

The Uxbridge COSMOS

CANADIAN
COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER
AWARD 2019

Volume 16 No. 47

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, December 3, 2020



HERE COME SANTA CLAUSES, HERE COME SANTA CLAUSES - Right down Santa Claus Lane! Campbell Dr. in Uxbridge has been turned into a real-life Santa Claus Lane, having been taken over by 60+ inflatable Santas - and more to come! Neighbourhood residents Mary and Peter Brennan-Brown organized the Santas to bring cheer to the season and raise money and awareness for the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank.

Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Uxbridge resident appointed to Order of Canada

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Uxbridge resident Gordon Hicks has been named one of the 114 new appointees to the Order of Canada, one of Canada's highest civilian honours.

Last Friday, Governor General Julie Payette announced 114 new appointments to the Order, including eight Companions, 21 Officers, one Honorary Member, and 84 Members. Among those Members was Gordon Hicks, co-founder of Cam's Kids Foundation, a locally run non-profit focused on providing support to youth struggling with anxiety. Hicks is also chief executive officer of the global real estate management services company, Brookfield Global Integrated Solutions.

According to the governor general's website, Hicks was appointed this honour "For his environmental leadership in the real estate industry, for his mental health advocacy, and for his

community engagement."

Hicks will be entitled to sign the initials 'CM' after his name.



Uxbridge resident Gordon Hicks was recently honoured with the Order of Canada, one of Canada's highest civilian honours.

Photo from www.gg.ca

Those who have been appointed this honour, are said to "take to heart the motto of the Order: *Desiderantes Meliorem Patriam* - They desire a better country."

Others to have been appointed this year include Olympic champion figure skaters Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir.

The recipients will be celebrated during a ceremony at a future date, where they will receive the notable snowflake insignia. It is a six point, enamel pin, which they wear to symbolise Canada's northern heritage and diversity of the Order's appointees, as no two snowflakes are alike.

Hicks was not available for comment on receipt of the prestigious award by press time Tuesday.

Created in 1967, the Order of Canada recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. More than 7,000 people from all sectors of society have been invested into the Order.

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Patrick Bryant, Broker of Record

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Council & Committee Meetings

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

Friday, Dec. 11,
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



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

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.



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Tender U20-27 Tree Removal

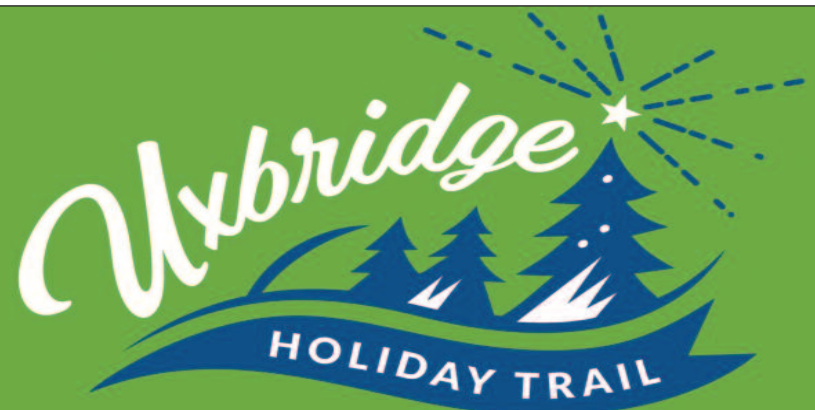
Supply of all labour, equipment and material necessary to perform tree removal for specified roadside trees.

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

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This Bid Document is posted on the Township of Uxbridge's website at 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.



A TRAIL OF BRILLIANT LIGHTS, FESTIVE WINDOWS, AND A WAVE FROM *Santa!*

www.DiscoverUxbridge.ca/HolidayTrail

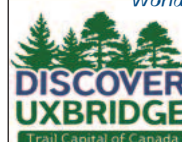
'Tis the Season and a great time to get into the holiday spirit with a magical journey through the Trail Capital of Canada.

- ♦ Drive through the Uxbridge Optimist Fantasy of Lights. Open nightly, Dec 5 to Jan 2, 6:00pm to 9:30pm.
- ♦ Explore the Festive Shop Windows on the Holiday Shopping Trail. Many shops are open for evening hours Thursday to Saturday
- ♦ Shop ahead online and coordinate your curb-side pick-up.
- ♦ Take a selfie in front of Santa's sleigh at Rutledge Jewellers.
- ♦ Wave to Santa & Mrs. Claus through the window at H. Bee Architecture. Thursday to Saturday, Dec 5 to 19, 6:00pm to 8:00pm.
- ♦ Order warm, festive drinks, snacks, or a meal-to-go.

Enjoy this safe trail of festivities
and post your photos to [#HolidayTrailUxbridge](https://twitter.com/HolidayTrailUxbridge).

Find out more at
www.DiscoverUxbridge.ca/HolidayTrail

Retail locations along the Uxbridge Holiday Shopping Trail have received the Safe Travels Stamp from the World Travel & Tourism Council. Please practice safe physical distancing at all times.



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Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at uxbridge.ca/accessibility

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Evan 'progressing well' one month after brain surgery

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Almost one month after his Nov. 9 surgery, Evan Paterson is reportedly "progressing well with his therapies and, slowly but surely, his incision is healing and looking better."

In late October, the *Cosmos* featured a story on young Evan Paterson, a three-year-old who required brain surgery. Evan's family had started a campaign to raise funds to support his recovery journey, which would include physical therapy, and medical aid devices. The GoFundMe has now raised almost \$17,000, and is still growing.

Three weeks post-op, Samantha Bishop, Evan's mom, reports that the young boy is doing well.

"This week he started to use a stander to help build his strength, with support, in order to one day start walking again. I was in a bit of shock when his physiotherapist said that's what we were doing - I didn't realize he was making THAT much progress!" says Bishop.

Evan's surgeon reports that he is confident Evan will heal well with time.

Bishop says the Holland Bloorview rehab hospital has been a wonderful place for the beginning of Evan's recovery and, again, she wishes to thank the community members who have helped support their cause.

"We could not be more thankful."

"This week we find out how long they think Evan will need to be in the hospital. We have hopes that it will only be for a couple of months and then we can continue therapies at home," says Bishop.

Earlier this year, in July, after a series of seizures, a lesion was found on Evan's brain. Doctors decided that the best way to stop the seizures and ensure that Evan continued to de-

velop in a regular pattern, the left and right sides of his brain would need to be disconnected. It was predicted that, after the surgery, Evan would be extremely weak on one side, have no peripheral vision, and would have to learn how to do fundamental tasks again.

"We are over the moon excited that he's already in a stander!" says Bishop.

To follow along with the family's updates, or to make a donation, visit the Hope For Evan GoFundMe

at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/agzcs-hope-for-evan>



Three-year-old Evan Paterson uses a stander to support him while he learns to build strength in his legs. Evan underwent surgery on his brain just under one month ago to disconnect the left side from the right in order to stop him from having seizures and developmentally regressing.

Photo used with permission from GoFundMe page

Former councillor to run for Conservatives

by Roger Varley

Former Uxbridge councillor Jacob Mantle has been chosen by the Pickering-Uxbridge Conservative Association to carry the Conservative banner in the next federal election.

Dan Hughes, president of the association, said in a news release that Mantle's "experience as a municipal councillor and his professional experience as a trade lawyer will make him an excellent representative for the residents of Pickering and Uxbridge and an excellent addition to [Conservative Party leader] Erin O'Toole's team."

Mantle was elected to represent what was then Ward 4 in the 2010 municipal election when he was 21, defeating four other candidates and becoming the township's youngest ever councillor. He did not seek re-election after his first term, choosing instead to return to Queen's University to earn his law degree. He is currently with the law firm of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. He has worked in the past for both O'Toole and O'Toole's father, John, a former MPP.

The news release quoted Mantle as saying: "I intend to be a strong and sensible voice for Pickering and Uxbridge in the House of Commons. I am eager to talk to residents of Pickering and Uxbridge about how Canada and our community can address the ravages of COVID-19 and get on track towards a sustainable economic recovery."

The federal Pickering-Uxbridge riding is currently held by Liberal Jennifer O'Connell.



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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.

UXBRIDGE TOY DRIVE
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Season's Greetings

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The Uxbridge **COSMOS**

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Our two cents

Giving Tuesday every day

Black Friday. Cyber Monday. They're both over with (in the literal sense, at least), and now, as we write this, it's Giving Tuesday. A good marketing ploy, that - prey on the sense of guilt people may be feeling after having spent so much money on themselves and their loved ones for holiday gifts, get them to take whatever small change may be left at the bottom of their wallets and give to charity. We're fairly sure that, in years past, this strategy has been effective. But this year, as with everything else, we think that Giving Tuesday means a little bit more. Actually, a lot more.

Campbell Dr., by the hospital, is quite the street to drive along at the moment. Our front page photo doesn't do justice to the sight of so many inflatable Santa Clauses all lined up in one place - it's quite jolly, really. And we understand that it's the neighbourhood's intention to remind people to donate to the Loaves & Fishes Food Bank here in town.

Feed Ontario, an organization that analyzes food bank usage across the province, has been investigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food banks. It released its annual hunger report on Monday, which says that food bank usage across Ontario was already increasing in the year leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic. Then came a further surge in demand as people grappled with unemployment, closures, and loss of income throughout the pandemic. The number of first-time food bank visitors spiked by 26.5 per cent during the first four months of the pandemic, the report says. So from now until the holidays are over, Campbell Dr. is a reminder to give.

Giving can start this Saturday, too, when the Optimist Club of Uxbridge throws the switch and opens this year's Fantasy of Lights. We understand that the Optimists have the donation cash buckets and point-of-sale tap option on social-distancing appropriate poles, so there's no reason not to give to this local organization that turns those donations right back into the community.

There are always charities and organizations that appeal to the public at this time of year, hoping to cash in on the spirit of the season, and sometimes the demand seems overwhelming. This year it's even more overwhelming. We're certain that the COVID-19 pandemic has hit *everyone's* pocketbook in some way, but there are those who didn't have a very full pocketbook to begin with. For those of us who are fortunate enough to not be in that situation, there are likely a few things we're saving on this holiday season - no parties, no workplace Secret Santas, no elaborate holiday outfits... Redirect those funds, if you can, because giving a little extra this year and helping a fellow human being just might make 2020 worth it after all.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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

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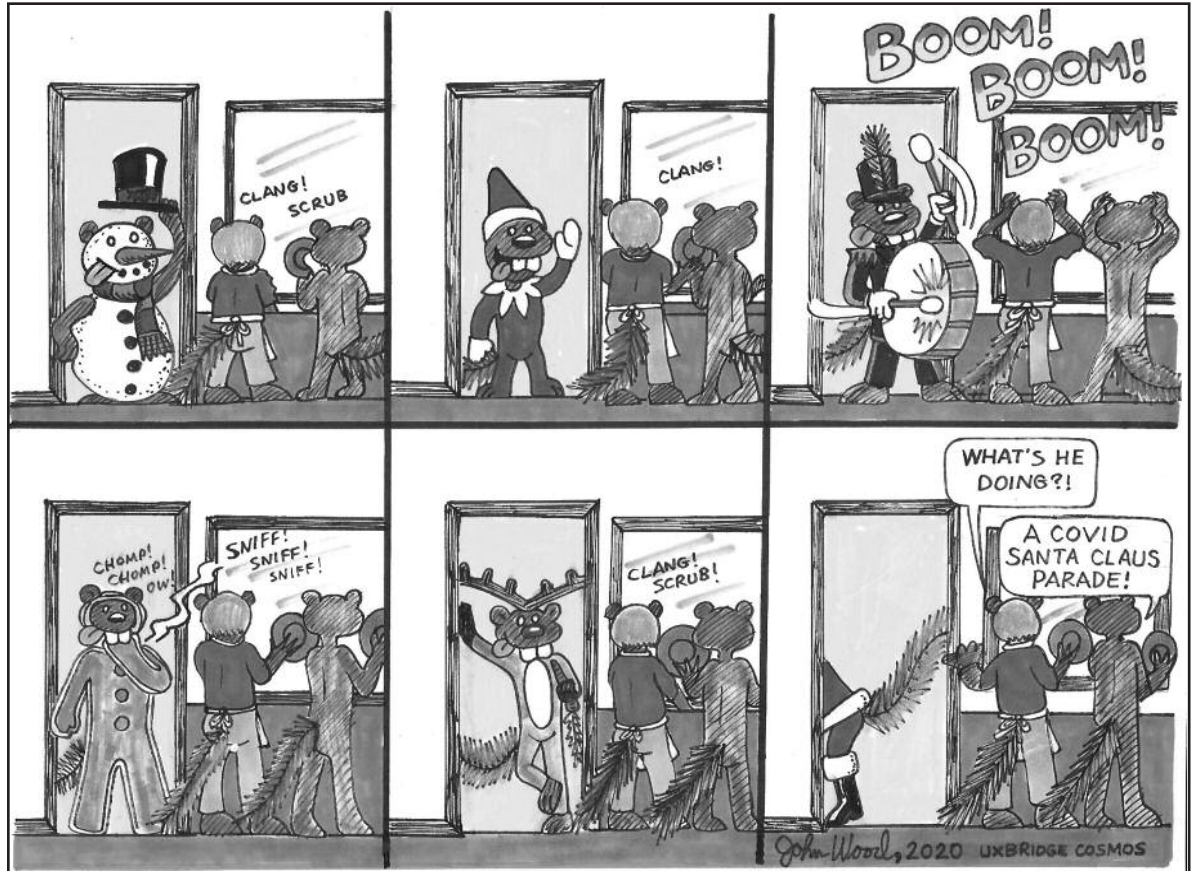
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Canada



Letters to the Editor

What an amazing town we live in. Uxbridge truly has a respect for veterans like no other.

One may have thought the Poppy Campaign would suffer due to restrictions as a result of COVID-19. Nothing could be farther from that. To everyone who donated to the Poppy Campaign, a very heartfelt thank you.

You came out in droves, waited in lines for over two hours, decorated your vehicles, made heartwarming signs, waved flags, just to say hello to our attending veterans at Elgin Park for the Honour Our Veterans Drive-By Parade, organized by Tish and Mike MacDonald.

The veterans were all so touched by all your warm wishes. Your donations were so greatly appreciated.

COVID-19 reduced the number of locations that were available for our poppy canvassers this year. Thank you to Shopper's Drug Mart, Canadian Tire, Walmart and Zehrs for allowing us to have in-person canvassers at your locations. Everyone was enormously generous.

If you saw homemade poppy-themed masks around town, they were probably made by local artist Laura Taylor-Shields. When she heard there was a back-order of the Legion masks, she sprang into action and offered to have a fundraiser. Almost 450 masks and a donation from one of her paintings later, the Poppy Fund received a donation of \$4,420.

The traditional Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph was cancelled, again due to COVID. The Uxbridge Baptist Church graciously offered the use of their sanctuary for the ceremony to be held. The service was live streamed across Canada for so many to view. We thank them greatly.

Please remember our veterans all over the world and those who are not able to be with their families for the holidays. We look forward to the time when we can safely gather together.

Lest we forget.

Gloria Eng
1st Vice Poppy Chair
Uxbridge Legion Br. 170

The Cosmos is proud that it has a vibrant, active Letters to the Editor section, but it sometimes comes under fire for the content of those letters. The National NewsMedia Council (NNC), a voluntary, self-regulatory ethics body for the news media industry in Canada, recently released the following statement with regards to Letters to the Editor and COVID-19-related content.

Over the past several months, the NNC has been hearing a great deal about pandemic-related reader comments and letters to the editor.

"Yet another (letter) praising (a writer's) comments has appeared in this week's (paper). Large numbers of protestors have started to protest measures based on this type of misinformation that they believe affects them," is one lament we heard.

"It concerns me that misinformation, and disinformation for that matter, would even get published."

Some readers have told us they are worried about how the alleged misinformation published as letters to the editor will hurt public health and encourage risky social behaviour(s). They report being afraid to challenge those facts or opinions because of the fear of social media backlash.

We also heard about the other side of the coin - readers upset about being unable to submit comments

on COVID-19 coverage.

One reader who contacted us said he and others were unable to post comments containing self-described 'alternate information' about COVID-19. Another complainant wanted to post "facts and data that media and governments are not providing to the public."

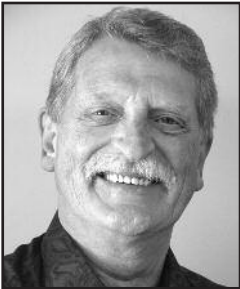
Letters to the editor are a long-standing feature allowing readers to express opinions and to respond to published articles. Online comments provide a similar forum for discussion. Best practice is to publish letters that represent the diversity of views and voices in the community.

But what if letters to the editor espouse misinformation?

We've heard of letters to the editor containing anti-mask and anti-vaccine rhetoric. In smaller communities, or ones with (thankfully) few cases of COVID, and where the impact is perhaps less obvious, do those opinions carry outsized influence? How does a newsroom assess whether it is giving voice to diverse views or is spreading misinformation? At what point is there no "other side" in matters of public health?

These are questions worthy of attention as the pandemic underlines a new challenge in the news media's effort to quell misinformation while promoting freedom of expression.

For its part, the NNC cannot settle controversies around COVID-related science and policy. It supports the prerogative of news organizations to produce journalism it deems to be in the public's interest. Our mandate is to consider complaints about breaches of journalistic standards in news reporting and opinion articles, including ones related to COVID-19.



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Strange times indeed

One of the benefits of living in a small community is the ability to more or less shut the rest of the world out.

More and more, I am glad I moved to Uxbridge 30 years ago. I have found the people of this town and this township to be friendly, caring and compassionate, talented and creative. Of course, we have a few grumps and kooks, but they do little to upset the relatively easy-going nature of our home in the valley.

Would that it was the same for the rest of the world. Lately, on an almost daily basis, the news features yet another shooting or stabbing around the GTA (including several in south Durham), another item about lunatics holding mid-COVID-19 parties or anti-mask rallies or stories about churches and businesses flouting COVID-19 protocols. Internationally, innocent people are still being massacred in places like Ethiopia, Yemen and Nigeria, anti-government protests are raging across Europe and India, military tensions are escalating in the northwest Pacific and the government of Brazil continues to decimate the Amazon rain forest.

And even though the presidential election is over, Donald Trump continues to wail and whine about fraudulent results to the point where it just becomes so much white noise but detracts from the actual business of running the country except for important stuff like finding new ways to execute people on death row.

Back here at home, we're heading into what promises to be a quiet Christmas (thanks to COVID-19), but nevertheless, I sense a certain coming-together as I watch people popping in and out of stores along Brock Street. I could be wrong but I have the feeling that more people are deciding to shop locally and support local businesses. It also seems that stores are offering a lot more locally produced crafts and art. I have been impressed by the way several of our retailers have adjusted to the pandemic restrictions to at least keep afloat during this trying time.

While a large number of annual events associated with Christmas have had to be cancelled, the Optimist Club's Fantasy of Lights will proceed almost as usual, starting on Saturday, the only difference being that visitors to the fairyland display will not be able to

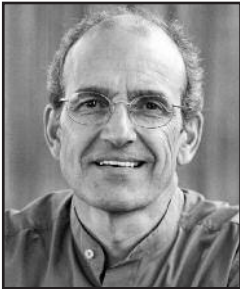
walk through Elgin Park this year. Even there, there is evidence of the coming-together I was talking about. Some of the money that was to have been allocated to the now-cancelled Santa Claus parade was diverted to the Fantasy of Lights. Dozens of people have been engaged in setting up the displays, all with the aim of bringing a little Christmas magic into our lives.

But, of course, all is not jingle bells in Uxbridge. Beginning today (Thursday), council will start its annual budget discussions and, in my opinion, taxpayers should be prepared to see some scary numbers. Given the hit placed on the township's coffers by the pandemic (and the trend of the last few years), it is assured that taxes will be going up again. The township has hoped the loss of revenue at places such as the arena and Uxpool will not be as bad as expected, yet it is unlikely such users as the Uxbridge Bruins will be using the arena this year. The PJHL has already abandoned the Dec. 1 start-up date for Junior hockey, moving it into January. But as COVID-19 cases continue to rise across the country, it is likely the 2020-21 season will be abandoned completely. Just as likely will be the extended closing of township community centres, meaning no revenue there.

However, COVID-19 is not the only worrisome thing the budget discussions will have to deal with: there's the Brock Street culvert. The project should be finished sometime in the Spring and then the final numbers will come in. Maybe. Because when it's all done, the township will find itself fighting a number of downtown merchants seeking redress for losses they have suffered as a result of the construction. And since some retailers have already been told to get lawyers, it is to be expected the township's legal fees will be increased substantially, too. Originally estimated to cost \$10 million, the last figure we had for the project was in the neighbourhood of \$23 million. I expect the final tally to be substantially higher.

It seems to me that although we don't have the violence and turmoil so prevalent in much of the rest of the world, we in Uxbridge are going to have to face some unsettling news early in the new year.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Without a word from our sponsor

He didn't look much like a pioneer. But J. Frank Willis sure was. Dressed in tall boots, a long coat and scarf, wearing a fedora – typical of the 1930s – he was a reporter. Hearing news of a coal-mine rescue underway in a remote corner of Nova Scotia, he made his way to a place called Moose River. There, he found the only available land telephone line and got permission to broadcast from the mouth of the mine. Miners were trapped 50 metres underground and their would-be rescuers had been digging for days to reach them. Willis held his primitive microphone in front of one of the rescuers.

"Here, ladies and gentlemen, is the captain of the rescue team from Stellerton, Nova Scotia," Willis said.

"Hello Stellerton," the captain said. "We're getting' along fine. We'll have those men up in a couple of hours."

Willis's coverage of the Moose River Mine Disaster in April 1936 made history. Willis had described in five-minute bulletins, every half hour for 111 hours, the progress made by the rescue team. Fifty-eight radio stations of the newly inaugurated Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission (precursor to the CBC Radio Network) carried his unscripted reports. So did 650 radio stations in the U.S. Then, on April 20, 1936, when the survivors emerged from the cave-in, Willis delivered the news to the world. It was North America's very first live 24-hour news event.

"I take no special credit for my part on the story," he said later. "It was my job."

On the grand scheme of such things as pandemics, vaccines, broken economies and billions of dollars of national debt, writing about the importance of a public broadcaster might not stack up. But it's a bit like defending long-term care, migrant workers' rights, and smaller class sizes. If we don't safeguard some of the foundations of a civilized world, they can easily crumble and fall away when we need them most.

The CBC happens to be under threat from two sides. From the outside, the new leader of the Conservative Party wants to defund the CBC's digital news services and then sell off the English-language side of CBC TV. Erin O'Toole claims that the CBC is out of control and needs to be reformed. He says the CBC is "widely regarded as inefficient and far more costly than comparable private sector operations." I believe what the Conservative leader *really* means is that he doesn't like to see CBC TV competing for commercial dollars with pri-

vate broadcasters in the marketplace.

The only reason the CBC has had to sell time on its English-language television system, is because no federal government – since the CBC was created in 1936 – has seen fit to budget the CBC long-term the way the government does other public corporations. Most CBC presidents, and I've interviewed a few of them, have pleaded, "Give us a five-year budget. Then, we can plan better." Mr. O'Toole also suggests before CBC TV can be privatized, it must become more "comparable to the private sector in terms of efficiency." Does he really believe there's no waste at CTV, Global and other Indies? As a freelance writer with working experience at all those networks, I can assure him, private broadcasters are not models of fiscal efficiency.

The other attack on the now 84-year legacy of public broadcasting in Canada comes from inside. And it reeks of the same sort of push to privatize to save the Corporation. News items have recently appeared – mostly features, presented by CBC personalities – that have been paid for by companies or interest groups as public relations presentations. The new initiative is called "Tandem" or "branded content." In other words, they've created items that look for all the world like news or journalism, when they are really advertorials for the company purchasing the air time. This violates all the CBC stands for – objective, unencumbered news gathering and reporting.

"Tandem" has so angered some of the icons of the CBC broadcasting stable that they've sent a letter to the CRTC in protest. Former on-air journalists such as Peter Mansbridge, Adrienne Clarkson, Elizabeth Gray, Linden McIntyre and Brian Stewart decry such an initiative as "a clear departure from the mission of Canada's public broadcaster."

In 1936, when J. Frank Willis borrowed that old banquet microphone, trekked to Moose River, and reported first-hand to the world on the rescue effort in the rock beneath him, he didn't pause "for a word from our sponsor." He did it because the story had to be told, not sold. Nor have the generations of CBC investigative programs – from *This Hour has Seven Days*, to *The Fifth Estate*, to *Marketplace*, to *The Nature of Things* – paused to consider the sponsor before researching, revealing, reporting and yes sometimes upsetting the status quo. The CBC helps keep a free society free.

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

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Scot Pine gets a socially distant thinning

Submitted by Derek Connelly,
North Durham Nature

Last Saturday afternoon, two local organizations carried out a low profile Scot Pine thinning in the Countryside Preserve.

The Uxbridge Cub Scouts and North Durham Nature were each given different locations in the Preserve to reduce congestion and social distancing problems. Many adults wore masks and all maintained distance in the fields. Twelve adults and nine Cub Scouts removed hundreds of invasive Scot Pine shoots over the two hour period.

The removal of Scot Pine *Pinus sylvestris* (an invasive tree species) improves biodiversity by keeping the meadows open for wildflowers, butterflies and other pollinators, grassland birds, and other wildlife.

The idea was first suggested by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) management plan for the Uxbridge Countryside Preserve in 2009, and has been an annual volunteer effort by the Trail volunteers, Nature club, the Uxbridge Scouts and community.

For more information on the Uxbridge Cubs and/or Scouts, visit www.1stuxbridge.ca

To learn about and help nature where you live, visit www.north-durhamnature.com

The lady behind the masks - Laura Taylor-Shields, centre, recently presented the Uxbridge Legion Poppy Fund with \$4,420. Taylor-Shields donated the proceeds she earned from making over 450 poppy-themed masks for the Legion when its stock was back-ordered before Remembrance Day. Preston Gallery owner Sabrina Leeder, right, sold the masks at her shop. "I was selling out of them in hours - I had a waiting list!" she said.

Poppy Fund chair Gloria Eng, left, holds a painting, also by Taylor-Shields, that, once sold, also sent \$100 to the Poppy Fund.

Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove



MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

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

The 'Diver's Delight' trip was won by Cynthia Cupples, ticket #173, sold by Lisa Brooks

2nd place draw winner, \$150, Jennifer Durkin, ticket #136, sold by Elaine deBlicquy

3rd place draw winner, \$100, Bev Cooper, ticket # 019, sold by Getaway Travel

Congratulations to our November winners and best of luck to all our ticket holders for the December draw for 'Santa's Surprise'. Includes round trip airfare to a 'SURPRISE' exotic destination, 7 nights' accommodation at a 5-star resort with all meals, drinks, snacks, and entertainment. As the destination is a 'SURPRISE', here are a few hints - pack a bikini/speedo, sunscreen, sunglasses and get ready for some R&R. As restrictions are still in place for travel, a voucher for \$2,500 from Getaway Travel or cash option of \$2,250 is available instead of the trip.

The Trip of the Month Club for 2021 tickets are available for sale from any Uxbridge Rotarian and features exciting travel destinations within Canada and the Caribbean. Hopefully places such as Baja, Jamaica and Lake Louise will provide tempting choices for our draw winners.

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COMING UP

THIS WEEKEND

Sat., Dec. 5: Canadian Blood Services Blood Donor Clinic. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Uxbridge Arena & Commu-

nity Centre. Visit www.blood.ca to book an appointment.

NEXT WEEK

Mon., Dec. 7: Durham Farm &

Rural Family Resources Stroller Walk & Talk 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Elgin Park. Baby Café Zoom 11 a.m. durhamfamilyresources.org

Tues., Dec. 8: Durham Farm & Rural Family Resources Play to Learn 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Uxbridge Public School. Craft bag pick up, 11:30-12:30. durhamfamilyresources.org

Wed., Dec. 9: Durham Farm & Rural Family Resources Zoom Circle Time & Chat 10:30 a.m. durhamfamilyresources.org

Thurs., Dec. 10: Durham Farm & Rural Family Resources Play to Learn 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Uxbridge Public School. durhamfamilyresources.org

UPCOMING

Mon., Dec. 14: A virtual performance of Handel's Messiah by the Uxbridge Messiah Singers. 7 p.m. uxbridgemessiahsingers.com

Sun., Dec. 27: Uxbridge Christmas Bird Count Day To register email dconn5432@gmail.com or call 905-852-5432.

COMING UP is a free community bulletin board for community events organized by a charity or non-profit organization only. Events are published as space permits. The Uxbridge Cosmos does **not** assume responsibility for the events listed here with regards to whether the event adheres to federal/provincial/municipal COVID-19 protocols. Email Lvann@thecosmos.ca

Downtown business making a move & changing its name

by Roger Varley

In just about three months, the Bar Cafe will not only be changing its location, it will also be changing its name.

Owner Trish Bush said her business will move from its current location, tucked away in the corner of the former Scarsin building at the corner of Brock and Main Streets, to the medical centre on Toronto Street South early in March. Once in its new quarters, the business will be called FIG (Feel Incredibly Good) Kitchen and Market.

Bush said she has been planning the move for about two years since taking on a new business partner, Sarah Corey.

"It's an extension of what I've done here," she said, noting the business will continue to focus

of vegan products.

"I believe we're the only vegan store and restaurant in North Durham."

She said the new location will improve the business's exposure, plus it will have more space, allowing for a full-service restaurant with a patio area. The larger space also mean Bush will be hiring additional staff.


Although the preparations for the move come in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, she said she has to move ahead with the long-planned relocation.

"We can't put off the plan because of COVID-19," she said.

Work has been proceeding for some time on renovating the new quarters and rejigging the patio area of the former Cafe XXIX.

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Continue through the charming, historic downtown where many boutique shops have decked out their holiday windows. Take a stroll to discover some locally inspired gifts, or shop ahead online and coordinate your curb-side pick-up.

Wave to Santa and Mrs. Claus through the window at H. Bee Architecture, **Thursday to Saturday, December 5th to 19th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm.**

For more information about the Fantasy of Lights and the Holiday Shopping Trail visit www.DiscoverUxbridge.ca/HolidayTrail

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Focus on Finance

with Tammy Scuralli, Edward Jones

Protect Your Finances from "Cyberthieves"

You've no doubt heard reports of personal data being stolen and used for financial fraud – anything from online shopping on your credit cards to actual theft from your financial accounts. This problem won't go away anytime soon – but you can take steps to defend yourself. Here are a few suggestions:

Use multifactor authentication or other extra security options with online accounts. Many of your on-line accounts offer extra security by giving you the option to prove your identity in different ways. With multifactor authentication, you must provide at least two different factors to prove your identity when you log in to an account. This additional layer of security provides you with much greater protection.

Be creative with passwords. Create different passwords for work, financial services sites, social media and email – and give each password some length and complexity. Consider passphrases – actual words combined with symbols and numbers (for example, "ThisIsAPassphrase!2468"), for sites that allow them.

Protect your computer and your key data. Keep your antivirus software updated. And don't install bootleg or unlicensed software, which could infect your computer with a virus. Also, back up your important data.

Watch out for fake websites or apps. When making financial transactions, be sure you're on the website of your bank or financial institution – and not on a fake site established by hackers. Your financial statements should have the legitimate website, so bookmark it and use it when doing anything with your accounts. Also, be careful when downloading apps – stick with those from established providers such as Google Play or the App Store.

Avoid "over-sharing" on social media. Cyberthieves constantly stalk social media platforms for information they can use to commit

their crimes. You can help stymie them by limiting what you share online. It's a good idea to keep your full name, address and birthday private. You might also avoid discussing your plans for upcoming vacations. And review your privacy settings periodically so that only people you know or approve can see your information.

Limit use of public WiFi. Hackers often set up their own WiFi networks in public areas, such as the computers found in hotel business centers. Ask an employee for the name of the legitimate network. And even when you use it,

that takes you to what appears to be the company's website.

If you go along with this request, you could find malicious software being downloaded on your computer. Legitimate businesses generally won't ask for account numbers or passwords unless you initiate the transaction. Other signs of phishing include threatening language, "urgent" requests, misspelled words or odd word choices. If an email looks suspicious to you, delete it without opening it.

This list is not exhaustive, but by putting these steps to work, you can at least reduce the risk of becoming victimized by cybercriminals.

This column, written and published by Edward Jones, Member Canadian



log off when you're finished. Don't take the bait of "phishers." Cyberthieves go "phishing" for sensitive information – usernames, passwords and account numbers – by sending communications, such as emails, purporting to be from a business or financial institution with which you often do business. They may claim your account was "suspended" or that an "unauthorized transaction" was made, and you'll be asked to click on a link

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Across

- 1. Drop
- 4. Previously
- 7. Visited
- 10. French way
- 11. Black color
- 14. C.E.O.'s degree
- 15. Dependence
- 17. Musician's asset
- 18. 1973 Supreme Court decision name
- 19. Matinee hero
- 21. Home ____
- 24. Nonstick pan
- 27. Farm team
- 28. Greenery
- 29. "Yes, ____!"
- 30. Bake eggs
- 32. Tear
- 33. One who leaves prison without permission
- 35. Sparkling wine
- 36. Daze
- 37. Monopoly purchase
- 38. Formal accessory
- 39. Hilo garland
- 40. "O.K."
- 42. In between liquid and solid
- 47. "____ Maria"
- 48. Decree
- 49. Protein source
- 50. Fuse
- 51. ESPN sportscaster
- 52. Compass direction

Down

- 1. Great time
- 2. Larry ____ Melman
- 3. Growing area
- 4. Necktie
- 5. Entry point
- 6. Kimono sash
- 7. Be suspicious (3 words)
- 8. Lawyer's org. for short
- 9. Combat
- 12. Stand about idly
- 13. Make lovable
- 16. Clothes presser
- 20. Not edible any more
- 21. Medical quantities
- 22. Subsist
- 23. Tapped firmly
- 25. Pointed arch
- 26. Kathmandu's land
- 28. Story
- 30. Partner
- 31. Crowded
- 34. Likely
- 35. Spring
- 37. Trash bag, brand name
- 39. Human parasites
- 40. Pilot's problem
- 41. Apple picker
- 43. "Thanks a ____!"
- 44. Bring to bear
- 45. Kind of chamber
- 46. Salon job



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The Uxbridge
COSMOS



The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

The Red Fox

What is rusty red in colour, weighs about five kg, is about a meter long, and eats mice, voles, rabbits, insects, and berries? If you said "red fox" you're right! This agile hunter is found in every Canadian province and territory. While they do like the taste of chicken, they've become appreciated by farmers for the large number of crop-destroying pests they eat.

Here in Uxbridge, foxes are shy but seen regularly. I've had reports of them in Barton Farms, Quaker Village, the Countryside Preserve, and Wooden Sticks. One loped past our house mid-August, and I saw one trotting down Bolton Drive, with what looked like a red squirrel in its mouth, in early September. Their home territory is four to eight square kilometers, so these likely were different individuals. Certainly, the varied terrain around our town - the large fields, meadows, forests connected by creek lands all provide great places to live and hunt.

Red foxes mate during the winter, and the vixen gives birth to her litter in the spring, usually four to six kits. The father (dog-fox) brings food to the female for the first few

weeks. The kits weigh around 80 g and are 22 cm long - one third of that is their tail! They have dark brown fluffy fur and blue eyes. Their fur turns red later, and their eyes turn amber at 4-5 weeks. They start eating solid food after a month and reach adult size in 3-4 months.

Red foxes are usually active in the evening, overnight and early morning. They're naturally shy and will avoid humans. However, they could get rabies. If you encounter one that seems unafraid of people, or is acting strangely, stay away and contact Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Control at 1-800-871-4374.

Nancy Melcher is The Nature Nut. Send details of your sightings or questions about the natural world to: general@melcher.cx



The red fox, bringing home its dinner.

Photo by Stefano Vettini, Flickr, CC

Anne Noel Williams

December 27, 1929 - December 4, 2014

~ An Irish Blessing ~

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at
your back.
May the sun shine warm
upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon
your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the
palm of His hand.

~
Sadly missed by John
and family, and by
friends in Canada,
USA and UK.



DOODCHENKO, Leo

peacefully at Douglas Crossing on November 24, 2020, in his 91st year. Beloved husband and best friend of Joan for 66 years. Leo was predeceased by son Michael (2007). He was the cherished father of Steve (Donna), Kathy (Nelson) and daughter-in-law, Sherry. Proud Grandpa of Taylor (Keesha), Cameron (Nicole), Kayley and Amanda. Special "Pop" to Ryan Davies and Myrna & Justin Amyotte.

Leo spent his life in the automotive repair business and was highly respected for both his workmanship and integrity. He was a life member of the Kinsmen Club of Uxbridge and an active member of St. Paul's Anglican Church.

Leo will be greatly missed by his extended family, including Lorne Silvester, Doneen Silvester, Ken Silvester, Kim & Mike Heathcote, Debbie Silvester, John Dyczkowski and dear friends John & Candy Davies, Judy Fountain and Len & Lynn Skidmore.

Special thanks to the Douglas Crossing family for their care and kindness, to Rev. Mark Kinghan for his support, and especially to Dr. Jennifer Wilson for her compassion and guidance.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society, St. Paul's Anglican Church (Uxbridge) or a charity important to you would be appreciated.

There will be a private family service and a Celebration of Life will be held when it is safe to do so. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). Online condolences can be made at www.lowandlow.ca



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Chris Larmer
Sales Representative



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WANTED



We have buyers looking for vacation properties. If you or someone you know is thinking of selling waterfront property, give us a call.

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FREE CMA



THE MARKET IS STILL HOT
Listings are low and buyers are buying.
It's not too late to list.
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Shane Coxworth, Sales Representative
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It is available on both Apple and Android - download it today!



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- Personalized collection schedule
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If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-667-5671.
Space provided through partnership between industry and Ontario municipalities to support waste diversion programs.



The smartphone screen shows the "My Collection Schedule" app interface. It displays the "NEXT COLLECTION" for Tuesday, Jul 28, with items being collected: Blue Box, Green Bin, Garbage, and Yard Waste. Below that, it shows the collection schedule for Tuesday, Aug 4, with Blue Box and Green Bin collection.