 10:00 a.m. COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday, Dec. 15, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **BUDGET MEETING** Wednesday, Dec. 16, 7:00 p.m. COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT **MEETING**

Thursday, Dec. 17, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. **BUDGET MEETING**

Employment Opportunities

Township of Uxbridge **Spare Crossing Guards**

The Township of Uxbridge is currently seeking Spare Crossing Guards to cover various locations in the Town of Uxbridge. If you are interested in a position, please contact Jo Ann Merrick at 905-852-9181 ext. 202 or email: jmerrick@uxbridge.ca

Complete details and qualifications required for this position are available at uxbridge.ca/employment_opportunities

We thank all those who apply, however, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Township of Uxbridge is an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The Township of Uxbridge will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process to applicants with disabilities and/or needs related to the OHRC. Personal information provided is collected under the authority of The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Tender U20-27 Tree Removal

Supply of all labour, equipment and This Bid Document is posted on the material necessary to perform tree removal Township of Uxbridge's website at for specified roadside trees.

Sealed Tenders will be received until 2:00 p.m. local time Tuesday, December 15, 2020 by:

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

Lowest or any bid not necessarily accepted.

https://uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders

under Current Bid Opportunities and is available by following the registration instructions on that page. Please ensure that when you download the document, you add your company's name to the Document Takers List in order to receive any addenda that may be issued. For questions regarding downloading of documents, contact the Clerk's Department at 905-852-9181, ext. 220.

PUBLIC NOTICE

On December 2, 2020 the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal will hold a Case Management Conference to consider appeals of applications for Regional Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment dating back to 1987 for the property municipally known as 123 Regional Highway 47 and legally described as Part of Lots 12, 13 and 14, Concession 1, Township of Uxbridge ("Subject Property"), Region of Durham. The appeals have been assigned LPAT Case No.: PL150909.

Through the applications and appeals, the appellant proposes to facilitate the development of the Subject Property as an industrial subdivision.

Although the Subject Property is located within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan ("ORMCP") area, due to the age of the applications that are before the Tribunal the transitional provisions of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act apply. These transitional provisions limit the scope of the ORMCP policies and would permit the proposed uses of the property as an industrial subdivision. Any such use would nevertheless be required to comply with the key environmental protection policies of the ORMCP including policies that support connectivity, protect key natural heritage and hydrological features, and limit the use of certain types of potentially harmful servicing and stormwater management infrastructure.

For more information please contact Ben Bath, the Tribunal case coordinator assigned to the file at (437) 238-9862 or Ben.Bath@ontario.ca.

Debbie Leroux Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

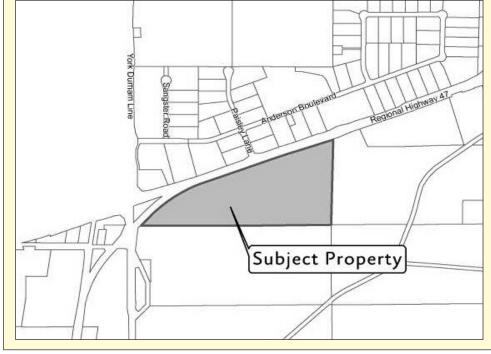


TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE 2021 BUDGET MEETINGS

Virtual Meetings Open to the Public

The Township of Uxbridge is hosting virtual budget meetings on the following dates:

December 10, 11, 15, 17 **January 12, 21** 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Learn more at www.uxbridge.ca





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

TOWN HALL

by Roger Varley Notes from the November 23 Council Meeting

Council moves against hate symbols: Uxbridge council passed an amendment to the township's sign by-law on Monday, making it an offence to display signs which contain any pictures, text or symbols that are offensive or hateful.

A report from deputy clerk Josh Machesney said it is not the aim of the by-law to interfere or limit freedom of expression, but it will ban signs which are "indecent, offensive, or promote violence, hatred, contempt, or discrimination."

Councillor Bruce Garrod commented that the by-law amendment "shows the municipality has stepped up in a big way."

In response to a question about anti-abortion demonstrations that occur at times at the intersection of Brock and Toronto Streets, with some signs that some people find offensive, clerk Debbie Leroux said the township will have to take a careful approach.

"It's something we can take a look at, but we have to be careful," she said, adding there is still freedom of speech and expression. "It could be addressed if circumstances warrant." Senior's centre to be fully accessible: In a report to council, deputy treasurer Tobi Lee said the township has received just over \$128,500 from the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream, which provides \$250 million in combined federal-provincial funding to local governments across the province. Investments under the program are aimed at supporting public infrastructure, with no money having to come from municipal cof-

Lee said township staff recommended that the money be used to make the senior's centre fully accessible. Council approved her recommendation.



Township displays flag of a different stripe

by Roger Varley

A small group gathered at the township offices on Friday to unveil a flag marking Transgender Day of Remembrance.

In keeping with the township's flag policy, the blue, pink and white striped banner will be displayed in the lobby of the offices for the next three or four weeks, but not on the flagpoles outside.

On hand for the unveiling were Mayor Dave Barton, deputy mayor

and Rev. Elizabeth Allen, who heads PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Durham NW.

Allen, a member of the Canadian International Metaphysical Ministry, said the day is set aside to honour transgender people who have died or otherwise been victims of violence because of their status.

"The suicide rate is incredibly high," she said. "The murder rate is incredibly high. We remember those who fought for their rights. It's difficult to

be transgender and survive. They need a time to be honoured and remembered.'

Allen claimed the Stonewall riots in New York City in 1969, which eventually led to the international gay right movement, were started by a transgender woman.

She said discrimination against transgender people usually begins with bullying at school.

"Events like this can help eradicate bullying," she said.

Allen said the coloured stripes on

the flag represent those who identify as men, those who identify as women and those who identify as neither. She said it is generally accepted that approximately 10 per cent of any given community identifies with the LGBTQ community.

A few minutes after the flag was unveiled, a township worker lowered the flags on the township flagpoles to half-mast in honour of OPP constable Marc Hovingh, who was killed on duty on Manitoulin Island the day before.



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.





twitter.com/RegionOfDurham

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

#keepyourbuxintheux

You've got your keys, your coat, your mask, and your list - you're headed out to do some serious Christmas shopping. It's getting down to the wire, after all - the big day is exactly one month away. But herein lies a huge question - where will you go to shop?

Before you roll your eyes anticipating another lecture on shopping locally, remember that there are a few more things to consider this season.

Like the fact that we are currently living in a red-control zone for COVID-19. We're only one step away from grey, which is full lockdown, like Toronto and Peel are in. In red, most of our stores and restaurants are still operating in some capacity, although the restaurants have severe restrictions. Now, because we are red and they are grey, many local businesses are worried that Toronto area Christmas shoppers are going to make their way north to find what they need. That presents quite a quandary for the businesses here - do they, for example, check identification for possible out-of-towners at the door, and potentially turn away hundreds of dollars in sales because someone came from a higher-risk COVID area? Or do they implement all the safety protocols they have at their disposal and hope that the risk is far outweighed by the financial benefit, because, after all, grey could happen any time? If those with Toronto addresses come here and bring COVID with them, our case numbers go up, we go into the grey of lockdown, and then we're all rowing the same boat, which will be going nowhere because we're all locked down.

The only ones who will emerge unscathed regardless of the outcome are the big box stores - they can get away with it because they sell vital groceries and toilet paper right next to the large screen tvs and across from the cozy slippers. They might be the only ones confidently dreaming of a green (as in money) Christmas this year - everyone else is likely just hoping their doors are opened, whether by a local shopper or an out-of-towner.

'Tis the season when many shops and restaurants make the majority of their yearly revenues, and this year is going to severely knock the stuffing out of many businesses. Not new news to anyone, we know. But for the sake of *all* our local store owners and restaurants, please - *PLEASE* be mindful of where you shop for Christmas this year. The Amazons of the world don't need your hard-earned dollars, your neighbours and friends right here in Uxbridge do. They'll pass your dollars on to others in the town when they shop locally too, and then the money stays *here*. That way, when all this is over, there will still be local shops open to visit. It's a very real thing - #keepyourbuxintheux





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

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Friday to 4 p.m.

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9,500 copies of The

Cosmos are published

each Thursday in the

Township of Uxbridge:

mail, 700 available in

8,800 delivered by

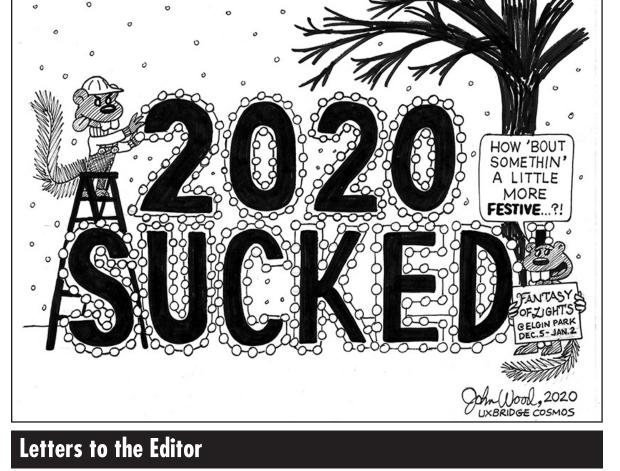
stores and boxes.











Words cannot adequately express our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your active participation in thanking our veterans on Sunday at the Honour our Veterans Drive-By Parade.

Yet again, our community came together in demonstrating our commitment to remembrance and to honouring those who served and those who continue to serve.

Commitment to honouring our veterans by:

- Attending Who could have imagined well over 2,500 vehicles passing by and paying tribute to our veterans...WOW!
- Bringing your children demonstrating your commitment to passing on the torch of remembrance.
- Expressing your thanks through your car windows: and through decorating your cars with messages, symbols and signs of thanks.
- Patiently waiting, some of you, for over two and a half hours in order to pay personal tribute and express thanks to our 27 veterans and active services personnel.

As the son and daughter of fathers who served in the military and in the RCMP, Mike and I have always been proud Canadians. Sunday afforded us the opportunity to be proud, yet again.

- Proud of, and thankful for, our treasured veterans and active service personnel.
- Proud of our community demonstrating the ACTION of remembrance.
- Proud to live in a country that respects and honours the legacy of the service of our veterans and its' wartime past.

Many thanks to so many of you

who helped with the Drive-By Parade.

To the Honour our Veterans Banner Committee, the Township of Uxbridge, and Uxbridge Legion Branch 170 – thank you for your support!

To the Uxbridge Legion Branch 170 Colour Party, Uxbridge Fire and Honour Guard, Uxbridge Legion Pipes and Drums and to the Ontario Regiment Museum – thanks so much for your participation in helping to honour our veterans.

To the volunteers from the Banner Committee – Phil Carmichael, Ian Morrison, Sherrill Hodgson, Rob Croxall, Bruce Garrod, and Austin Garrod – thank you for joining Mike and I in "thinking outside the box" in how we could honour our veterans – COVID style!

To other volunteers – Mikaela MacDonald, Mitchell Kelly, Rebecca MacDonald, John Cavers, Ted Barris, Gloria Eng, Laura Boire, Colleen Baskin, Emma Webb, Taylor Trent, Laura Scarborough, Hannah Cain, Grace DeNeve and Stu Evans – many thanks for sharing your time in support of our veterans.

A very special thank you goes out to many local elementary students for your wonderful contributions to the "loot bags' given to each of our veterans in attendance. Students from Uxbridge Public School, Joseph Gould Public School, St. Joseph's Catholic School and Sunderland Public School made beautiful crafts for each of our veterans.

Many thanks to the teachers and other staff members for your lead-

ership in facilitating the creation of the crafts, and leading discussion about the importance of remembrance. Also included in the veteran "loot bags" were poppy masks made and donated by Chris Harper, and knitted poppies made by Anne MacDonald; many thanks to them as well!

Thanks to everyone for making the day so special for our veterans and active service personnel and for letting them know that We Will Remember Them!

> Tish and Mike MacDonald Uxbridge

On Nov. 11, I had an emergency eye apt. with Dr. Vi tu Banh.

On my arrival, a woman was complaining and upset due to the wait she had. I have always found Dr. Banh to be courteous, professional, and will take the time to explain any eye issues that you might be experiencing.

Some things for this lady to consider. Do you think Dr. Banh, or any health professional, likes to be running late? Is this not the norm, especially now with the extra cleaning, and COVID protocols in place? Was there an earlier emergency appointment that perhaps needed to be referred to a specialist, or for possible surgery?

Let's show our health professionals some respect and patience while they work through this pandemic and possibly put their health at risk, for us.

God bless you, Dr. Banh. Keep providing the excellent eye care that we all have experienced with you to Uxbridge.

> Donna Carr Pefferlaw



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Time to make lemonade

There's an old saying that when life hands you nothing but lemons, don't complain, make lemonade.

This year, life has delivered to most of us more lemons than we can handle, and that has led to a lot of sour faces and sour moods. This is especially so at this time of year, when most of our traditional Christmas festivities have been either severely cut back or cut out completely. For example, no Santa Claus parade, no performance of the Messiah at Trinity United Church, no performance of the Nativity in Centennial Park by members of the Baptist Church (that wouldn't be on this year, as it's a Messiah year, but I'm trying to make a point, here), no Christmas concerts. Family gatherings will be substantially smaller and a good many of us will be spending Christmas alone.

Guess what! It's time to make lemonade! Undoubtedly there will be large numbers of people belly-aching about the COVID-19 protocols still in place - (and, in some areas, made even more restrictive) - and whining about how their Christmas has been ruined. But if we put our minds to it, this could be a Christmas to remember - and not just because of COVID-19.

It could be the Christmas when we learned that a few thoughtful gifts are far more meaningful than stacks of gizmos, gadgets and goo-gaws under the tree. It could be the Christmas when we relearned the magic of spending time and engaging with our nuclear families and not making plans to descend on the shopping malls for Boxing Day sales.

It could be the Christmas when we rediscovered that a family game of charades or a sing-along is more fun than everyone having their noses buried in an iPhone, iPad or i-anything. It could be the Christmas when we took a chance at starting a craft or art project, or taught the kids how to bake an apple pie. And for the Christians - (after all, it is their holiday) - it could be the Christmas they returned to a quiet reflection of what Christmas is really all about.

And it really could be a good time to find out that giving actually is more rewarding than receiving. I don't mean to sound as though I'm polishing my own apple, but in recent weeks I have taken to picking out kids at random on the street and inviting them to go into the book store to select any book they want. I'm sure it makes me happier than those I

In the few weeks remaining before Christmas, it would be a good time for many residents to discover the local merchants and what they have to offer. As deputy mayor Willie Popp said to me on the weekend: "Amazon doesn't support your kids' hockey team." Nor does Amazon dress up its buildings with displays such as that seen outside Rutledge Jewelers, an annual display that actually attracts people to come with their cameras. Nor does Amazon offer the personalized service that most of our retailers give, often knowing many of their customers by

As you can read elsewhere, the Optimists' Fantasy of Lights will be opening again in just over a week. This delightful experience has been growing every year, but it takes a lot of work, both before and during the event. The club is always looking for volunteers. Maybe this could be the Christmas that you first take up the challenge of being a volunteer. But, even if you don't, at least take the time to drive through the Elgin Park display and drop some cash in the donation bucket. It's rather like giving to yourself, because the Optimists use that money for such things as the pump park, new playgrounds and programs for local kids.

It seems to me this is the perfect opportunity to re-discover the joys of a simpler, quieter, less stressful Christmas and right now we could all use a lot less stress in our

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

The crisis is real on campus

The president contacted me this week. No, not that president. He's an administrator of a large Toronto-area college. He addressed me by my first name, which caught my attention. Then, he offered some reflections on the pandemic, its impact on teaching, on learning and most assuredly on budgets. I sensed it was a pitch letter. But he wasn't pitching me about his budget. He spoke about students' budgets, or lack of

"It's the beginning of a new order," Craig Stephenson, president of Centennial College, said in a note, "full of uncertainty for our stu-

Twice in the past week alone, I have received polite and poignant requests for support from Centennial College where I once taught journalism and broadcasting. It's not that the college needs to fatten its bank account. It's a matter of survival for some of the college's most vulnerable, its students. Later in the week, I received another note from the college's alumni division. It articulated that the day-to-day experience of students in post-secondary programs has deteriorated to the point that - not unlike some other community members - individuals are choosing between buying food and paying rent.

In fairness, we've all been there. The university or college student lifestyle in Canada has always been hand-to-mouth. Back in the late 1960s, my two college roommates and I referred to our rented Cabbagetown lodgings as "mid-povertystricken." However, Centennial College has done its homework (full disclosure - I taught there for 18 years) and surveyed its student population (22,000 full-time and 19,000 parttime students) about food insecurity. Results were alarming. They showed that just under half their students often ran out of food. That's about 20,000 young people. Or, put into tangible perspective, the entire population of Cobourg or Collingwood or all of Uxbridge Township. More than one in three students told the survey they skipped a meal because they couldn't afford to eat; and one in 10 used a food bank.

By the way, Centennial conducted that food insecurity survey in 2019, well before COVID-19 arrived.

Every year in Canada, colleges and universities employ hundreds of thousands of people, train and educate well over two million students, and in the process, they generate research, inspire generations of young people and improve the lives of all Canadians. Why then, since the 2008 recession, has the provincial government decreased its spending in the education sector? Why has it been over the same period that the federal government has chosen not to increase

base spending on post-secondary education? In short, why have governments turned a blind financial eye to universities' and colleges' basic needs?

By abrogating their fiscal responsibility to education forthcoming generations, governments have forced post-secondary institutions to survive principally on the tuition students pay nearly 70 per cent of school funding comes from student fees. That's great if you want a user-pay society, but not if you want a more highly trained and responsible citizenry. Brenda Austin-Smith, president of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, wrote in the Star this week that post-secondary education cannot function if it depends so much on tuition.

With more than half of all university students taking on an average of \$28,000 of debt to get an education," she wrote, "reliance on student fees to solve the funding crisis simply isn't sustainable.'

Austin-Smith noted that the federal government's Canada Student Grant this year would help, but what about when the country's scientists and public health system have finally beaten back the effects of the pandemic? And where do those in authority think the next generation of pandemic-beaters will come from but the country's universities and colleges? Austin-Smith suggests maybe the federal government could redirect some of that \$900 million from the stillborn Canada Student Service Grant as a stopgap. The money was already allocated for education.

When Centennial College contacted me this past week to shed light on the plight of its students, it unveiled its Student Emergency Fund, and requested I donate. And as part of their appeal the college quoted an alumna, Tanya

"I know what the anxiety of financial instability feels like," she said. "I know the incredible feeling of having support to make it through."

As I sat the other morning considering Centennial's pitch, I opened an email appeal from yet another post-secondary institution. This one came from farther away. Some years ago, while conducting historical research on military medicine, I travelled to Athens, Georgia, and spent a week at the University of Georgia campus there. In gratitude, I made a donation to UGA libraries. It appears UGA now has a student crisis on its hands too.

"Looking for a stocking stuffer this holiday season?" their appeal asked. "Purchase a UGA face covering to support the Student Emergency

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



BLACK FRIDAY DEALS ALL WEEK AT UXBRIDGE HALIBUT HOUSE HALIBUT FISH AND CHIPS

BUY ONE GET THE

2ND 50% off *Valid only on Black Friday,

November 27, 2020

*Coupon valid at Halibut House Uxbridge location

*Present coupon at time of purchase *Cannot be combined with any other ongoing offer/promotion/discount

HADDOCK FISH AND CHIPS

BUY ONE GET THE 2ND FOR \$3

*Valid only on Saturday, November 28, 2020

- Coupon valid at Halibut House Uxbridge
- Present coupon at time of purchase Cannot be combined with any other

ongoing offer/promotion/discount

FINGERS AND CHIPS BUY 2 FOR

ONLY \$12

Coupon Expires Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Coupon valid at Halibut House Uxbridge

Present coupon at time of purchase *Offer cannot be combined with any other offer

SOLE FISH **AND CHIPS**

BUY 2 FOR ONLY \$12

* Coupon Expires Wednesday, December 2, 2020

*Coupon valid at Halibut House Uxbridge

*Present coupon at time of purchase *Offer cannot be combined with any other offer

ANY FAIVILY **PACK**

5 FISH + LARGE CHIPS + 2 COLESLAW

Coupon Expires Wednesday, **December 2, 2020**

Coupon valid for Halibut, Haddock and Cod fish only Coupon valid at Halibut House Uxbridge location

* Present coupon at time of purchase Offer cannot be combined with any other offer

The COVID-19 pandemic in Canada is serious.

Continue to practise all public health measures:



Follow local guidelines for gatherings



Maintain physical distancing



Wash your hands



Wear a mask



Stay home if you have symptoms, even mild ones



Download the COVID Alert app

Protect yourself and others.

Learn more at Canada.ca/coronavirus or 1-833-784-4397.



Canada

To check out all the stores taking part, simply type #holiday trail

Trail Capital gets a 'Holiday Trail'

by Roger Varley

Already officially recognized as the Trail Capital of Canada, Uxbridge is about to open a new, temporary trail: the Holiday Trail.

The aim is to encourage both visitors and local residents to visit and support the retailers in the downtown area by tying into the Optimist Club's annual Fantasy of Lights. The festival runs from Dec. 5 to Jan. 2 in Elgin Park and features lighted displays installed by local businesses, organizations and families.

Uxbridge tourism co-ordinator Lisa John-Mackenzie said the idea of the Holiday Trail is to promote a journey through the Fantasy of Lights and the downtown shopping area. Thirteen down-

town business have joined in the initiative, decking out their windows with Christmas displays to help lure shoppers to visit before or after the car drive through the Fantasy of Lights. Among the holiday themes are "The Nutcracker comes to Life," presented by the Bridge Social and Blue Heron Books, and "Santa's Workshop," presented by the Lemonade Stand. Children can receive a wave through the window from Santa and Mrs. Claus, hosted by H. Bee Architecture, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday to Saturday from Dec. 5 to Dec. 19.

The shops are also offering online shopping, with curb-side pick-up available.

Several food establishments along the Culinary Trail will offer

a range of hot drinks, snacks and meals to go.

"We are hoping this will provide exposure and awareness of our local businesses and also promote the virtual shopping options," John-Mackenzie said.

Mayor Dave Barton said the Holiday Trail "is the perfect way for people to safely celebrate the season. I love how our local BIA businesses have joined in on the fun. We all must do our part to ensure our downtown businesses are successful this holiday season and that our loved ones have ways to celebrate safely."

At council on Monday, Barton also called for support of local businesses, saying: "This is a message to all of council, staff and to our residents."



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For a full list of changes visit Ontario.ca.

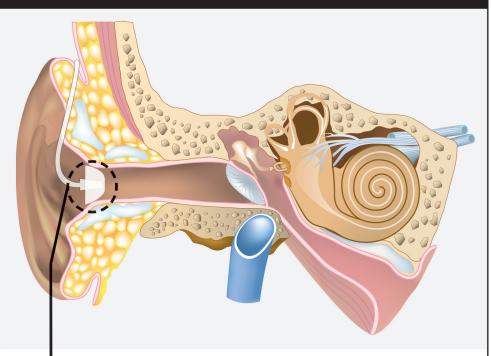
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COVID can't keep a Co-operator down

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

One of Uxbridge's more established insurance companies is almost new again, thanks to the passion one man brings to an industry that many might consider staid or dull.

Financial advisor Jeff MacLeod came to The Co-operators office in Uxbridge in January of this year, and was just beginning to know his way around when the COVID-19 pandemic landed. This made it challenging to get to know his new clients and their needs better, as he likes to do his consultations in person.

"It's okay to do home or auto insurance online, but for life insurance, it's difficult to do that way because those interviews can sometimes be two hours long!" says MacLeod.

It's the personal interaction that MacLeod says he enjoys most about his line of work.

"I'm really dedicated to what we do, to helping people. I like to take the time to view a portfolio and really advise people on what their options are, what they should do," says MacLeod.

He also says that he likes to take a holistic approach to insurance.

"At renewal time, I like to really look at a client's current situation and make suggestions based on what's happening now, not on what happened five years ago."

Eighteen years in the business means MacLeod knows exactly what to talk about with each

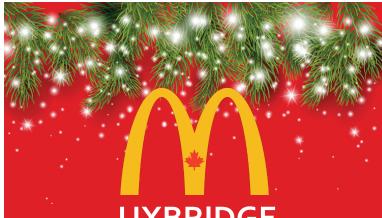
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is accepting new, unwrapped toys for donation to the 2020 Uxbridge Toy Drive

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The last day for drop off to ensure delivery before Christmas is December 16.

All the toys donated will go to Uxbridge families.

Every year we receive an abundance of toys for kids aged 3-6. However, there is a need for kids aged 10-16. Stocking stuffers and toys that can be used in the winter such as crazy carpets and outdoor toys are always a big hit.



client. He began his career in insurance with a competitor 2002, and became and advisor that specialized in life, commercial disability wealth (RRSPs, TFSAs) insurance. After spending eight years as an independent broker for another company, he decided to join a team that was 100 per cent Canadian owned, so The Co-operators seemed a natural fit.

"That was a big one for me, being Canadian owned. I saw that the reps from Cooperators really longevity with the company, and that there was great integration with the community. haven't had the chance to do that yet, because of COVID, but I really plan on The Co-operators being a big part of Uxbridge."

The Co-operators in Uxbridge is located in the Testa building, beside the hospital. MacLeod can be reached at 905-852-1811, or at 905-260-4615, or by email at Jeff_macleod@cooperators.ca

Bicycle packers wanted by Africycle

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

It's that time of year again – not only for gift giving here at home, but also for Uxbridge charity Africycle to load up a shipping container destined for Malawi, Africa, sending donated bicycles to the locals there. And Africycle is looking for help packing that container.

On Saturday, Nov. 28, between 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., volunteers are asked to gather at the new location of the Africycle container, 14 Victoria St., Uxbridge (across from the Second Wedge Brewing Co.). All volunteers are asked to wear a mask and bring appropriate work clothes/gloves.

Africycle collects donated bicycles in Canada and ships them to Malawi, meeting the mobility needs of the people in Zomba, Malawi, a district of 600,000 people. The Africycle shops in Malawi help provide a livelihood for the locals who operate them, as well as supply better quality, affordable bicycles to members of the community. The project ensures that Malawians have a better opportunity to access healthcare, education and markets, so that they can attain a healthier, more sustainable quality of life.

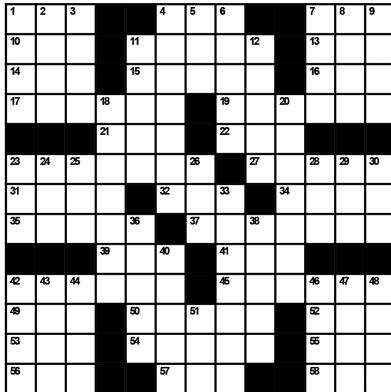
Africycle has also developed a bicycle loan financing program that helps women in rural areas gain access to mobility that would otherwise not be available to them. Africycle has now trained women in these villages to manage and enrol new beneficiaries

This past year, Africycle donated bikes to needy causes as well. One such donation was to 20 young girls who were rescued from early childhood marriages. These bikes now allow the girls to attend school regularly and receive support from the local chief and her support network. Africycle also supports 500 children annually in orphan care programs and uses funds to pay for school supplies and school fees.

Note: Africycle no longer accepts bike donations at the Habitat for Humanity parking lot on Reach St. Bikes are now accepted ONLY at the 14 Victoria St. location.

For more information, visit the website at africycle.org

CROSSWORD



Perspective with Brian Evans

The topic for the last two columns has been explaining what life insurance is and providing a basic understanding of the product so consumers can make informed decisions. This article will cover a couple of other important points. Insurance provides an essential service and will be the subject of future columns. But next month, we are on to another topic!

There are many ways to purchase life insurance. Some policies seem to cost more than others for the same coverage. The pricing of insurance is calculated after considering statistics from the past and the best projections of the future. Actuaries are trained to determine risks by taking into account the historical cycles while at the same time anticipating future events. The premium for insurance policies also includes the cost of operating the insurance company. Insurance is a calculated cost spread over the risks associated with a large number of policy holders, all of whom are paying premiums.

Applications for insurance go through a process called underwriting, in which the expected risks of the desired coverage are calculated into a policy premium. Some of the considerations actuaries look at are general about society as a whole. Then they consider factors more specific to the application or the person applying. With life insurance, these specific considerations may include the present health and age of applicants, the applicant's family health history, the risks of their vocation and life style and the risks associated with any future plans the person may have. It stands to reason that the best time to arrange your life insurance coverage is early in life before health issues may arise. The underwriting requirements at the time of application for insurance will help the company determine if they will accept the risk of a potential payout and at what cost to the policy holder. Gen-

erally, once coverage is offered by the company and is accepted by the applicant, the contract becomes unilateral. Simply put, the policy holder now has control of the policy as long as they pay the premiums. Changes in health or life situations will not affect this policy in the future. At this point you have peace of mind!

An important consideration of any life insurance contract is who owns or controls the coverage. As stated above, the policy holder does. In some contracts the policy holder may be someone other than the person insured. For instance, in the case of group insurance through employment, the contract is owned and controlled by the employer. With mortgage insurance, the policy ownership is generally with the mortgage company. An insurance professional should be engaged to help you understand these differences so there are no misunderstandings to surprise you later.

One last thing - have you ever heard someone say that life insurance should really be called death insurance? The word 'life' was specifically chosen for this product for one reason. Life insurance is not for the people who die! Life insurance provides for those who live! The tax-free proceeds from these policies will help your loved ones. First of all, it will help them remember the significant part you were in their lives by covering final financial obligations and arrangements. Your legacy may help them remain in their home. Perhaps it will provide for the objectives you had for their future financial needs and career development. For certain, it can help them avoid a life where financial hardship eliminates opportunity. Life insurance provides for the living! There is coverage that fits your needs. Let an insurance professional help you be ready.

Across

- 1. Junk mail
- 4. Outmoded, with been
- 7. Something you could be drafted into
- 10. Boot part
- 11. Protection
- 13. Muhammad ___
- 14. Ditty
- 15. About to explode
- 16. The "I" of T.G.I.F.
- 17. Cheerleader's gear
- 19. As a whole
- 21. ___ vapeur (steamed)
- 22. CSI stuff
- 23. Bowling equipment
- 27. Robin Hood weapon
- 31. Fig Newton alternative
- 32. Quill point
- 34. Palm tree
- 35. Powerful person out East
- 37. Starts up the computer
- 39. SW Missouri river
- 41. Grasped
- 42. Separate seed
- 45. Ugly treatment (2 words)
- 49. "That's a laugh!"
- 50. Marketing dept. concern
- 52. Fraternity letters
- 53. Temper
- 54. Alpha opposite
- 55. Troublemaker
- 56. Calypso alternative
- 57. Apple or pecan?
- 58. Play (with)

Down

- 1. At the summit of
- 2. Dumb cluck
- 3. Feel as if
- Hesse 4. Writer,
- 5. Turkish title of honor
- 6. Placed
- 7. Cry out
- 8. Highest male voice
- 9. Computer processor, for short
- 11. Garlic mayonnaise
- 12. Plant with yellow flowers
- 18. Native American baby
- 20. Bird of the night (2 words)
- 23. Truck weight
- 24. Pitcher performance measure-
- 25. Kan. neighbor
- 26. Elton John, for one
- 28. Brazilian town
- 29. Select
- 30. Equaled
- 33. Surround
- 36. Male singing voice
- 38. Exceedingly light wood
- 40. Winner
- 42. "___ Is It," Michael Jackson film
- 43. "Listen!"
- 44. Flightless bird
- 46. Apartment
- 47. Big guy wrestling
- 48. Detect
- 51. Orchid arrangements

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Uxbridge charities prepare for a COVID Christmas

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For those who are less fortunate, the rolling around of the holiday season can often bring added stress, with the worry of providing Christmas gifts and holiday meals. The COVID-19 pandemic has made this year doubly difficult for many families, with the loss of income and the struggles of isolation. Uxbridge is at the ready,

however, setting in motion the many charities and support groups that run fundraisers and programs specifically for those in need during the holiday season.

The Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank helps to put food on the tables of between 80 and 100 families each month, and will continue operations through the Christmas season.

"We'll be open for our clients every Wednesday from 1 - 4 p.m., including Dec. 23 and 30," says Don Metrens, board member of the Food Bank. "If you are

new to our Food Bank, please call us in advance to pre-register at 905-852-0392."

The Food Bank is unable to accept food donations directly, thanks to the pandemic, but monetary donations are welcomed by mail or online through the website, uxbridgefoodbank.com

"We thank our generous community for their continued support, and welcome everyone who needs assistance," says Metrens.

The Salvation Army will also be in operation this holiday season with its hamper program going out to registered families in need this Christmas.

"The hampers will include clothing for the children, and something special for the parents, along with toys for every child, as that's what Santa brings to children at Christmas, and

905-852-9892

far be it for me to change Santa's plans!" says Bev Northeast, chair of the Uxbridge Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army guarantees delivery just before Christmas to ensure families can prepare and wrap gifts as they please, and have them ready for Christmas morning. Money for the hamper program, along with other initiatives it runs throughout the rest of the year, is raised through donations to the Salvation Army Christ-



Many local charities are looking for donations to help Uxbridge's less fortunate through a holiday season overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. File photo

mas Kettle at fillthekettle.com

"That is the magic of Christmas, what Christmas is all about, and I am pleased that I can be a part of this magic in a small way," says Northeast.

Another Christmas hamper program helps families specifically with children under 18 who need assistance at Christmas.

"We have businesses, families and individuals who sponsor the families and buy them groceries for Christmas day and gifts for the children," says Gloria Ross, chair of the Hamper Program. However, this year it will not be items given, but rather gift cards.

"Because of COVID, this year we felt it was safer for all involved that we give out gift cards from local merchants and let the families do their own shopping." says Ross

Ideally, organizers would like small denomination gift cards that can be added to others and given to the families in a bundle. Gift cards are needed by the end of November. People who are interested can contact Gloria Ross at 905-852-5659.

The Optimist Club of Uxbridge will be running its two annual fundraisers again this year - the Christmas tree sale at Canadian Tire,

> and the Uxbridge Optimist Fantasy of Lights, which will be held at Elgin Park from Dec. 5 through Jan. 2.

> Esther Veens, program coordinator for Sunrise Pregnancy and Family Support Services admits, "It has definitely been a challenge, ensuring that we are meeting the needs of families in the community amidst the uncertainty and limitations that COVID has created."

After moving most of its programming to Zoom or to outdoor sessions, Sunrise is now back meeting indoors, in the basement of the

Uxbridge Baptist Church. As for their annual Christmas "Angel Tree," drive which usually runs at a local school, Veens says it is a little different this year and will be open to all community members who wish to donate.

"They will receive the age and gender of a child who is part of our programs and can purchase an educational toy(s) and book for them. We will arrange for drop off or pick up of the items by Dec. 7. These gifts will be part of our annual Christmas party for Sunrise families in mid-December."

Sunrise will also accept donations towards its partnership with S. Holdsworth Photography, offering winter photos for the benefiting families. Donations can be made at sunriseuxbridge.com

Bakersville is going virtual

The Animated Gingerbread Village in Port Perry is - like everything else in 2020 - going virtual.

Every December, volunteers assemble a miniature, magical winter wonderland with gingerbread creations made by the community, and put them on display in the Kent Farndale Gallery at the public library. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this can't happen this year, but that isn't stopping the little village, or its volunteers.

"We may not be able to come together to celebrate the holiday season, but we would still like to spread the Christmas spirit," explains Tracy Pastic, a member of the Bakersville Gingerbread Village committee.

As always, anyone can enter a creation and there are no admission fees. There also is no deadline, theme or size limit.

"Building a gingerbread house from

scratch, or even by using a kit, is a great family activity; especially when cooped up inside," says Pastic.

Adding external decorations is usually done by the committee when the village is assembled in the library. This time it's up to the entrant to bring his or her creation to life from the comfort of home. Entrants are asked to take a few photographs and post them with a description on the Bakersville: Animated Gingerbread Village Facebook page.

"Over the years, we've heard some funny stories about near catastrophes in the kitchen, so small anecdotes about the process would also be welcome," says Pastic.

The Facebook page is open for everyone to access and enjoy.

"We can't wait to see what everyone comes up with!" laughs Pastic.











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