

The Uxbridge COSMOS



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NEWSPAPER
AWARD 2019

Volume 17 No. 4

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, January 28, 2021



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WINTER FINALLY ARRIVES - The first snow storm of the season that contained any real accumulation hit the township Tuesday afternoon. Drivers on Brock St. W. weren't abundant, as many are staying home as per provincial COVID-19 instructions, but those who were out and around appeared to go cautiously. *Photo by John Cavers*

Online only @ thecosmos.ca

Vaccine update for Durham Region
Bernie in Uxbridge

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Tax increase 'defensible' because of COVID-19

by Roger Varley

There are still two steps remaining before the Township of Uxbridge's 2021 budget is finalized, but, barring any major last-minute changes, residents can expect an average 4.27-per-cent increase on their local property tax bill.

Council held its final budget discussion last Thursday. This coming Monday, Feb. 1, treasurer Donna Condon will put forward her final report on the budget and council is expected to adopt the budget formally on Feb. 8.

Last Thursday, finance committee chair Bruce Garrod said council had made 58 changes to the proposed budgets submitted earlier by the various departments, resulting in \$134,000 being cut. However, later during the meeting, councillors added \$58,000 to the budget to bolster the kitties for legal fees and bridges and culverts, bringing the cuts down to \$76,000.

"This hasn't been an easy budget process," Garrod said. "Every department has been scrambling to make this work."

He said the budget could be lower if council cut capital projects - "that's easy" - but noted it would mean less maintenance of infrastructure such as roads, which would have to be addressed in the future.

Councillor Gary Ruona said he expected residents will not be happy with the increase.

"We're going to get blowback, but I think the increase is defensible because of COVID-19," he said. The coronavirus pandemic has seen the township suffer severe revenue losses because of the closure of the arena, Uxpool, the community centres and revenue-generating programs such as the summer camps. Much of the lost revenue was covered by lower hydro rates, lower upkeep costs and laying off township staff.

Garrod said the 2021 budget will have total

expenditures of \$28.8 million, made up of \$17.8 million in operating costs and \$11 million in capital expenditures. He said that will result in an average local property tax increase of 4.27 per cent. He noted, however, that when local, regional and education taxes are all taken into account, it is expected that total property tax bills will increase by 2.31 per cent during 2021. He said a home assessed at \$600,000 could expect to see a bump of \$70 on the annual tax bill.

The final figures include a two-per-cent increase in funding for the township's Asset Management Program. Garrod noted the AMP is not a "rainy day fund" but a levy to fund future capital projects. During the budget meeting, Public Works director Ben Kester said the AMP is something the township has to have in place. He said past councils had deemed one per cent a year was needed but that number was too low.

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for February 2021

Monday, February 1, 10:00 a.m.
COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 8, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 8, 11:30 a.m.
PUBLIC MEETING
(ZBA 2020-04 199
JOHN HARVEY ST.)

Monday, February 15
FAMILY DAY – NO MEETING

Monday, February 22, 10:00 a.m.
COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.
PUBLIC MEETING
(ZBA 2020-05 8999
CONCESSION 5)

Proclamations
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR A ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

This Notice is to inform you that the Township of Uxbridge has received a Zoning By-law Amendment application which has been deemed complete in accordance with the requirements of Section 34 of the Planning Act. The Planning Committee of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge will hold a statutory public meeting to make available adequate information to the public regarding, and to consider, a proposed Township Zoning By-law Amendment pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, submitted by Chris and Nadine Armour.

PURPOSE OF PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT:

- The purpose of this application is to amend the Zoning By-law to rezone 199 John Harvey Street to permit the construction of two new 3,240 sq.ft and 3,710 sq.ft semi-detached dwellings (for a total of four dwelling units).

- The subject property is designated "Mixed Use Area" in the Township Official Plan and currently zoned "Residential First Density Exception No. 37 (R1-37)".

LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:

The subject property, within the Uxbridge Urban Area, having the municipal address

of 199 John Harvey Street, and is legally described as Lot 50, Block 6, Municipal Plan No. 83 in the Township of Uxbridge, Region of Durham. The location of the property is graphically illustrated on the key map below.

FILE. NO.: Zoning By-Law Amendment 2020-04 (ZBA 2020- 04)

APPLICANT: Chris and Nadine Armour

MEETING DATE:

Monday, Feb. 8, 2021

TIME:

Public Meeting 11:30 a.m.

REPRESENTATION

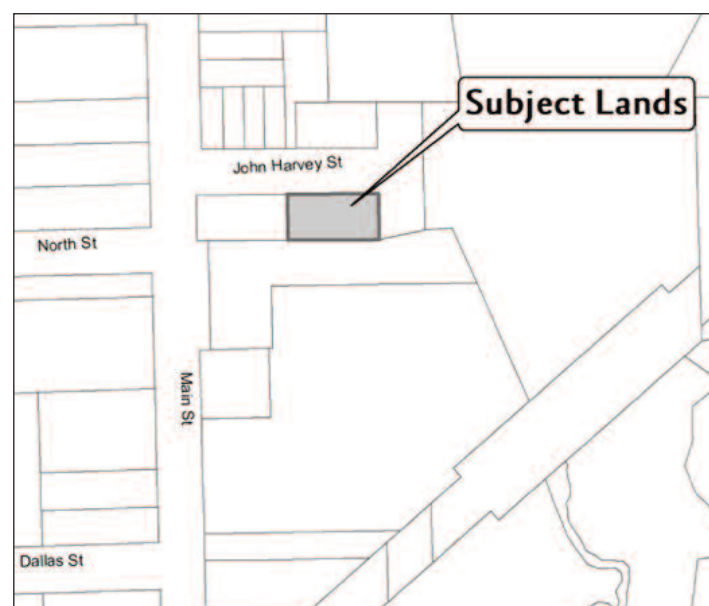
ANY PERSON may participate in the public meeting and/or make written or oral representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. The full and complete notice can be found at Uxbridge.ca/news

Debbie Leroux, Clerk
Township of Uxbridge
Box 190
Uxbridge, Ontario
L9P 1T1

905-852-9181 Ext. 228

dleroux@town.uxbridge.on.ca

KEY MAP (not to scale)



Township of Uxbridge COVID-19 Updates

Facility Closure Information

Town Hall - closed to public, call for service
Uxbridge Arena - closed until further notice
Uxpool - Closed until further notice
Uxbridge/Zephyr Libraries - curbside pick-up only
Pump Park/Skate Park - closed for season
Dog Park Open - 5 person limit
Uxbridge/Scugog Animal Shelter - call 905-985-9547 for service or appointment

Trails and Parks are open for use - 2m physical distancing required

Questions? Contact Us!

t: 905-852-9181

info@uxbridge.ca

www.uxbridge.ca

Employment Opportunity

Township of Uxbridge Crossing Guards

Complete details and qualifications required for these positions are available at uxbridge.ca/employment_opportunities

The Township of Uxbridge is currently seeking 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

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.

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WEDNESDAYS - FEB. 17: Trivia, MAR. 3: Would You Rather,
MAR. 17: Fact Or Fiction, MAR. 31: 5 Minute Mysteries.



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Township of Uxbridge documents are available in alternate formats upon request.
Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at uxbridge.ca/accessibility

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Car windows smashed in at local trail parking lot

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A peaceful walk on a local trail turned to dismay on Tuesday morning when Christine Bonyun returned to the parking lot to find her car had been smashed into and several personal items stolen.

Bonyun, her daughter Lauren Stansens, and Stansens' 2-year-old daughter, went for a walk at the East Duffins Headwaters, off Conc. 7, near Goodwood Rd., at about 10 a.m. As they were walking back towards the parking area, another trail user advised them of some damage he had seen to some vehicles in the lot when coming in. When the trio reached the parking area, Bonyun discovered that her car window had been smashed in and her purse with IDs, cash, credit cards, and children's identification had been stolen.

Bonyun reports that she and her family were only on the trails for about 25 minutes before the weather got too cold and snowy and they decided to leave. She remarks that they even stayed on a section of the trail that ran near the road.

"It wasn't until my daughter said 'Mom, your purse,' that I really started to panic," said Bonyun. "The car is one thing, it can be replaced, but I carry everything with me in my purse. It's a lesson I had to learn the hard way."

Bonyun's wasn't the only vehicle to suffer damage. The car parked next to them also had its window smashed in.

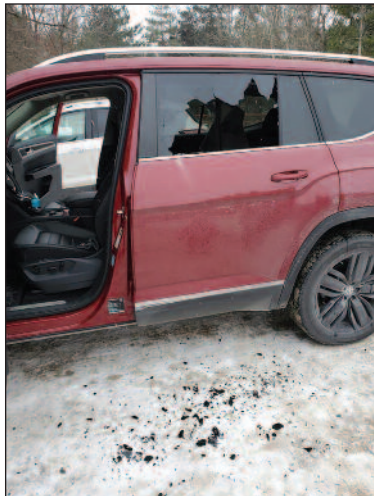
Stansens posted their misfortune on Facebook Tuesday afternoon, hoping to inform others that this sort of thing happens, even in this small community.

"I wanted to make a post about it to help make everybody aware so they can stay safe moving forward," she said.

A representative of the Kawartha Conservation Authority reached out to the family after seeing the Facebook post and advised them to call Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), which manages that section of the trails. Although Bonyun reported the incident to police, according to a representative at the TRCA, there is a "lack of communication" between law enforcement and the conservation authority, which patrols and monitors the trails. The TRCA representative who spoke with Bonyun reportedly noted that, with better communication, the conservation authority could better serve the trails, and that by "being aware of any malicious activity, they could better patrol the trails to keep its users safe."

"My family walks those trails frequently," said Bonyun, "but after today, I doubt you'll see us there anytime soon."

Bonyun said she's grateful that no one was hurt physically, and she hopes that her story will help others be more cautious in the future.



The smashed window of a car parked in the lot at East Dufferin Headwaters trail serves as a warning to trail visitors to store valuables safely while away from their vehicles.

Photo by Lauren Stansens

TOWN HALL

by Roger Varley

Notes from the January 25

Council Meeting

Township staff recognized for 250 years' service: At Monday's council meeting, 14 staffers were recognized for their combined 250 years of service to Uxbridge Township.

Leading the group were Public Works director Ben Kester and arena attendant Brad Adams, who have both reached the 25-year plateau.

Congratulations on 20 years of service were extended to Amanda Ferraro, Director of Community Services, as well as Kirk Buchanan and Brian Evans of Public Works; Carolyn Clementson, Uxpool manager; Jamie Miller of Parks; and accounting clerk Stacey Moore.

Laura Rupperecht of the clerk's department, Tim Kidd and Nick Kulas of Public Works, and Karen Ryl, the facilities booking clerk, have all logged 15 years, and Jim Noble and Barry Smith of Public Works marked 10 years.

No skiing likely this season: In discussing a resolution by Clarington council calling for the re-opening of

ski hills in Ontario, shut down because of COVID-19, Mayor Dave Barton said he supported such a move once the province's stay-at-home order is lifted. The mayor argued people can be as safe skiing as they are in other outdoor activities.

However, other councillors said they would have concerns about people travelling from outside the area if the

ski hills were opened. Councillor Bruce Garrod noted that, since most of the province will remain in the grey area until the end of March, the skiing season likely will be over by then.

Council did not support the Clarington resolution.

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Our two cents

Vaccines come to those who wait

It's a grim anniversary we can not-celebrate this week - it's been one year since the first COVID-19 case was documented in Canada. One full year that those five letters and one number have been bopping around in our heads like a tortured earworm. And yet, when it all started building to that society-crushing moment in mid-March (in Ontario, anyway), who would have thought that, one year on, a vaccine would already have been created, approved, mass manufactured and in the arms of millions? We have many to thank for that, namely scientists and technological geniuses who have worked tirelessly for a solution to global problem.

So why is it that some - many, in fact - are griping about the fact that these vaccines aren't going out fast enough? Why are some Canadian leaders complaining that production from Pfizer-BioNTech is slowing down, and there will be a temporary stall on delivery? We're certainly not 'in the know' of all that the major-general and retired general who are in charge of national and provincial vaccine distribution, respectively, have to do to get a vaccine out to 37.6 million people as quickly as possible, but we're willing to bet that it's a pretty monumental task, the likes of which they've never taken on before. And Pfizer, even though it knew that it was on deck for being a main supplier of the new vaccine, could not possibly have foreseen the onslaught of orders that the world has demanded. They apparently thought that they had capacity to produce up to 1.3 billion doses this year, but that isn't enough, so they have to close the plant in Puur, Belgium, to retool things a little so that it *can* deliver what the world, including Canada, expects. They've never had to do this before.

Do you see a theme evolving here? *This hasn't happened before.* No history book can show you another occasion when deadly virus + global pandemic = highly accelerated global response. So, may we suggest it might be wise for those pointing fingers to just cool their jets a little and let those charged with figuring out how to do *something that hasn't been done before* do their jobs.

Our culture of instant gratification has obviously spilled into the arena of global health and welfare, and, understandably, no one is willing to wait their turn. We *all* want to be vaccinated, to get back to life as we knew it, to forget this entire episode. Bitching and complaining about how those in charge are supposedly screwing it all up doesn't make it fact, it just makes everyone more anxious, unsettled and unhappy. Like we need that.

An "I want it and I want it NOW" attitude doesn't work for a two-year-old having a tantrum. Please, don't be that two-year-old.



The Uxbridge COSMOS

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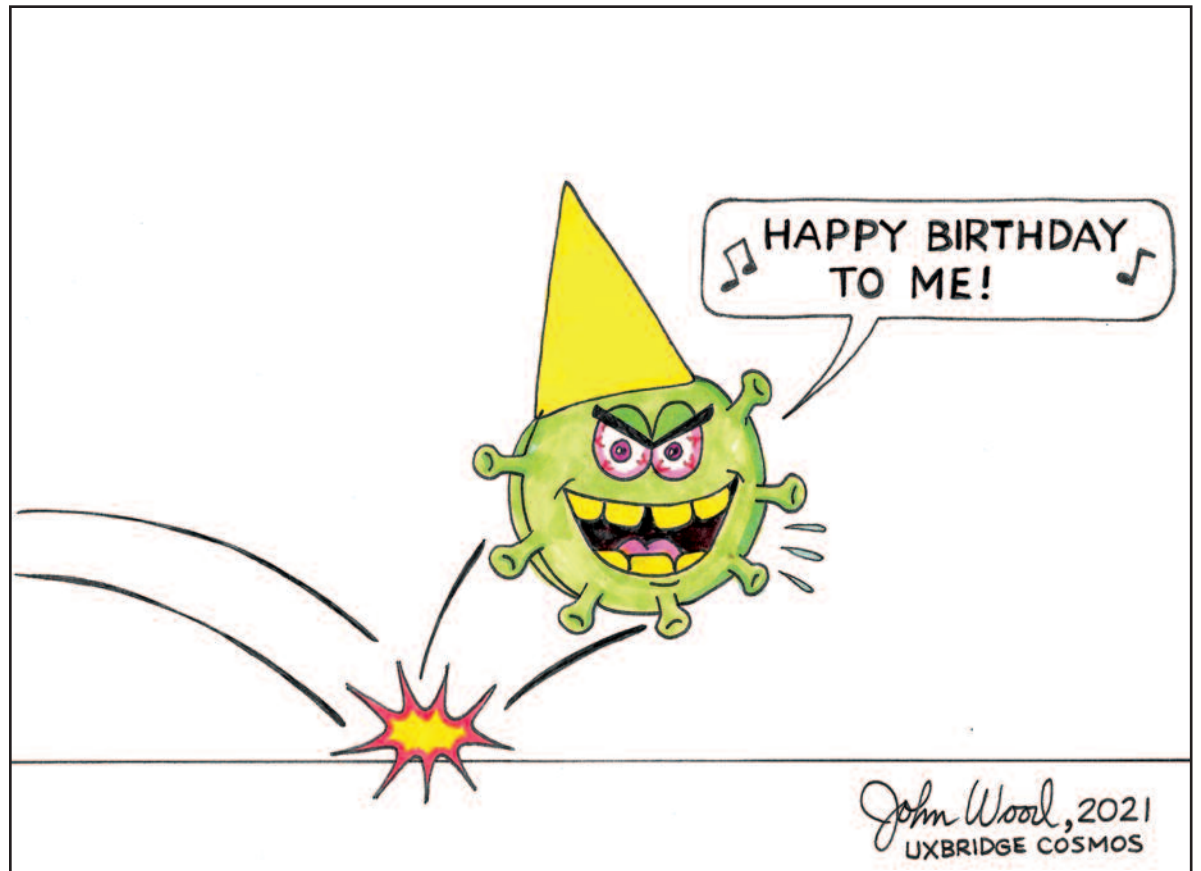
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Canada



Letters to the Editor

Re: "Paid parking being considered for trails," Town Hall, Jan. 21 edition

This has got to be one of the dumbest things I have seen council waste time and money on. Director Ferraro has obviously spent time working up an application to get a grant to "research an appropriate process" "to charge trail users for parking." Tax payer money has already been spent to figure out a way to charge certain people for using the trails? I have a short cut through that trail. It is called GoFundMe.

Mayor Dave Barton said "we need to find a way to empty their wallets." Well, Mr. Mayor, if you open my wallet these days only moths fly out. [Councillor] Bruce Garrod said "the township needs to encourage trail users to support local business." I agree. But if you charge me for parking at the trail I will just park at Walmart and walk the 50 metres. Not sure that is going to help downtown.

In this time of difficulty, when our arenas and other inside venues of sport and recreation are closed, should we not keep our trails free for all?

David Moseley
Uxbridge

As the trails are maintained by volunteers, and the residents of Uxbridge Township already pay high taxes, the remark by our mayor that they need to "empty our wallets" is way out of line. Perhaps they need to learn how to manage the money they have in reserves.

I believe all the regional forests in Durham and York provide free parking.

Bob & June Archibald
Zephyr

That was enough to shake me out of my lockdown stupor. I am referring

to the recreational director's recent report to council in which methods of charging trail users for parking were discussed. Apparently the councillors were enthusiastic in their support of the idea, the mayor even going so far as to say "We need to find a way to empty their [the trail users'] pockets."

To say the least, I was dismayed to learn that I could soon be paying for parking every time I headed out on a trail. But then I thought, "Well, council only has jurisdiction over municipal parklands, so I can leave the car at Walmart if I want to hike in the Preserve, or I can park on a side street if I want to visit other trails."

Then I read that the recreation director said the pay-for-parking idea had the support of Durham Region Economic Development and Tourism as well as the conservation authorities. What? I don't think so. What kind of hoops would the municipality have to go through to get the legal right to charge for parking in provincial conservation areas or on the TRCA lands? And I'm sure the region would prefer to *keep* any revenues from parking fees collected at regional forest parking lots located in Uxbridge Township.

If I'm wrong I guess I can go back to walking up and down the concession road for exercise, or visit the trails in York Region.

Eleanor Todd
Goodwood

Imagine my dismay when three fellows in two trucks showed up one morning last week, without any notice, and pulled down a vine from the lamp post in my front garden. I raced out to ask what was going on and discovered that the tree service company had been contracted by the Township to perform this and a number of other such tasks. This

struck me as a particularly odd and irritating event for a few reasons.

First of all, the vine has been on this particular lamp-post for more than 10 years (longer than I've lived here), so removing it couldn't possibly constitute a pressing need. Second, why wasn't I notified ahead of time of this need? If I had been, I would have happily done the pruning myself, without the resulting damage done to the flower bed and without any cost to the township.

A few years ago our local councillor at the time, Pat Molloy, invited anyone interested on our street to come out on a sunny summer weekend and help repaint the rather rusty goalposts on our local soccer pitch. A dozen or so of us showed up with step ladders in tow, and with paint supplied by the Township, over the next couple of hours we proceeded to paint while kids and dogs played while we worked. It made me wonder how much other maintenance work could be done by we residents of Uxbridge if given the opportunity. Why contract out jobs that volunteers would enjoy doing? If I've learned anything since moving here, it's that Uxbridge is a town of volunteers! There's really nothing we can't get done.

We are constantly told that our property taxes must be raised to deal with the everlasting shortfalls to our communal coffers, what with the rink and pool being closed and events being canceled, etc., so why is the council wasting our money on trivialities? Sure, there's a huge budget deficit, there's a giant hole in the middle of town that's way over time and over budget, it's the middle of winter and we're hunkered down during a global pandemic, but that Virginia creeper out in Siloam - that's got to come down! How absurd! And how unnecessary.

...continued on page 6



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

The end of civilization?

Is it just me or does anyone else worry about where we are heading as a species?

Just about everywhere one looks these days, there appears to be a general breakdown in civility, responsible citizenship, rule of law and, quite frankly, just basic good manners. In certain parts of the world, most notably the United States, this has been going on for years, but the COVID-19 pandemic appears to have spread more than just a deadly virus in the past year.

Suddenly, people who have never had much to grumble about apart from the price of gasoline or the neighbour's noisy kids are answering the battle cry of "Freedom." Police in Holland have been battling rioters for days, British police have been dealing with anti-mask protesters for weeks, Toronto police recently broke up a downtown rally protesting COVID-19 protocols, an Alberta restaurant owner point-blank refuses to stop serving diners in his establishment and churches are openly defying the rules against crowded services.

Many who aren't actually defying the rules are whining that they should receive special treatment in this pandemic. Ski hill operators think they are being treated unfairly, restaurant owners complain they should be allowed to open, gym owners believe they should be exempt from the pandemic rules. And none of them think about the possible consequences if they should get their way.

But that really is just the tip of an immensely large iceberg. Go to the comment section of just about any on-line news story and observe what passes these days for discussion. There is no discussion. It's all insults and threats. On various social media platforms, the vitriol runs rampant. Even on some of our local Facebook groups one sees the bitchiness erupt from time to time.

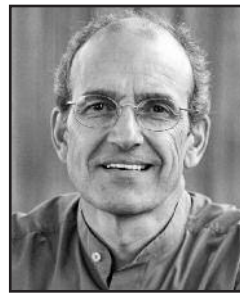
Then there are the selfish ones and they seem to be growing in number. Is there anyone who hasn't heard about the B.C. couple who rented a plane and flew to a remote Yukon community to receive a vaccine shot by claiming they had just moved

there? Or all those Canadians who flocked to Florida to try and jump the queue? There used to be an expression when I was a boy in England: "Blow you, Jack, I'm alright." It appears that sentiment is still alive and well.

I spent the first five years of my life surviving World War II. I only have a few vague memories of that time, such as spending time in the bomb shelter at the bottom of our garden, but one memory from later years stands out vividly. I was 12 years old and, like every other kid on the street, on Feb. 5, 1953, I ran down to the local sweet shop to buy as much of whatever candy I desired that my pocket money would cover. It was the first time since the start of the war that a ration book wasn't needed to make the purchase. The war had been over eight years and we still had rationing. I certainly don't remember mass riots and protests over the rationing. The populace might have grumbled, but they recognized the need for it.

If we as a society have reached the point where we can't even put up with the mild inconvenience of wearing a mask or keeping a safe distance to stop the spread of the coronavirus, then it seems to me that we are going in reverse. That should worry those who think our governments and health experts are becoming too authoritarian, because if this mindless rebellion against rules that are meant to keep us all safe continues, it can only lead to one thing: more authoritarianism. I'll admit I am among the first to balk at what I determine to be unreasonable rules and laws, as evidenced by my various columns lampooning some of the regulations our own by-law department has inflicted on us. But I don't lead mass rallies, physically attack politicians or put other people in danger to make my argument. If I did, by-law would not only enforce its rules more strenuously, it would think up new ones to counter my actions.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Alone and unhealthy

How seriously we are all craving social contact. As I do my daily walks around town these mornings, I'll wave or say "Good morning" to anybody and everybody. That's why, when a friend I hadn't seen in months pulled up in his car, I jumped at the chance to talk – he in his car, I two metres away. We talked about work, or lack of it. Then, I asked how his family was doing, in particular his university-age daughter.

"Well, to be honest, not great," he said, "COVID."

"Really?" I said, thinking that she's awfully young to be infected.

"No, not that. The isolation at university, never leaving residence."

He told me that a lot of young people away at college and university have been debilitated by essentially not being allowed out of (or choosing not to leave) their campus housing units. As keen as they are to excel and score good grades, and as adept as they are at online learning, their success is being undermined by a lack of basic human contact – in the classroom, at the cafeteria, at the athletic centre, or at the campus pub.

We're all pretty quick to criticize the 20-somethings for defying the pandemic lockdown rules, thumbing their noses at curfews, and snubbing Ontario's emergency measures to party, party, party. In fact, young people I know – whether post-secondary age, elementary-school age and every age in between – have tried to take the restrictions seriously. They care about not infecting their elders or their peers. They're keeping their distance. But they're also bearing the brunt of this antithetical behaviour. There's no socializing. There's no conversation (even two metres away). There's just silence, emptiness and forced aloneness. And it's not always healthy.

A year ago, debate raged across Ontario about the upside and downside of at-home online learning. Now, young people have no choice. Until schools are safe to fill with students again, young people are on their computers, tablets and cellphones whether they like it or not. But increased screen time isn't a panacea. And last week, a University of British Columbia psychology professor noted that all that screen time can make youth more vulnerable too.

"We're seeing increased rates of anxiety, depression and video-game addiction," Dr. Shimi Kang told CBC News. "Increased screen time – can be very negative too. We've seen cases of increased cyber bullying."

As I see it (and I have no professional creden-

tials at all, except the experience of being a parent and a grandparent), part of the answer is to get young people outside and active. Shovel the walk. Build a snow fort. Walk. Run. Bike when the roads are dry. Toboggan on a hillside safely distanced. Be a kid. The other day, I walked by the arena and saw all the artificial ice removed and in piles in the parking lot. I get it – if the lockdown won't allow youth to figure skate or play hockey, why waste money maintaining the ice?

OK, save money. But let's get creative and find ways to get our kids physically active and less vulnerable to what might be a greater expense and a darker problem later – poor mental health. If they can't skate in a confined space, flood a parking lot somewhere, or organize pleasure skating on a nearby pond, so kids can at least skate – masked and physically distanced – but getting exercise outside! Think proactively for a change. Goodness knows, more of us have time on our hands.

I read a Youth Mental Health Canada study this week. It's found that 60 per cent of students – ranging in age from 10 to 20 – had no one to turn to with an emotional or mental health problem. The 400 students surveyed across the country, said lonely youth have some coping skills. Listening to music was a common strategy for combatting stress (about 60 per cent of youth do that). About 40 per cent talk to a friend. But interestingly, only 27 per cent said they were able to talk to a family member. A related study at Harvard University, cited in *Scientific American*, showed "when you believe you have people in your life who care about you, you are less likely to catch a cold, have a stroke or heart attack, slip into cognitive decline or develop depression. You may even live longer!"

About a week after I spoke to my friend about his child isolating on the university campus, we spoke on the phone. He said that the family had brought her home from university. "Big difference," he said. "Some home cooking and tender-loving care from Mom and Dad have helped."

When Dr. Kang offered advice about youth battling loneliness, she said, "Your brain is not broken. It's just unfinished. Get exercise, regular sleep, sunlight and positive social connection."

A prescription young and old might well consider.

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



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Letters, from page 4

I read in last week's *Cosmos* that our mayor wants to "empty the wallets" of visitors to the trails as a means of raising revenue, which I thought was truly disrespectful. I'm surprised he didn't propose turning us all upside down and shaking out our pockets for spare change. What about just using our tax dollars judiciously and appropriately, as if they're a precious and scarce resource, because they are?

**Chris Clark
Siloam**

On behalf of Drew (Jack's son) and myself, I wish to thank you, the *Cosmos*, and specifically writer Shelagh Fitz, for the brilliant article you published about Jack [MacQuarrie] last week! I thought it especially fitting that this article appeared in the same issue as the front page photo, acknowledging his good friend, Norm Goodspeed's 94th birthday!

An obituary for Jack may be found at www.aftercare.org and I look forward to a time when we can gather with hugs and music to celebrate Jack's life together!

If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Uxbridge Legion or

the Naval Club of Toronto.

In great appreciation for your amazing support of all our wonderful veterans!

**Joan Andrews
Goodwood**

Last week the Committee of Adjustment again slammed the door on the heritage Gould property at 62 Mill St. Uxbridge council stick handled the adjustment, called for by the developer in front of the net, and former mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor, who sits on the Committee of Adjustment, slammed it home, despite reasonable objections by Rob Miller and Doug Moffatt.

This issue of Gould heritage has been a thorn in the side of the few people who care about Uxbridge history for the past seven years. The short of it is that the previous council sided with the developer (who had bought the property for \$1.2 million) all the way to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). A small but dedicated group (the Uxbridge-Gouldville Citizens Association) spent many hours with lawyers and expert witnesses to save the Isaac Gould house, on the original farm of Uxbridge founder and benefactor Joseph Gould, but

lost the battle against the heavyweights. The developer won the right to build a road, 29 joined 1½ story units, and move the historic house out of the way. He then tried to sell the property for \$4.2 million. He hasn't been able to sell it for that price, but that will change now that the Committee of Adjustment has approved the adjustment allowing for several more expensive two-storey houses to be built.

The historic Gould house was the first to be electrified in Uxbridge, was built from bricks made on the premises, and is five brick layers thick. What are the odds of moving that house without its collapse? If that happens, the developer is not financially responsible. He can simply say "oops, sorry" and put up a plaque.

I realize council needs the money - word on the street is that they have already spent \$30+ million of our money on their mistakes on Brock St. (the culvert and hole in the ground at Victoria Dr.). I am personally sorry that we have been unable to rouse the public to take interest in Uxbridge history and heritage. The future will judge us as being short-sighted and irresponsible. Watch the Donlands project in Toronto as people begin to care.

**Saundra Reiner
Uxbridge**

I read with interest the editorial in the Jan. 21 edition of the *Cosmos*. Erin O'Toole was touted as doing the right thing for removing Derek Sloan from the Conservative party. You said it was "good to see Mr. O'Toole call out an MP for seemingly siding with

that ideology."

He did more than call out, and removal seems a bit much for 'seemingly siding'.

The facts: Mr. Sloan was tarred with the 'white supremacist' brush for having accepted a \$131 campaign donation during his bid for the leadership of the Conservative party last summer. This was a paltry donation amongst 13,000 donations, which raised over \$1.3 million, and was given under a pseudonym. Paul Fromm donated as Frederick P. Fromm. The CPC party must check each donor to ensure they have not exceeded the maximum donation, and Mr. Sloan stated that they never contacted him, so it doesn't appear that they caught the pseudonym.

Interestingly, the Conservative party happily skimmed their 10 per cent off the donation, which they haven't returned, although once this donation was brought to Mr. Sloan's attention, he requested it be returned.

In addition, Mr. Fromm also became a member of the Conservative party last summer, using that same pseudonym. He was accepted, although Mr. O'Toole, Mr. Mackay, and Ms. Lewis had scrutineers, and none of them flagged the ballot. So they must also have been unaware of the identity. So they missed it, Mr. Sloan missed it - the standards do not appear to be the same. And the timing is interesting... shortly before a CPC convention. Hm. Another way to discourage those with truly conservative values, rather than Liberal lite, from having a say?

**Carol Brandon
Uxbridge**

Brock Township mayor passes away

Brock Township's first female mayor, Debbie Bath-Hadden, passed away last weekend after a long battle with cancer.

Because Brock Township is one of the three townships that make up North Durham, alongside Scugog and Uxbridge, Mayor Dave Barton sent condolences to Bath-Hadden's family, friends, and to those with whom she worked at the beginning of Monday's council meeting, offering "deepest condolences on behalf of the staff, council and residents of the Township of Uxbridge."

In a statement, Regional Chair John Henry described Bath-Hadden as "a strong and positive force in municipal politics. She was a passionate leader who led many local community endeavours that will leave a lasting impact on the Township of Brock and Durham Region. She will be truly missed."

Bath-Hadden was elected as mayor in 2018, becoming the first female mayor in Brock Township history. She was first elected as the Ward 4 local councillor in 1997, a position she held for three consecutive terms until 2006. She then served as Regional Councillor from 2010 to 2014.

A book of condolences is available online at townshipofbrock.ca/condolences and flags at Regional Headquarters are lowered to half-mast in her memory.

**COOK,
Lorna Grace**

We are sad to announce the sudden passing of Lorna on Saturday, January 23, 2021, at Lakeview Manor in Beaverton.



Beloved Aunt of Kathy Hynes, David Hynes (Terry) and Judy Croft (Lee Ayers). Great-Aunt of Mike Croft (Sarah Beckstead) and Great-Great-Auntie of Nathan and Jorja. Also remembered by her very dear and loving friends Perry, Marjorie, Kenn and Meggie O'Connell. Lorna was predeceased by her parents, Earl and Alma Cook, her loving sisters Jean and Bernice, and her brothers Bill, Ivan and Bruce. She is finally home with her family!

Lorna was a devoted Christian with a love for the Lord since childhood. She spent her life in Toronto, employed as a secretary until her retirement back home in Uxbridge. She enjoyed travelling through the years, especially her trips to Nova Scotia to see her friend Marjorie, and her trip to Georgia to visit Kathy. For a brief time, she took care of the library at the Goodwood Church, which she loved as reading was her passion. For many years she knit and crocheted hundreds of items, which was her other passion.

Due to COVID restrictions, a private graveside service was held with arrangements entrusted to the Low and Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1M8. Memorial

donations in Lorna's name to the Goodwood Church Library (please make cheque payable to: Goodwood Baptist Church, memo to read: Library) or the Salvation Army would be appreciated by the family. For online condolences, please visit www.lowandlow.ca



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Uxbridge bird count hits new record

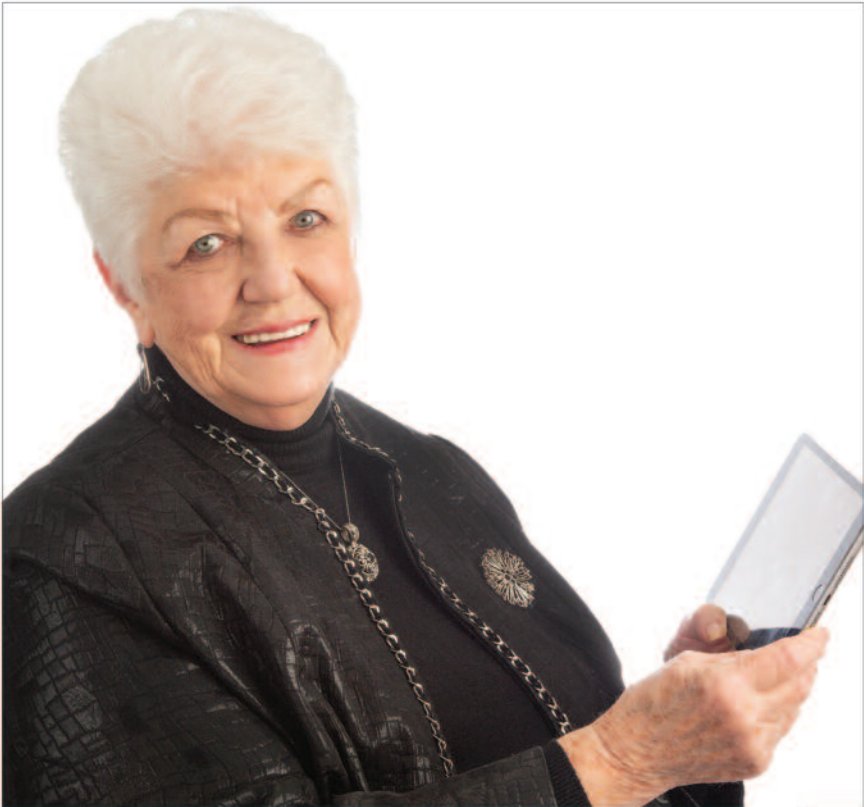
Submitted by Derek Connelly

COVID-19 seems to have positively affected the annual Uxbridge Christmas bird count, as participation by humans was up 73 per cent from last year! Snow birds (pun intended) that usually leave each Christmas, didn't fly south as they would have preferred. Instead, many filled and watched their bird feeders, for a total of 150 hours, up 150 per cent from 2019. More birders in socially-distanced teams were out on the roads and fields with new interest, as well. Add to this the milder weather, no rain or snow, and the predicted influx of northern finches - ideal conditions overall.

The Uxbridge species count soared to 61, and the individual birds counted passed 12,000 - also a new record, topping 2011's 10,140. The Common redpoll had the highest count of 2,254. A new bird for the count was the Red Crossbill, a northern finch. Other northern finches not seen last year included Pine siskins, Pine and Evening grosbeak and Hoary redpolls. The northern finches move south into our area some winters when food crops are low in the boreal forest. Sixty per cent of the bird species were more numerous than the 16-year average; however, American robins and American crows were well below their averages, and there were far fewer European starlings this year.

Thanks to John McLean, who organized our Zoom bird tally at day's end, Derek Connelly for compiling all the data, James Kamstra for editing the summary, and to all the volunteer bird counters and feeder watchers who are out there collecting all the useful data.

Full results and photos are available on the North Durham Nature website at www.northdurhamnature.com and on the National Audubon website.



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Helen enjoys reading and volunteers with the Oshawa Senior Community Centres (OSCC). She believes aging is a state of mind.

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