

# The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 17 No. 6

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, February 11, 2021



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**FEELIN' THE LOVE** - Rutledge Jewellers, located at the corner of Brock St. W. and Church St., is all ready for Valentine's Day this Sunday. Red lights, snowflakes and a large Instagram-worthy heart shape that lights up the night adorn the building and the corner, infusing a dull February evening with colour and joy.

*Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove*

## Seniors' program kicks off with lists, laughter

by Roger Varley

A group of (mostly) seniors gathered on-line Monday for the first in a series of virtual Seniors Centre Without Walls (SCWW) programs, designed to provide stimulating social interaction during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown.

Fourteen participants joined the session, either by computer on Zoom or by telephone, including non-seniors Carolyn Clementson, the Uxpool manager, and Hunter Jarvis, acting recreation manager, who both facilitated the program, and Councillor Bruce Garrod, one of the founders of Uxbridge's Age Friendly Committee.

Garrod, who explained he joined the session just to see how it ran, said he thought the pro-

gram was "really well done."

"I liked watching people laugh and have fun," he said.

Those who took part in the 45-minute session played the game Scattergories, in which participants were given a letter of the alphabet and then a list of categories in which they had to name something beginning with the given letter. Perhaps the biggest laugh of the session came with the letter "E" and the category "Things that are expensive." One player's response: "Ex-wife."

Participation was limited to about 12 in order to keep the session at a more manageable size, Garrod explained. He said there will be eight sessions in total, alternating each week between Mondays and Wednesdays. Registration for the second event began Feb. 10 for the Feb. 17 ses-

sion.

Garrod said the SCWW and last year's successful Communi-TEA program (cut short by COVID-19) shows the Age Friendly Committee is making progress in bringing new opportunities for seniors to socialize. He said a new virtual version of Communi-TEA is being planned. Clementson said the new Communi-TEA sessions will likely begin in April but had few details because the project is still in the planning process.

On the SCWW program, Clementson said the sessions are open to anyone 55 years or older and participants don't have to have a computer or high-speed internet, people can take part just by using their phones. Those interested can register by calling 905-852-7832. Spots are first-come first-served.

### Inside Your Cosmos

Family Day is for helping .....page 4

Get growing .....page 11

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## Council & Committee Meetings

### Meeting Schedule for February 2021

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

**2021 Interim Property Tax Bills**  
The **FIRST** Tax Installment is due  
on February 24, 2021.

The **SECOND** Tax Installment  
is due on April 28, 2021.

2021 Interim Property Tax Bills have been mailed for all properties, with exception of properties enrolled in the Monthly Pre-Authorized Payment Plan or tax bills paid by mortgage companies.

The taxes due are based on the billing date. If your account is currently in arrears, the February 1 interest charge on "Past Due Taxes" is not included on this bill and will need to be paid in addition to the February installment.

For non-payment of a tax installment levy on or before the respective due dates of each installment, a penalty of 1.25% shall be imposed on the first day of each calendar month and thereafter in which the default continues. Failure to receive a tax bill does not excuse the taxpayer from responsibility for payment of taxes nor liability for any penalty or interest due to late payments. The penalty/interest charges cannot be waived or reduced by the Tax Department or Council for any reason.

If you did not receive your 2021 Interim Tax Bill, please call the Tax Department at 905-852-9181 ext. 211.

# 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](mailto: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 Ferrante & Associates Investments Inc.

### PURPOSE OF PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT:

- The purpose of this application is to amend the Zoning By-law to add a Cannabis Production Facility as a permitted use to facilitate the cultivation of Cannabis within the existing industrial building.
- The subject property is designated as "Prime Agricultural Area" on Schedule 'A' – Map 'A2' of the Durham Region Official Plan and identified as "Greenbelt Plan Area" in the Township Official Plan. It is currently zoned "Rural Industrial Exception 4 (M1-4) Zone".

### LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:

The subject property, is located on the south side of Sandford Road, on the east side of Concession Rd. 5, having the municipal address of 8999 Concession Road 5, and is legally described as Part of Lot 5 Concession 5, Plan 40R-3883 Parts 1 & 2, 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 2020-05  
(ZBA 2020-05)

### APPLICANT:

Ferrante & Associates  
Investments Inc.

### MEETING DATE:

Monday, February 22,  
2021

### TIME:

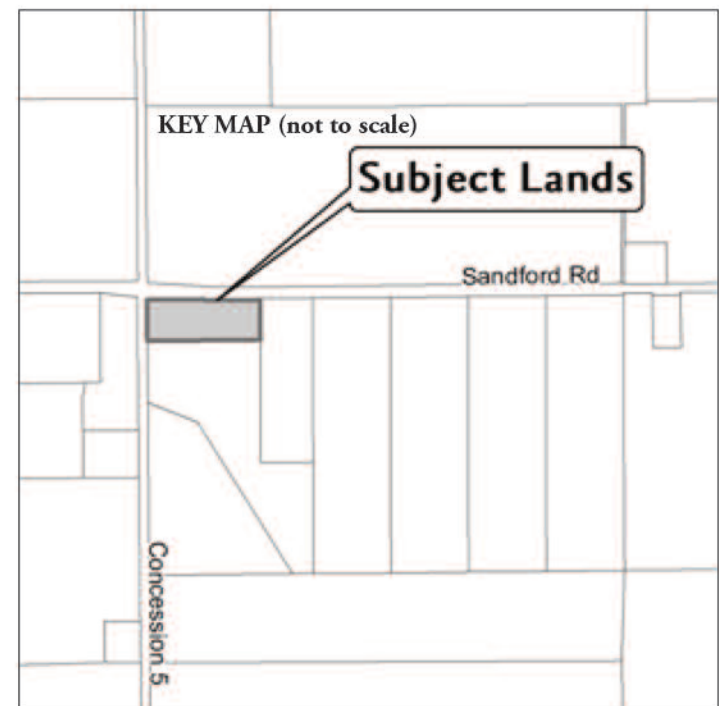
Public Meeting  
7:00 p.m.

### 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](http://uxbridge.ca/news)

Debbie Leroux, Clerk  
Township of Uxbridge  
Box 190, Uxbridge, Ontario, L9P 1T1  
905-852-9181 Ext. 228  
[dlrroux@town.uxbridge.on.ca](mailto:dlrroux@town.uxbridge.on.ca)



## Employment Opportunity Crossing Guards

The Township of Uxbridge is currently seeking a Crossing Guard in the Town of Uxbridge for a new location at Quaker Village Drive & Widdifield Court.

If you are interested in a position, please contact Jo Ann Merrick at 905-852-9181 ext 202 or email: [jmerrick@uxbridge.ca](mailto:jmerrick@uxbridge.ca)



## Sidewalk Snow Clearing

Help keep our residents safe this winter and clear the sidewalks of snow and ice. Due to recent changes in provincial regulations, the Township's Public Works Department is obligated to patrol and report sidewalks that have not been cleared of snow and ice within 48 hours after snow accumulation. If a sidewalk is deemed to be noncompliant, the By-law Department will be notified for enforcement and measures will be taken. We appreciate your co-operation with clearing your sidewalk!



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email: [accessibility@uxbridge.ca](mailto:accessibility@uxbridge.ca)  
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209



## TOWN HALL

by Roger Varley & Justyne Edgell,  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
Notes from the February 8  
Council Meeting

*No extra by-law hours for cannabis concerns:* Deputy clerk Josh Machesney's recommendation on Monday to allow extra hours for by-law officers to deal with cannabis-related concerns was dismissed by council.

In a report, Machesney noted the township has received about \$28,000 (all of it in 2019) from the province to help with any extra costs the township may have incurred with the the legalization of recreational cannabis. He said any money received under the program must be

spent on cannabis-related matters and cannot be spent otherwise. He said that, so far, only \$203.17 of that money has been spent. He added there is no time limit on when the money must be spent.

He recommended that the \$28,000 be used to help pay for extra hours for the by-law staff, allowing them "specifically to undertake proactive enforcement of municipal parks and Township property." His report stated that such a move "would also assist in the deterrence of other mischievous activities, behaviors, and/or by-law violations often associated with cannabis use."

Machesney was unable to provide any examples of such activities. In response to a question from the *Cosmos*, Machesney said the "intended broad wording" of his report was meant to be pro-active.

"It wouldn't just be cannabis en-

forcement," he said.

Councillor Todd Snooks suggested that the money be used instead for education purposes, but Machesney said staff did not feel a need for such a program. Clerk Debbie Leroux opined that education would fall under the jurisdiction of the regional health department. Snooks said he was hesitant to spend the money on additional by-law hours if there have been no complaints.

After Mayor Dave Barton suggested that council think about it some more, Councillor Bruce Garrod moved that the report merely be received and that staff come back with a new report in six months. The motion carried.

*Budget approved:* With no fanfare and no more discussion, council approved the 2021 budget. In fact, the budget was not even listed on council's agenda. Instead, by unanimously

adopting the minutes of the Feb. 1 meeting, in which the finance committee gave its final approval, council gave de facto approval.

*Community garden coming?:* Following a presentation by resident Jennifer Christie, council agreed unanimously to support an initiative to open a community garden in town.

Christie said such a garden would "just take a bit of hard work, and will be something nice for our community," providing many benefits to residents, especially those who do not have their own gardens. The benefits would include increased food security for low-income families, mental and physical health, an activity for all ages and even donations of freshly grown food to the food bank. There would also be the possibility of renting raised beds out.

Christie added that such a garden

could complement and be part of the downtown revitalization project. She told council that council would need to provide the land and a water source.

Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey, who admitted to being an avid gardener, said there would be "a lot to be sorted out" but added there is lots of advice available from neighbouring communities.

"We could do this at little or no cost through volunteers," she said. "If council approves, we could provide the land."

No specific site was discussed for the garden.

Council unanimously supported the idea of the project. Barton said staff would work out the details.

"I hope it can be ready for the Spring growing season," he said.

## Culvert work starts again next week

by Roger Varley

Work on the Brock Street culvert is scheduled to resume on Monday after a delay of several weeks caused by problems with settlement of the Royal LePage building on the west side of the excavation.

Councillor Willie Popp said Tuesday some additional shoring has been placed on that building, which has been vacated, and the construction company will continue to monitor the situation.

He said the large crane will be back in action on Monday as crews continue placing culvert sections on the south side of Brock and remove the old culvert under Cen-

tenial Drive. He said construction on the north side is, to all intents and purposes, complete. He said that once the south end construction is finished, cleanup operations north and south will take place around the same time. Popp said the township is disappointed the project has taken so long, but added he expects it to be completed sometime in June.

When asked about the status of Coffee Time and owner Song Ning, Popp said he could not comment. Coffee Time was closed over a year ago when the culvert construction resulted in the floor of the coffee shop heaving.

"We have a process we have to ad-

here to," he said, noting that there have not yet been any talks regarding the reopening of the coffee shop, even though the township owns the building in which Coffee Time is located.

### SMILES FROM ISOLATION

Ontario has banned groups larger than five. If you belong to a family of six, you're about to find out who's the least favourite.

Day 351 of social isolation and it looks like Vegas in my house: We're losing money by the minute, cocktails are acceptable at any hour, and nobody knows what time it is!

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## Coldest night is coming soon

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

February 20 is the Coldest Night of the Year. This walk with a cause aims to help those experiencing "homelessness, hurt, and hunger."

Coldest Night of the Year has raised over \$33,500,000 in the past 11 years it has been running, and while this year may look a little different, their goal of raising money to help our vulnerable population, remains the same.

Uxbridge's North House charity, has been actively participating in the Coldest Night of the Year for many years, and is gearing up once again for this year's walk. Community members are encouraged to sign up for a 2 or 5 km walk, on a safe route of their own choice. Those who participate will experience a small taste of what those who face homelessness encounter on a daily basis.

Mona Emond, association executive and marketing specialist at North

House, says "that's what makes this virtual event so great. Participants from all across the north Durham townships of Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock can join in the fun and walk in their own communities."

Those who wish to register can sign up online, where they can set up their fundraising page. Any donors will be issued a receipt within minutes of any online gift over \$20.

While it is encouraged that participants walk on the national event day, Feb. 20, fundraisers can select any day in February for their walk.

Emond says that, as of Tuesday, North House had raised 80 per cent of its \$25,000 goal.

"We also have a North House team that people can donate to, should they not want to walk and just donate to the cause."

To donate to the Uxbridge North House team and for more information on the Coldest Night of the Year visit [cnoy.org/Uxbridge](http://cnoy.org/Uxbridge)

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# Our two cents

## Put a little love...

Every year, in the edition before Valentine's Day, we here at the *Cosmos* do the same thing. We try to be optimistic, to foster a feel-good atmosphere and talk up all things love and lovely, even when things may not look or feel so great. This year, as you may well guess, is presenting a challenge. We don't need to give a list of all the wonderful things we *don't* have at the moment, or *aren't* able to do, etc., etc. We *do* get to look forward to a long weekend, but really, to do what? We're grateful that the local ski hills get to open up next week (we're sure they're grateful, too!), and that more shops get to open back up (in limited capacity, but still...). We're even grateful that work on the culvert is starting again - makes it that much closer to being finished (we told you we were optimistic).

Despite this, it's becoming very easy to slip into cynicism. Read Roger Varley's "Am I Wrong?" this week to see what we mean. Yikes.

We went to great efforts to try and reproduce in its entirety a song that practically everyone out there knows, whether from the 1969 original by Jackie de Shannon, or from the 1988 Annie Lennox/Al Green version. We wanted to publish the full lyrics here because we think they're quite meaningful right now. Not just for Valentine's Day, but for every day, all the dark days that we are feeling and living through. But, copyright laws being what they are, we think we should only print a few of the lyrics here - just enough to get you in the groove of the song, and if you're lucky, plant an earworm.

*Think of your fellow man, Lend him a helping hand*

*Put a little love in your heart*

*You see it's getting late, Oh, please don't hesitate*

*Put a little love in your heart*

*And the world will be a better place*

*For you and me, You just wait and see*

*Another day goes by, and still the children cry*

*Put a little love in your heart*

*If you want the world to know, We won't let hatred grow*

*Put a little love in your heart*

Carry this around with you for the next few days. Hum it to yourself. If you need to, look up the rest of the words. Put a little love in your heart, and if you're able, a little spring in your step. We can do this.

Happy Valentine's Day, Uxbridge.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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## Letters to the Editor

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

Any plan to "empty the wallets" of trail visitors to Uxbridge by charging them to park hardly supports the "we're-all-in-this-together" spirit of the times.

We should be welcoming people who come to get some restorative fresh air and exercise, not discouraging them with pay-and-display machines. When the pandemic is done, they might remember our hospitality, and return, certainly to hike again, but perhaps also to shop, possibly to ride the York-Durham Heritage Railroad with their children, and maybe to have a restaurant meal.

A money-grubbing parking charge for the trails is mean-spirited, lacks foresight, and smacks of big city gouging.

**John Tomlinson**  
Uxbridge

**Re: Letters to the Editor, Feb. 4 edition**

While local politics can get very personal, this reader feels obliged to respond to the handwashing comments of former mayor [Gerri Lynn] O'Connor in last week's *Cosmos* regarding the Gould estate.

Here's the reality check. Doug Mofat and Saundra Reiner attempted to buy the property, demonstrating they tried harder to save it than the township did. The successful buyer followed all the redevelopment protocols - but the former mayor neglects to say that the developer's application was supported at every stage by council.

Though everyone knows this was - and continues to be - just a rezoning play to lucratively flip the property, council chose to prioritize one person's real estate transaction over community heritage. The opponents went to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal and lost - a natural outcome given council's support of the application. Now we see the former mayor, the same person who led closed door meetings with the developer as an elected official, officiating, as a political appointee, on additional density for the same project. While legal, it hardly needs stating that this is exactly the reason these tribunals are regarded with such cynicism.

While the former mayor may want people to "move on," she should realize poor decisions have repercussions that do not go away, and that

she needs to own decisions that she herself made.

It is unfortunate for Uxbridge that heritage has had to rely so much on volunteers in the vacuum of elected leadership.

**David Le Roy**  
Uxbridge

I always knew how lucky I was to live in Uxbridge. This week it was proven to me again!

Suffering terribly from a leg injury, I was totally incapacitated when the doctor sent a prescription on my behalf to Uxbridge Pharmasave. I requested that they try to deliver it while the manager was available since I could not get to the main door. Immediately the pharmacist from Pharmasave offered to deliver it right to my door so I would have it as soon as possible.

This is the kindness of Uxbridge, where people reach out quickly and readily to help when they can. This is why we are so lucky to live here.

Canada is a wonderful country and Uxbridge is certainly Canada at its very best!

Thank you, Pharmasave!

**E. Tokody**  
Uxbridge

## Celebrate Family Day helping another family far away

**Submitted by Jane Kiyonaga, special to the Cosmos**

A distanced Family Day? As much of a contradiction as that seems to be, it's here. And somehow, we have to endure it, along distance learning, distanced socializing and distanced working. Instead of sledding and skating parties with the kids, cousins, aunts, uncles and friends, most of us will be staying home .... Zooming, Facetime and isolating. Instead of

skiing at Lakeridge, Dagmar, Collingwood or even Quebec this long weekend, we'll be heading to the trails of Uxbridge for snowshoeing, hiking, fat-biking and x-country skiing. We're privileged to live in Uxbridge and most of us know it.

The pandemic has been one of the great equalizers, at least when it comes to freedom of arranging time with our families. Many Canadians, and indeed some Uxbridge residents, have never actually had that same

privilege. Think of retired couples with no pensions, or the Filipino nannies who regularly send paycheques to their families across the globe. Or the small business owner who works 24/7 to send her children to university and seldom takes a day off. Post-pandemic, these folks stand little chance of spending extra time with members of their far-flung families, while some of us will still have

...continued on page 6





## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### An abrupt halt to a conversation

I sat in the *Cosmos* office last Friday, talking with my editor, Lisha. She and Sue, her right-hand gal there at the office, are the only two people in my bubble and it has been that way for months.

Lisha and I talked about a variety of subjects: COVID-19 and the shutdown, the people who defiantly break government protocols surrounding the coronavirus, the Brock Street culvert, the Gong Show south of the border and so on. After a while, I asked: "Is there anything happy we can talk about?"

Lisha sat and looked at me, rather perplexed, and for the longest time neither of us said another word. That was a sobering moment. Neither of us could think of anything happy to talk about.

Is this where we have ended up? Has this year-long (and counting) shutdown of society brought us to the point where we can't even think of anything happy? As a devourer of news, I am hard-pressed to think of any happy stories I have read in months. Everything seems to be doom and gloom.

Maybe it's because it is February, the dreariest month of the year, and a sustained cold snap has settled in. That could be part of it, but I believe we, as a society, have just about reached our breaking point.

In England during the Second World War, despite the ravages and tribulations, there was always an underlying humour. It might have been dark humour, but at least people as a whole didn't sink into the depths of despair. I see no humour in the current situation. Not only that, but with the wearing of face masks it's hard to tell whether someone is smiling.

We miss the contact with our friends and family; we miss the once-normal day-to-day interactions with neighbours and fellow residents; we miss the coffee shop chats; we miss the handshakes and hugs. We are basically a social species and being bereft of all the things that are part of being social is anathema to us. What chance does happiness have?

We had a glimmer of hope at the end of last year when the production of COVID-19 vaccines was announced, but that quickly dimmed when we realized that there were glitches and hold-ups and the roll-out of

vaccinations proceeded at a snail's pace. We are continually told things are getting better, but the number of Canadians vaccinated so far is dismally low.

There's an old saying that misery loves company, but those of us who have been miserable living (existing?) through this pandemic don't even have the small satisfaction of seeing the flagrant rules-breakers join us in our misery. Instead of being sent to jail or being slapped with massive fines, most of the more egregious offenders merely get what amounts to a slap on the wrist.

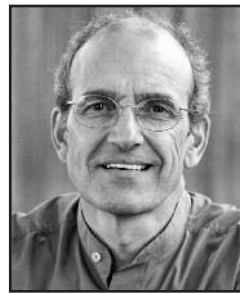
For the past year, a whole bunch of events which are generally designed to make us happy turned into stories that were not happy: Huck Finn Day cancelled; Canada Day cancelled; Fall Fair cancelled; Christmas concerts cancelled; and so on. The result is we're all turning into Wednesday's child.

Of course, there have been those among us who have tried hard to bring a little joy into our lives. The residents of Campbell Drive who treated us with their inflatable Santa Clauses, the Optimists' Fantasy of Lights and the drive-by parade to honour local veterans in Elgin Park are a few examples. While much appreciated, however, they really were fleeting moments of happiness, following which we were dumped back into the gloom.

When (if) this is all behind us, I hope our local leaders will recognize what we have all been through and stop making it difficult for residents to enjoy their lives. For example, let's lift some of the overly restrictive rules imposed on backyard family fires. Let's start removing a lot of the signs that control us everywhere we go. When we enter a trail or a park, about the first thing we see is a sign telling us Don't do this and Do that. Surely we are not children who have to be reminded every day. Let's not worry about people taking their time to stroll aimlessly about town or singing on the street at night. Right now, I'd give a month's pension to hear someone singing outside my window.

It seems to me there are times when we must have some governmental controls on our behaviour, such as during this pandemic, but for the most part government should back off and let us live our lives - happily.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Music filling the distance

Until about a year ago, it sat there, unused. It was just a piece of furniture filling a corner of my office, covered in dust and unopened. Its knobs, glass dials and chrome corners pretty much untouched for years. Then, shortly after Trudeau and Ford locked things down, the result of the pandemic, I unlocked its lid, turned the dial to "phono," and got reacquainted with an old friend - my record player.

I should say *friends*. In the opposite - and equally dusty - corner of my office, I pulled out some of my favourite vinyl. And I got lost in the leisure of pulling discs from their cardboard jackets and paper sleeves, sliding them onto my turntable, dropping the stylus in the groove and turning up the volume.

Masking, isolating, cutting off the world with social distancing, being alone (or nearly) requires something to fill the void, right? For some, it's food, and too much of that can really be a bad thing. For others, and I do it every day, it's long walks. But a full stomach or oxygenated lungs only brings a certain degree of satisfaction or distracted fulfillment. So, I've turned to the turntable and all its sonic pleasures, because every piece of music I enjoy brings a person, a story, or a feeling to mind. Playing anything by Sting brings back memories of a magical summer evening concert by Lake Ontario. I could listen to Laura Nyro's *Stoned Soul Picnic* until the record wore through. And jazz pianist Dave Frishberg's *Blizzard of Lies* makes me fall over laughing with its irony and brilliance.

Back in the 1950s, when my family owned a small cottage on the west shore of Lake Simcoe, recorded music had a special place. After swimming, fishing, golfing on hot summer days, in the cool of the evenings, my sister, grandparents, Mom, Dad and I slowed into individual activities around the tiny bungalow. Grandmother sewed, my grandfather read his Greek newspapers, I worked on my stamp collection and Dad chose music for the record player. That's how I discovered Jean Sibelius, Aram Khachaturian and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. On Dad's disc of the *1812 Overture*, cannons actually fired on cue and massive church bells chimed out the Russian victory over Napoleon. But I also learned what 5/4 time meant when Dad played Paul Desmond's *Take Five* by the Dave Brubeck Quartet.

For something completely different, I've rediscovered Frank Zappa during the pandemic. I have a well-worn edition of his *Hot Rats* album, a mostly instrumental album he

recorded in 1969 after the breakup of his famous Mothers of Invention band. So, I listen to such titles as *Willie The Pimp*, *It Must Be A Camel* and *Peaches En Regalia* (which earned him a Grammy). Why he dedicated the album to his newborn son Dweezil, I'll never know. But what I always remember when I play the vinyl is the night I met and interviewed the inventive jazzman and political activist.

It was a stormy autumn night in 1970. With the aid of a media pass, I'd managed to talk my way into Zappa's concert at what was then known as "The Rock Pile" (a.k.a. the Masonic temple at Yonge and Davenport in Toronto). Between sets I climbed stairs to the tiny, third-floor green room. I arrived at the back of a gaggle of reporters. Frank sat sweating profusely from his first set, in a wingback chair, smoking a cigar in a terry-cloth robe. The brash, satirical, anti-establishment band leader was clearly bored with the questions us silly reporters had to offer.

"How do you like Toronto, Frank," one asked. "Fine," and he took a long drag on his cigar. "Where d'you go next?"

"Detroit." Zappa couldn't wait for this press conference to end. But having studied Frank's strong anti-fascist politics and outspokenness, I took the opportunity to try to get something memorable from him.

"Frank?" I piped up with all the courage I could muster. "Why do you think Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were railroaded to the electric chair?" (In 1921, the two anarchists were tried by judge, convicted and executed for murder, that the two Italian immigrants claimed their anarchist politics had provoked). He put his cigar down, looked up at me, stroked his goatee and said, "Well, let me tell you, young man..." and I got the interview of a lifetime.

All that from just listening to *Hot Rats*.

But that barely scratches the surface of my vinyl collection and the memories associated with some of those discs. So, provided the turntable in the corner of my office continues to spin and my record-player needle doesn't wear out, the music and the memories, I hope, should fill the distancing between here and that elusive anti-COVID vaccine.

**For more Barris Beat columns, go to [www.tedbarris.com](http://www.tedbarris.com)**



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*Family Day, from page 4*

the financial means and the opportunity to embrace post-isolation travel, in whatever new form it takes.

I'm particularly thinking of friends of mine who are originally from Syria and are now working, volunteering, attending school and making their lives here in Uxbridge. They arrived as a refugee family four years ago and have been embraced by our amazing Uxbridge community. They have no other family here. Like other Syrian newcomers to Uxbridge, they are contributing to the fabric of our community and are already studying to take the Canadian citizenship test.

In spite of the heart-breaking separation from their extended family, they embrace gratitude every single day. They experience privilege as just the freedom of living in Canada. They miss their families. But they understand the implications of risk and loss and they recognize that safety comes with a price. For them, the price of safety, freedom and opportunity is loss.

The brother of our Uxbridge Syrian friend is currently living with his family of 10 in dire circumstances as refugees in Lebanon. Over a year ago, the North Durham Refugee Reunification sponsorship group was formed to bring this refugee family to Uxbridge. The website for NDRR North Durham Refugee Reunification is [sites.google.com/view/ndrr](https://sites.google.com/view/ndrr) There's also an Uxbridge Kids Care branch of this sponsorship. Local Uxbridge businesses, politicians, media and community organizations are coming on board with NDRR to back this refugee reunification initiative.

At a time when many of us have lost the opportunity to choose how and where to connect with our families, we can look for opportunities like this one to share our privilege.



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# Skating, but no hockey, on Elgin Pond

by Roger Varley

Elgin Pond is once again open for skating, but that does not include hockey games.

The pond was opened on the weekend to allow residents to skate around an oval track. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, skaters are being asked to skate in one direction only and to limit the size of groups to five family members. No space has been cleared for hockey because that would go

against distancing protocols.

The oval was cleared by Uxbridge firefighter Colin Clark, and the Bonner Boys then smoothed out the ice surface. Recreation director Amanda Ferraro said skating on the pond is allowed from dawn to dusk.

As far as other ponds in the township are concerned, especially retention ponds, Ferraro said they have all had signs for years stating they are unsafe, "but no one notices them." She said the township recently also

erected No Trespassing signs at the pond "but it didn't go over well" and they were taken down.

She pointed out, however, that the ice on retention ponds is never considered safe because water levels in those ponds fluctuates. She added that as construction continues on the Brock Street culvert, the water level in Elgin Pond will be affected sometime in March, at which time that ice will also be off limits.

She said Elgin Pond was opened for skating after Mayor Dave Barton asked provincial authorities for some leeway on outdoor skating.



Family groups of no more than five are welcome to use the newly cleared oval skating track on Elgin Pond. Hockey games are not permitted at this time.  
Photo by John Cavers

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Neutral colours appeal to more people. Keep a cohesive look that flows room to room. Make sure your home is spotless, if needed touch up any scratches and baseboards. Fresh flowers and plants are inviting and bring life and warmth to your home.

Good luck getting your home ready to sell, remember I'm always here to help!

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# From the MP's desk

column by Jennifer O'Connell, MP

## News for 2021

Over the past year, Uxbridge has done a fantastic job following public health guidelines and preventing the spread of COVID-19. As a community, we can be proud of these efforts to protect each other and the most vulnerable.

Of course, vaccines are the key to ensuring our lives get back to normal as soon as possible. I understand that the tremendous amount of daily news coverage and updates on the COVID-19 pandemic and Canada's vaccine strategy can be difficult to follow at times. I want to reiterate what the prime minister has continuously stated: we remain confident that every Canadian who wants a vaccine will be able to get one by September of this year.

As of Monday, the federal government has delivered 1,253,140 vaccine doses to the provinces, including 437,975 to Ontario, and are still on track to deliver 20 million more doses of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines in the spring. In addition to the extensive portfolio of vaccines that we procured to keep Canadians safe, we've also secured a deal with Novavax to produce tens of millions of vaccine doses right here in Canada, which will give us the capacity to fight COVID-19 with Made-in-Canada solutions.

Our government has secured up to 38 million doses of Johnson & John-

son, 40 million doses of the Moderna vaccine, 20 million of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, up to 76 million each of Pfizer BioNTech, Novavax, and Medicago and up to 72 million of Sanofi and Glaxo-SmithKline. These vaccines still require Health Canada approval, but such a diverse and expansive vaccine portfolio will ensure every Canadian who wants a vaccine can receive one. In the meantime, it's important to get the facts out on the efficacy and safety of the vaccines. For more information on the vaccines, please visit [Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus) and visit the Vaccine Safety page. It is also important to note that, while the federal government is procuring and covering the costs for the vaccines and supplies, it will be up to each province and territory to determine vaccine priority groups, as well as the distribution plan. I know the Ontario government is working with each health unit on the roll out to the general population, and I will continue to share the Durham specific plans as the vaccine ramp-up moves ahead.

Of the many public policy issues this pandemic has highlighted, the need for access to high speed internet has rightfully received greater attention from all levels of government. Since I began providing these updates as your Member of Parliament,

I've spoken about our government's work on universal and affordable high-speed internet. Through the Universal Broadband Fund and other programs, we're committing billions to ensure 98 per cent of Canadians have access to high speed internet by 2026.

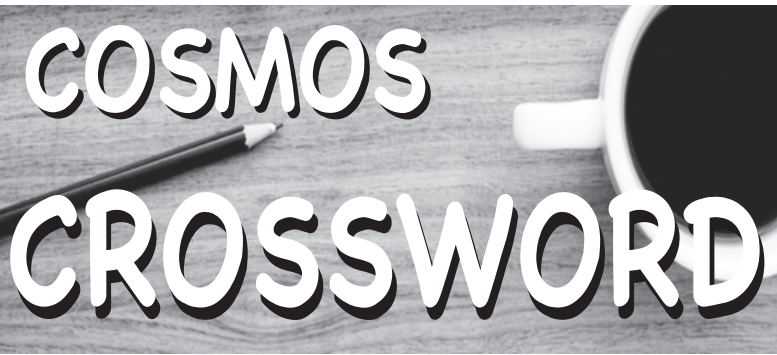
That work is directly benefitting our community. I am thrilled that Durham Region's Pickering-Uxbridge Broadband Fibre Trunk Project, which will service the rural areas between urban Pickering and the Uxbridge urban area, is receiving \$2.8 million in federal funding under the enhanced COVID-19 resilience stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure. The route for this fibre-optic cable infrastructure project will following an approximately 35 kilometre route, beginning north along Brock Road through Brougham, and Claremont, into Coppins Corners as well as Goodwood, and then into the Uxbridge municipal area along Highway 47. Construction is planned to begin in July of this year, with a target commercial operation date in December.

As we continue our fight against COVID-19, our government will continue to protect Canadians and enhance support programs for small businesses. For a detailed breakdown of all our measures and programs, please visit [Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://Canada.ca/coronavirus).

As always, my community office is available to assist you in your dealings with federal departments. Please don't hesitate to call us at 905-839-2878 or toll free at 1-855-275-2860. You can also email us at [Jennifer.OConnell@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.OConnell@parl.gc.ca)

the way they are accountable to a sense of social and environmental responsibility by the manager. Each investment is managed to gain returns based on established objectives, styles and philosophies. Asset managers will consider risk or security of capital, company historical performance, a company's share of their market sector and if they are positioned well for future opportunity and consumer demand. Once an investment has passed this scrutiny, some money managers will then subject their options to additional filters in consideration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. For example, companies that have a record of not paying fair prices for farmers' produce in third world countries or who may produce weapons or who are not developing processes to reduce pollution, will not score high in the managers' decisions to invest. Now with financial significance as shareholders in companies these portfolio managers will also use the opportunity to influence company management, vote at shareholder

...continued on page 11



1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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- Across**  
1. Moose  
4. Meat on a stick  
9. Wrong \_\_ of the stick  
12. Barbie's beau  
13. Make amends (for)  
14. Paltry amount  
15. Adam's partner  
16. Roman shields  
17. Low card  
18. Right on!  
20. Puppy-love  
22. Say cheese!  
24. Driver's location  
26. Online sales channel  
29. Statistic  
31. Affairs  
32. Caricature  
33. Biblical mountain  
34. Pigeon coop  
35. You're it game  
36. Woman who tells fortunes  
37. Bird homes  
39. Wildcat  
42. Show \_\_  
44. Nigerian  
46. Vein contents  
48. Victorian \_\_  
49. State in India  
50. Musical aptitude  
51. Roadside sign  
52. Young seal  
53. Caustic substance
- Down**  
1. Barely manage, with "out"  
2. Impose  
3. Leg joint  
4. Native a of a region on the India-Pakistan border  
5. Plus the others  
6. Fabric of uneven yarn  
7. Cavern, in poetry  
8. Merci \_\_coup  
9. Attractive  
10. This instant  
11. Twosome  
19. Allay  
21. Majestic  
23. \_\_ in his kiss  
25. Madrid and Paris cash  
26. Occupied a certain position  
27. Give out  
28. Windfalls  
29. Miner's light (2 words)  
30. NY baseballer  
32. Show grief  
34. Neglect  
36. Secret supply  
38. Irish playwright  
40. Yuletide  
41. Bone picture  
42. Plead for  
43. Portfolio part, in brief  
45. Baseball's Maglie  
47. It comes before long

## Perspective

with Brian Evans

Regardless of what you believe...that the world began after an explosion in the universe or that a Designer and loving Sustainer created our home in the vast universe...it can at least be agreed that there was a beginning to the earth we live in. As a second fact, and as far as we know, there have been no further deliveries of care packages with additional resources supplied to Earth since that beginning. In other words, all the resources used to build the nations, cities, economies, medical treatments and product consumers demand as we have them today were developed from the resources discovered on the earth from the very beginning.

Governments become elected on platforms of renewable energy, reducing pollution and environmental responsibility in elections today. Human beings are aware that the design and building of all that we have in this world, from its available raw materials, have actually started to destroy the earth's eco system and potentially damage a healthy world for future generations. The purpose here is to find perspective rather than

wade into the multi-sided controversy of the social, moral or environmental issues that stimulate very deep discussions.

In respect to these conversations, have you heard the word 'stewardship' used? A steward is someone who manages property owned by someone else. When you think of it, that is what we all do in this world. We came in to the world with nothing and will leave with nothing. All we really have is the opportunity to seek out truth, be responsible and make decisions that have a lasting effect on ourselves and others. While we sojourn here, we may make an impact and leave a legacy in some form, but all the things we call ours while we are here are not really owned. It might beg the question: who does own it all then?

As we come to the time of year when we consider making additional contributions to our financial and retirement plans, should the understanding of stewardship influence our decisions, at least in part?

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## Watching Things Grow with Barbara Pratt

Even in this cold, snowy month things can be happening in the garden and in the woods that give us the pleasure of watching things grow. Indoors and out, plants know that it's soon time to get growing. Buds on some outdoor shrubs and trees are reacting to the longer days. Willow trees and shrubs are getting noticeably springlike; now could be the time to bring some branches indoors and put them in water in a sunny spot to watch the catkins and leaves emerge.

I'm watching the buds on my little witch hazel (*Hamamelis*) getting bigger by the day. Soon, in late February or early March, this amazing little tree will be in full bloom, with fragrant orange blossoms that look exotic and Oriental.

I'm also eyeing my Redbud (*Cercis*), thinking if I cut some branches in a few weeks I can have purple flowers in my living room in March. And then I think of flowering crabapple, dogwood, and of course forsythia.

If the indoor plants on your windowsill have survived the short, dark days of December and January, you might notice they are beginning to rouse themselves. The days are getting longer, and the sun coming through the window has more strength, so look for new growth tips and generally a more hopeful appearance. Now is the time to start adding fertilizer as you water, using a liquid

fertilizer (following the directions on the container carefully). An application this month, and more later in a couple of weeks and into March will help them on their way to good growth and bloom.

You might have some geraniums growing in a sunny window. It's a good time to take some slips to start new plants that you can set out in the garden later. Take a small branch with a growing tip. Strip most of the leaves, leaving just a couple of small ones near the tip. Dip it in a rooting hormone, or even better, dip it in honey. Push it into soil in a pot, a plastic yogurt container or any plastic pot. Water lightly — we don't want it wet. Cover with a plastic bag and put it in a bright but not sunny place. When you see the tip growing, you will know it has rooted. Take off the plastic bag and let the plant grow on until it's time to put it outside for the summer.

If you have overwintered whole

geranium plants by keeping them in a dry and dark place, start checking them for growth buds.

Clivias have been staying in the basement for the past months without water, or at least very little. Now new leaves are starting to come as the plant breaks dormancy. This is the time to start watering and fertilizing, and with luck buds and blooms will come soon.

Even though it's still winter and will be for weeks yet, we can still watch and care for our plants.

And the seed catalogues have arrived!

*Heather Hunter and Barb Pratt are avid back yard gardeners. They are not experts, or professionals, or Master Gardeners, but they know people who are. In this regular gardening column they will be bringing help and advice from local gardening professionals and experts, as well as sharing some of their own experiences.*



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## Perspective on stewardship, from page 9

meetings and file shareholder proposals.

Companies are required to follow government set social and environmental protocols. Yet investing some dollars in money products that invest in businesses who are really trying to make a difference in our world and in the lives of others could have a lasting impact. It is interesting that one of the first questions an in-

vestor may pose when considering RI (Responsible Investing), is, "Yes, but how does the rate of return for RI compare to other investments?" Generally, RI funds will not take a back seat on return, but in response, you might want to think about the answer to, "Is return more important than responsibility?" An interesting contemplation...

Ask your advisor to tell you about some of the options for Responsible Investing. After all, we really are stewards!

## Elizabeth LYNNE (Johnson) Gaetz

June 4, 1938 -  
February 5, 2021



As a young woman, Lynne left her home in Dryden, Ontario, and began her post-secondary education at Queen's University. Lynne was an individualist and maverick in her era, as few women attended university, and even fewer graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce (1960). She later returned to complete an M.B.A. (University of Toronto, 1977). Lynne was a highly intelligent and motivated entrepreneur. After launching her career at IBM, she successfully created a business, Accent Toronto, which catered to organizing large group meetings.

Lynne was a talented pianist and an accomplished crafts person: sewing, knitting and quilting were her interests. She also loved her pets, cats and dogs.

When Lynne and Jerry took over the Gaetz family property west of Uxbridge in 1998, they both got involved in many activities in the town. Lynne was involved in the Celebration of the Arts, the Classic Book Club, Monday Morning Singers, Messiah Choir, "the Gang" and the "Magnificents". Lynne adored her many friends and family in Uxbridge, and hosted, alongside her husband Jerry, many special parties and get-togethers filled with laughter and delicious food. Lynne was a beautiful cook.

She succumbed to Alzheimer's disease at age 82. Predeceased by her husband, Jerry Gaetz, in April 2020, and survived by her younger sister, Christy Johnson, and her children, Fraser (wife Shannon, children: Lily and Nick), Andrew, and Christy (husband Scott Bishop, children: Katie, Ben and Emily). Lynne has a wonderful legacy and has left behind a family who loved her and will miss her eternally.

The family extends thanks to the wonderful caregivers at the Rekai Centre, Wellesley Central Place. Donations to Uxbridge Loaves & Fishes would be appreciated. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, P.O. Box 388, Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1M8. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Online condolences can be made at [www.lowandlow.ca](http://www.lowandlow.ca)



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