

# The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 17 No. 7

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, February 18, 2021



**FINALLY HITTING THE SLOPES** - Kyle Kinsella was likely ski-jumping for joy at Dagmar Ski Resort in Uxbridge on Tuesday afternoon. Hundreds of downhill sports enthusiasts headed for their favourite ski and snowboarding spots when the hills opened up on Tuesday after a lengthy COVID-19-induced shut down. *Photo by John Cavers*

## Local racist act inspires songwriter to 'join the conversation'

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Racially offensive graffiti has spurred local singer/songwriter Tania Joy to release a powerful new song in time to mark Black History Month.

Joy says she was inspired to write "Planks and Marietta" after learning of the racist graffiti that was written on the road and sidewalk of Franklin St. in Uxbridge last August.

"All the events from last year hit me quite hard," says Joy. Emotionally touched by the death of George Floyd, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the racist vandalism here in Uxbridge, Joy says she decided it was time to join the conversation and find a way to express herself. Releasing the song this past Tuesday, during Black History Month, "just feels like it's all coming out when it should."

"I feel grateful that I was able to articulate my experience and connect the two events," said Joy. "The incident we had here was nowhere near as monumental as in some other coun-

tries, but these are the small things that happen all over, everyday, no matter how picturesque on the outside, it can happen anywhere, in any town."

Joy said it took her awhile to figure out what exactly she wanted to say. Back in August she simply wrote down "Planks and Marietta" and knew that if she "could ever put the words together" she wanted to write a song about it.



The lyrics in Tania Joy's latest song, "Planks and Marietta" beg to know "is change gonna come?" Joy released the song on Tuesday to coincide with Black History Month.

*Photo by Peter Bradley*

"I love this town, and I don't want to call anyone out specifically, but I needed to find my voice. Somehow I was able to bring it all together in "Planks and Marietta," says Joy.

On top of the emotional overwhelm, Joy says that, due to the COVID pandemic, this song had to be produced entirely in her house, working virtually with her producer. Joy was able to premier the song at this year's virtual Hillside Inside music festival earlier this month.

"It's my protest song about all of the little stories that get swept under the rug until they can no longer be ignored."

Joy also has another song, "The Drought," being released on Feb. 25, along with a pre-release giveaway of goodies from local stores and vendors.

"Planks and Marietta" is available exclusively online at Bandcamp.com. The video can be seen at <https://youtu.be/ZvOFymCFuQE>. All proceeds from the song will be donated to Black Lives Matter.

Connect with Tania Joy online at @misstaniajoy and at [taniajoy.com](http://taniajoy.com)

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## Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for February 2021

Monday, February 22

10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL 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.

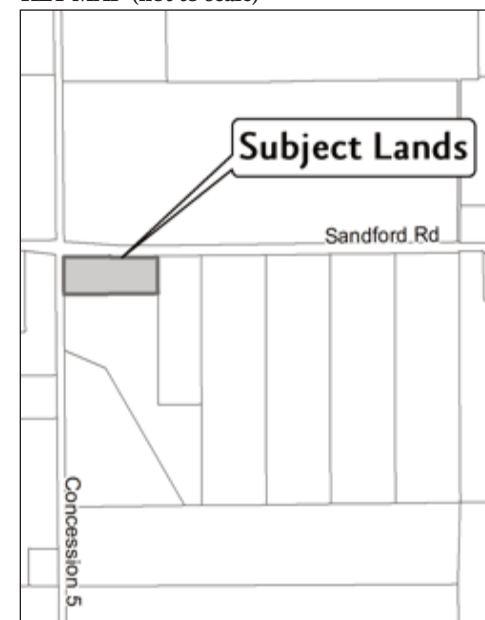
### REPRESENTATION

**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  
[dlaroux@town.uxbridge.on.ca](mailto:dlaroux@town.uxbridge.on.ca)

### KEY MAP (not to scale)



## Uxbridge Business Improvement Area (BIA) Board Recruitment

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge invites applications from members of the public who are qualified members of the Township of Uxbridge Business Improvement Area (BIA) who wish to have their names considered for an appointment as a Director to the BIA Board for the remaining term of Council of 2018-2022. There are currently two (2) vacant Director positions on the Board. The Purpose of this Board is to share ideas on how to improve the BIA District, help shape our business community and make a difference to the vitality of our community. The BIA's mandate is to promote 'shop, savour, unwind,

explore Uxbridge!' Interested candidates who wish to help plan, evaluate and vote on projects to support our BIA member businesses are encouraged to JOIN OUR BIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Any person interested in offering their services, and would accept an appointment as a Director is invited to submit a Committee Member Application Form available on the Township's Website [www.uxbridge.ca](http://www.uxbridge.ca) along with a letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience to the undersigned by Friday, March 5, 2021.

Any questions regarding this Board may be directed to the undersigned.

Debbie Leroux  
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
P.O. Box 190  
51 Toronto Street South  
Uxbridge, ON  
L9P 1T1  
[dlaroux@uxbridge.ca](mailto:dlaroux@uxbridge.ca)  
Telephone: 905 852-9181  
Fax: 905-852-9674



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

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



## Moved March Break causing mixed feelings in parents

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

School schedules are becoming hard to follow, given how often the province has had to change the program according to the whims of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the recent announcement of postponing March Break to April 12 has some parents celebrating, while others are bristling.

Many local parents, like Suzie Taylor, are glad that kids will be continuing in school for a little longer.

"I have two kids at Quaker Village Public School, one in grade 6 and another in grade 4," says Taylor. "I think it's great for our kids safety, not travelling with time off, and my kids do so much better with routine, so waking up and having something to do motivates us all."

Other parents, however, are disappointed that after booking this time off, sometimes months in advance, they have now used up their vacation days.

"I booked off March Break in order to spend with my three children, and my vacation time has to be submitted in January for the entire year," says parent Crystal James. "I am hoping that I am now able to adjust my request."

Many think that the break's date change does not take into account the mental health of the students and educators. In what has been an unusual and often stressful year, many

are worried that postponing this break risks wearing down students and teachers.

The Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO), the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA), and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO) together released a statement saying that the decision to postpone the break was "reckless and baseless."

"These are unprecedented times, and this is a much-needed break for students, teachers, education workers, and families who have been under tremendous pressure throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The government's decision to postpone March Break does not take into consideration the mental health and wellbeing of those involved," read a portion of the statement.

Parent Jeannine Laroque says she and her family were really looking forward to this break. "With my virtually learning student we need the break now. We just wanted a rest from the grind. We weren't planning to travel."

Laroque also mentioned that as someone who co-parents her child, this last minute change has the potential to be very disrupting.

"My child was concerned about the change as to where she would spend her break. Renegotiating an alteration to the parenting plan isn't al-

ways possible and puts single parents in jeopardy of losing more precious time with their children. I'm lucky it won't be affecting my parenting time but that last minute change could have been disastrous"

While many worry that by the time the break rolls around in April, the community will be again in a lockdown, amidst a possible third wave of the virus, Education Minister Lecce said the decision was made based on "the best advice of public health officials" in order to keep students safe and schools open.

When originally announcing the March Break postponement last Thursday, Lecce said the goal of the change was to "limit community transmission" of COVID-19, as the province begins to face an increase in variant cases.



### A NEW RIFF ON ROLL UP THE RIM

A new version of the beloved Roll Up The Rim To Win has been announced! One of Canada's most notable marketing campaigns is going fully digital this year.

Tim Hortons' "Roll Up The Rim To Win" is now just "Roll Up To Win" The popular coffee shop has eliminated the need for unrolling the paper coffee cup rim and the extra fiddling involved with tearing off the prize in order to redeem it in store. This year, customers will get a digital "roll" by scanning the Tim Hortons app on their smartphone or their rewards card at the time of their Tim Hortons' purchase.

Along with the usual coffee, donuts, electronics and vehicle prizes, this year, subscriptions to streaming services and reusable coffee mugs have been added to the prize pool, to increase the sustainability of the contest. And there won't be the dreaded "please play again" message this year, either. Tim Hortons reports that all rolls are winners, even if it is only reward points that can be redeemed for purchase of almost anything on the menu.

The contest will run from March 8 to April 4.

## Go for a walk and read a good book

On a cold winter day, there's often nothing better than curling up with a good book - especially a Canadian book. Feb. 17 was "I Read Canadian Day," a national day of celebration of Canadian books for young people.

In honour of the occasion, and to encourage the reading of Canadian books, Shelley Macbeth, owner of Blue Heron Books in Uxbridge, has organised what she is calling "Story Walk Down Brock."

Select stores along Uxbridge's main street have large print outs of pages from the Canadian book, *My Winter City*, by James Gladstone, a story

which lends itself nicely to a walk down the street looking in the shops.

"The interior spreads are in different store's windows and people can walk down Brock Street reading the story. The stunning conclusion is, of course, at Blue Heron!" teases Macbeth.

To read the story, start at Edward Jones and work your way towards Toronto St. Skip over Blue Heron Books to the Tin restaurant, and then double back for the conclusion at Blue Heron Books.

The Story Walk Down Brock will be on display until this Sunday.

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# Our two cents

## Green - the colour we envy

Yay us, we're seeing red! Red with respect to the provincially mandated COVID-19 response framework, that is. Durham Region entered the "Red," or "control" zone at about the same time as the snow really started to dump on us on Tuesday. Just three colours to go until we can be Green! First we have to get through Orange (restrict) zone, then we need to be in the Yellow (protect) zone, and then we can be like those special five regions to the east and north of us - Green (prevent)! Hey, if things go really spanking well for us, maybe we could do it like Christmas and jump straight from Red to Green! Wouldn't that be a Christmas miracle?!

Ah yes, dear reader, you chuckle at the absurdity of the thought, at the mere mention of such a miracle. But while it may seem far-fetched to us, it *is* within our power to try and make such a "miracle" occur. Hastings and Prince Edward County, Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington, and Renfrew County and District all managed to leap from the province-wide lockdown straight into green back on Feb. 10, lucky dogs. Or should that be smart dogs?

We don't know what they were doing, but it must have been all the right things, because now they're allowed to eat at their favourite restaurants again, they're allowed to go to the movies, the theatre, to one another's houses for games night! Oh, the bliss! (We are aware that there are still certain restrictions on all these activities, but they are definitely more lax than our own, at the moment.)

We want Green. We strive for green on more than just our front lawns right now. We strive for capital "G" Green. Yet They (yes, capital "T" They) speak about needing to be exceedingly careful right now so that we can avoid a - we can barely write the phrase - a "third wave." If we allow, ALLOW, a third wave to occur, then we human beings are singularly the stupidest species to have ever inhabited Planet Earth. We all have a good idea of what we're dealing with, now, and know what to do. We have even had a pretty, colour-coded guide created for us so that we know *exactly* what we should be doing at any given time. So really, a third wave should be a moot point.

Green is the prize right now. (Having no pretty, colour-coded guide is the ultimate goal, but baby steps.) Let's get Green now so that the green can start flowing back into our local businesses, into our pockets, and we can congregate in green spaces outside, celebrating the end of a saga that has done nothing but make our lives seem like they're devoid of any colour at all.

We don't mind you, Red, but we're going for gold, here. Or rather, Green.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

Support our local businesses so they can support The Cosmos.

Because without them, we can't continue to deliver the news you want and need.

**The Uxbridge COSMOS**

Publisher/Editor: Lisha Van Nieuwenhove 905-852-1900  
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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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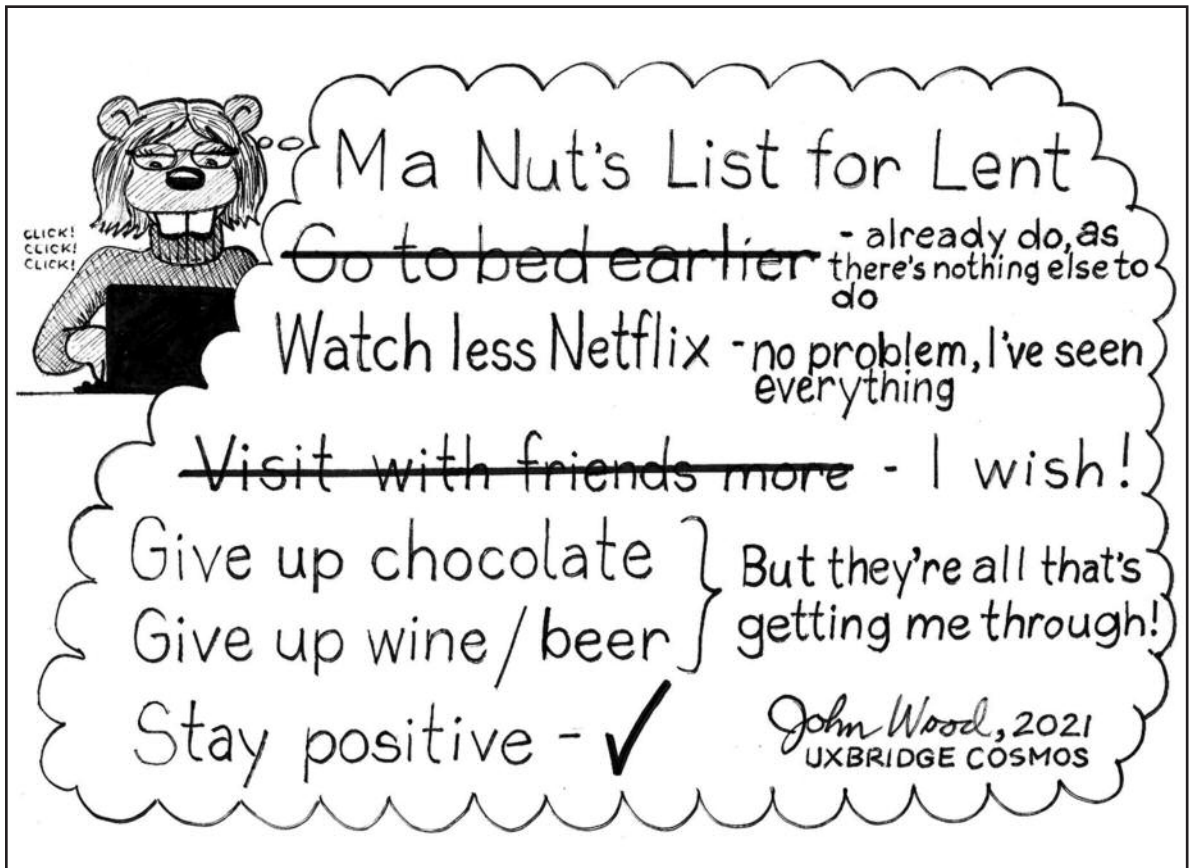
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## Letters to the Editor

I have just sent a letter to our mayor complaining about the tax increase.

I must thank you for your wonderful coverage of events in our town. I have never heard of a town hall with so many ridiculous meetings with crazy results. It could be a comedy skit.

God help us if they ever have serious stuff to deal with. I see them as people who can't relate to every day folks. Yes, some residents of Uxbridge have tons of money and they don't care, but we are retired and only have pensions now.

Our former mayors were fantastic in comparison to Mayor Barton and his buddies.

*Paul & Sharon Bogнар  
Udora*

After reading letters to the editor from Sandra Reiner and [Gerri Lynn] O'Connor, I would like to bring some perspective on this contentious issue.

Although keeping the historic value of the Gould home was important, it was not the main issue. The real issue was sensible development of the 3.7 acres on this beautiful property respecting the adjacent neighbourhood.

The original plan for development was for row housing for I believe 60 or so units. As a result of this extreme building plan for the neighbourhood, we formed the Gouldville Citizens Group comprising almost 200 families in the adjacent area, many which bordered directly on the property.

The homes on Water St., Mill St. and Joseph St. would have had a solid brick wall as close as 20 ft. from their property line. There were drain water concerns, sewage capacity issues and the volume of vehicles entering onto Mill St. which would be the only road out. Mill St. already has far too much vehicle traffic for a residential

street.

Our group paid money out of our pockets to hire lawyers to attempt to bring some rationale to the initial proposed plan with no consideration from the mayor at all. She did not once attend any of our meetings even though many of the councillors at the time agreed with our concerns.

I believe it was the effort put forth by our large group, including Doug Moffat and Sandra Reiner, that the numbers were significantly reduced to a more reasonable, sensible number.

*Douglas Duckworth  
Uxbridge*

*Re: "Am I Wrong?", Feb. 11 edition*

Yes, Roger Varley - you are SO WRONG!

For happy news close to home, Reachview Village has been cleared of having a new COVID-19 outbreak. Yay! That means they may be able to allow visitors into the building again, at least in the foyer. You could get a few cards, or plants, or even cookies to drop off "from someone who wishes you well" for the staff to give out to those who do not have regular visitors. Maybe send a Valentine card for the staff who have to work that day, and Family Day too. And if it's Feb. 14, that means we're halfway through February - winter's also halfway through! Another yay!

On page 4 of the [Feb. 11] *Cosmos*, read the article by Jane Kiyonaga - "Celebrate Family Day helping another family far away." Or help families closer to home, such as the Syrian refugees she mentions. You're an experienced writer - maybe they could use some help learning to read English or write their own story.

You say you'd "give a month's pension to hear someone singing outside my window." Well poor you. The

world has to come to your doorstep cause you're sitting inside in a pool of self pity? Go and sing outside someone else's window! Take an interest in your neighbours - it might make you feel good, and less alone.

Volunteer for the Loaves & Fishes Food Bank - they could probably use your help to pick up donations, or deliver them to front porches, or just to sort and package food.

You write about a community garden project that might be started in Uxbridge - they need volunteers! So you're not a gardener; get books from the library to help figure out what plants they could use that will do well in Uxbridge. Read the new "Watching Things Grow" column on page 11 to get some ideas. Even if you just take the minutes, you could be on the committee to help get the project up and running.

But if you'd like a long-term solution to your depressed state of mind - adopt a dog! You'll have a reason to get out of bed each morning, and to prepare food for both of you. You can sing to a dog, and all you'll get back is LOVE, lots of love (and maybe some howling). Walking a dog each day will get you out of the house. You could even take your furry friend to the Dog Park to play with other dogs while you chat with other people. (Yes, even on the cold days, people do still go there.)

So quit worrying about government so much, and live your own life - happily!

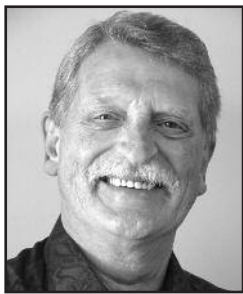
*Chris Musselman  
Uxbridge*

There *is* a happy place (take note, Roger) not far away, where little doggies run all through the day.

Big praise for the volunteers, who conceived the Dog Park, brought it to fruition and for those who built and maintain it so well.

*...continued on page 6*





## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### I call it a 'cat'astrophe

Every year at this time, the by-law department offers its annual report on the Uxbridge Scugog animal shelter. And every year at this time, the report upsets me no end. This year was no different.

According to a report given to council back at the beginning of the month, the animal shelter impounded 220 cats during 2019 and 2020. Of those 220 animals, only 21 people turned up at the animal shelter to reclaim their pets. This speaks volumes about all those people who couldn't be bothered by the fact that their cat was missing.

On the other side of the coin, during the same period the shelter impounded 120 dogs. Of those, 110 were reclaimed by their owners.

Chief by-law officer Kristina Bergeron told me the majority of the cats impounded are not feral cats, but some have been living outdoors. Others are sick or injured. But, apparently, the majority of cats impounded have been brought into the shelter by people.

That begs a couple of questions: who are these people picking up cats and taking them to the shelter? What gives them the authority or the expertise to determine that a cat they see outdoors is lost or abandoned? But, most troubling of all, why are so many people apparently unconcerned about their missing pets?

On the plus side, most of the impounded cats are adopted - (feral cats are found homes in barns) - but those adopting are not asked if they have lost cats in the past.

I cannot imagine losing my buddy, Smudge. Not that I'm likely to, because he never leaves my apartment, but if I did, I would be out searching for him relentlessly and I would be a daily visitor at the shelter. I try to think how he would feel. He relies on me for everything and to be suddenly deprived of food, warmth, shelter and love would be terrifying for him. And if I did lose him and he was adopted by someone else, they wouldn't know all

his little quirks and habits. I know that when I adopted Smudge from the shelter five years ago - (he was about two years old) - it was three days before I even saw him, because he kept finding places to hide. It took a while for him to become used to me. (Even as I write this, he is sitting on my lap.)

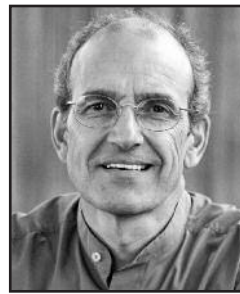
It's the same for every household cat that finds itself in the shelter. No familiar faces or voices, no familiar smells, no cuddles, no toys to play with. Maybe, at this stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, separated from loved ones and friends, some of you can possibly relate to how that might feel.

As far as I'm concerned, anyone who abuses an animal is sub-human and should be avoided as much as possible. And that includes anyone who can't be bothered to try and find their missing pets. One would ask them why they decided to have a pet in the first place. Or is it that they just had no idea what is involved in taking responsibility for another living creature?

If you bring a cat into your home, you can be guaranteed that your furniture will be scratched, your clothing will be snagged, there will be hairballs and there will be cat hair all over the place. To coin a phrase, if you can't stand the tears, don't peel the onion. But if you are willing to put up with all that, you can also be guaranteed unconditional love. They don't care how you look, what job you have or how old you are. All they want is you.

Maybe it's a sign of the times, but cats appear to be just another form of disposable item, like old appliances. Apart from goldfish, I'm hard-pressed to think of any other animal that is treated so cavalierly, so indifferently. It seems to me that, before obtaining a cat (or any other animal, for that matter), you should ask yourself one question: am I prepared to look after this animal for the rest of its life? If the answer is anything less than a resounding "Yes," a pet is not for you.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Flag Day dreaming

It was a crisp, cold winter day. The sunshine was minimal. But the group of spectators on Parliament Hill was unexpectedly large. People in Ottawa sensed if they didn't attend they'd miss some history. Next to a flagpole specially erected outside Parliament, then prime minister Lester Pearson arrived. Indeed, he did make history. The Red Ensign, Canada's flag for a century, was lowered for the last time. And Canada's new flag was raised in its place.

Fifty-six years ago last Monday, the Red Maple Leaf flag flew nationally for the first time. As noted in his book *I Stand For Canada: The Story of the Maple Leaf Flag*, Rick Archbold quoted *Globe and Mail* columnist George Bain who witnessed the flag-raising that day.

"And the feelings that a flag is a flag is a flag," Bain wrote, "were dispelled, because it looked bold and clean, and distinctively our own."

I'm afraid the version of Canada's national flag that's hung outside my front door the past year or so, has lost its original "bold and clean" look. It's tired and faded like everything else in our lives these days. I suppose part of the problem is - unlike the old days when school custodians or building janitors lowered the flag at the end of the day, brought it safely inside out of the elements until they raised it again the next morning - ours has hung out there night and day, good weather and bad, pre-pandemic and throughout the pandemic.

If my former neighbour, Women's Royal Naval Service petty officer Ronnie Egan were still with us, she'd have set me straight. "That is *not* our flag," the Second World War veteran would've told me. "It's faded, tattered, unserviceable. Replace it!" And obeying P.O. Rodine Doris Mary Buckley-Beevers Egan, as I knew I must, I'd have erected a fresh flag by sundown.

But memories of dear Ronnie's affection for our flag are not the only ones that stir me each Feb. 15. I have many. Some are perhaps odd. For example, when it comes to sizable Canadian flags, I've become attached to one that flies over a truck stop along Hwy. 401 just east of London. Whenever I pass it I think of another vet. For many years, RCAF Spitfire pilot Charley Fox and I met there for breakfasts. The food was always hearty. Charley's stories even heartier. And we always sat at the window so that one of the proudest Canadians I've ever known could see that gigantic Red Maple Leaf fluttering as a backdrop to our friendship.

Some of you will recall this one. It was late October 1995. So late, in fact, we almost lost the country. Separatist forces had forced a referendum over whether Quebec would remain in Canada or seek sovereignty association. The "No" side (to stay in Confederation) invited Canadians to come to Montreal on Oct. 27, three days before the referendum, to express solidarity with Quebecers who wanted to keep Canada together. Some 100,000 of us dropped everything and flew, walked, drove to Place du Canada in downtown Montreal. And as speaker after speaker promoted the bonds we all felt for the unity of the country, a giant Canadian flag was passed across the audience symbolizing our belief in keeping the country together. "No" won the referendum with a 50.58 per cent majority.

I've lost count of my favourite Olympic moments with Canadian athletes wrapping themselves in the Canadian flag. I remember high jumper Greg Joy at the Montreal Games in 1976; Silken Laumann (just 10 weeks after her big crash) at Barcelona in 1992; Andre de Grasse at Rio in 2016. But the one that stands out for me was Daniel Igali, the Nigeria-born wrestler, who came to Canada as a young competitor, became a landed immigrant, trained and competed for his newfound country. Then, at the 2002 Sydney Games he won Canada's first ever wrestling gold medal.

"He spontaneously wrapped himself in a large Canadian flag," Canadian Press reported, "then, gently placed it on the ground to do a ceremonial jog around it, before kneeling to kiss it."

There's one more Red Maple Leaf image I've thought about, especially since most of us have stopped travelling and miss that privilege horribly. In one sense, I've always dreaded the flights home, when the flight attendants hand out those Canada Customs declaration cards. As aggravating as all those questions and check-boxes were to fill in, as I recall, there was always the Red Maple Leaf in background on the card, and one of the most satisfying feelings of travel: I'm back home in Canada.

So, this week for George Bain, Ronnie Egan, Charley Fox, Daniel Igali, and the hope we can soon travel abroad and back again ... I'll be raising a brand new Red Maple Leaf flag.

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Letters, from page 4

Maybe it's not a prime location - icy winter winds blow at the hill top of Conc. 6 and Reg. Rd. 8 - but the dogs love to run and socialize nevertheless, and it's always a pleasure to watch them. Clipped grass in summer prevents tick invasion.

The designers thought of many features for comfort of the dog owners as well: four resting stations, well-placed trees that will soon provide shade and partially break that north wind, and a separate section for small and older dogs not much into running with the more high-spirited pups. More recently, memorial trees, benches

and toys in memory of beloved diseased dogs have begun to show up.

Dog owners are generally friendly, law-abiding citizens who observe the COVID restrictions, we are just happy to know the happy place remains open.

Another place for some winter joy is Elgin Pond, a gift from Uxbridge founder Joseph Gould. The skating oval is maintained by the town and well-used by kids of all ages.

And Roger, have you noticed, the days are getting longer?

Saundra Reiner  
Uxbridge



## We're looking for a few remarkable volunteers!



Durham Region Transit (DRT) is seeking community volunteers for the Eligibility Appeal Panel, to help match transit service with the abilities of appellants. The Panel is comprised of three people, including a community member, to review disputed decisions made by DRT Specialized Services.

**We are currently seeking up to four community members to rotate month-to-month throughout 2022.**

Community representatives must:

- Have a disability and use regular public transit.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Be a resident of Durham Region.
- Not be elected officials of Regional Council or the Council of any local area municipality.
- Not be a member of any Accessibility committee of Durham Region or any of the local area municipalities.
- Not be employees of Durham Region or any local area municipality.
- Be equipped and capable to participate in meetings virtually using Microsoft Teams, when required.

Appeals are heard at the Durham Region Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby or virtually in accordance with Public Health guidelines. Community representatives need to be available to attend one or two meetings per month, for approximately four hours in length.

If you're interested in joining our Eligibility Panel, please submit a letter of interest, via email, to [drteligibilityappeal@durham.ca](mailto:drteligibilityappeal@durham.ca), by **Friday, February 26, 2021**. Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

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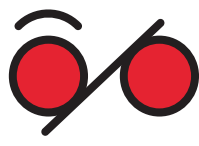
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# North Durham school trustee takes challenges, opportunities in stride

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

School boards are currently facing challenges on a daily basis. From trying to ensure students get maximum education from either online or in-class learning to keeping teachers and other staff “in the loop” with regards to COVID protocols, to, most recently, figuring out how to move March Break – it’s not a situation many would relish walking into. But that’s exactly what Richard (Rich) Damianopoulos, the Durham Catholic District School Board’s (DCDSB) newest trustee, had to do last October.

“Actually, I was alerted to Kathy [LeFort]’s resignation through the article in the *Cosmos* last July!” laughs Damianopoulos.

In that article (July 30, 2020 edition), LeFort announced that she was retiring after 32 years of service to the DCDSB. She was one of eight trustees on the DCDSB, and her geographical area of coverage – Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock. Damianopoulos had vied for the position in the previous two municipal elections, and said that he hadn’t been sure if he would run to be a trustee a


third time, but the article “made me think again.”

The board had the option to run a bi-election or to appoint the position, and Damianopoulos decided to apply. The board appointed him, and Oct. 26, 2020, he took over the chair as trustee for North Durham.

Although he only has three schools in his region (St. Joseph’s C.S., Uxbridge; Good Shepherd C.S., Port Perry; Holy Family C.S., Beaverton), he has to cover the largest geographical area. But because he’s taken on the position during the COVID-19 pandemic, he hasn’t had to travel to either the schools or to meetings. Instead, as with many others, he attends online meetings, and works his


trustee work around his “day job” with the Ontario public service. He and his family attend Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Uxbridge, and he says his involvement in the church community is important to him. “There’s something to be said for serving the community. We’re fortunate to live where we do, and giving back through public

...continued on next page



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**February 25<sup>th</sup> Love Donna**



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# The Nature Nut

column by Nancy Melcher

## Know your evergreens

Have you heard the expression, “they can’t see the forest for the trees”? It describes a person too involved in details of a problem to be able to see the situation as a whole.

How I wish I could look at a forest and just see the trees! Your Nature Nut knows all the different species of trees that grown in our local woods, and sees these individuals everywhere, rather than just a forest. But sometimes it’s nice to know what you’re looking at. Here’s a quick guide to those trees that keep their leaves (needles) all year – the evergreens.

IMPORTANT NOTE: When you’re out exploring the wonderful evergreens that surround us, please, DO NOT pull leaves off trees – “Take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints.”

All my observations are based on

needles I saw either on living trees or fallen branches. They’re easy to find on the ground or on snow under a tree.

You’ll need to answer some questions to narrow things down. Do the

*Remember - when you’re out exploring, “Take nothing but photos and leave nothing but footprints!”*

needles grow from the branch in bunches, or as singles, or as overlapping scales? If they’re growing in bunches, you’re looking at a pine. But which pine? How many needles are in the bunch? In our area it’s ei-

ther two or five. Five needles is a white pine (clue: w-h-i-t-e is five letters!). If there’s just a pair, then how long are the needles? If they’re as long as your hand (or longer), it’s a red pine. If they’re about as long as your pinkie finger (or shorter) then you’re looking at a Scots (or Scotch) pine.

If the needles grow singly on the branch, do they have a tiny stem or not? If they have a stem, then how long are the needles? If the needles are about as long as your pinkie is wide (about 1 cm) then it’s an eastern hemlock. (This is NOT the plant that poisoned Socrates! That’s another story.) If the needles are at least as long as your thumb is wide, or longer, it’s a balsam fir. If the needles do not have a tiny stem, then it’s a white spruce.

For further clarification, hemlock and balsam needles are flat, and tend to grow out from the side of the branch. They’re soft to the touch. Spruce needles are four-sided so they will roll between your fingers. They’re arranged all around the branch and feel very prickly.

*To see a photo of the various evergreen leaves, and to learn more, turn to page 11*

## A faithful trustee, from page 8

service is important.”

As trustee for North Durham, Damianopoulos’ job has two main components. Trustees oversee the governance of the school board, as well as it’s \$300 million budget. “We’re entrusted with being the stewards of a large amount of public funding,” he explains. “We oversee its investment, we review and develop policy, and are supported by board staff.”

Damianopoulos also acts as a link between publicly funded faith-based education; more specifically, between parents, the parish and the school board. “We are ambassadors of the board in the community.”

He says he also endeavours to be a strong voice for the north. “We have a different geography, a different experience, and I try to bring those issues to the school board. Part of my view is to bring those northern concerns to bear at the decision-making processes at the board. It’s a big territory.”

Three of Damianopoulos’ seven children with wife Pam attend St. Joseph C.S., and he says this enables him to share the parent experience.

“St. Joseph’s brings a different perspective [to public education]. We all have the same goals, and this school board takes the education of our children very seriously, and wants to provide top quality education in Durham Region, sending kids out who are ready to make a difference in the world. We’re aiming to grow the individual and create a faith-based environment,” he says. “We are a strong presence in the community, it’s a vibrant community of parents and students. We’re not the majority, as more people support the public board, but we’re a strong minority.”

Even though he took on the position of trustee halfway through its term, there is much Damianopoulos hopes to accomplish. More importantly to him, there is much he hopes to impact.

“With all that’s going on in the world, and thinking about our sphere of influence... I can’t change the world, but I can impact my sphere of influence. That sphere has gotten bigger because of this opportunity, and that’s a great thing. We’ll see some tangible results – but I may never see the results. We plant a seed through education, but the harvest comes way down the road, and it grows into all sorts of great things.

Others will go out into the world and do more great things, and I like to think that I might play some small role in that process.”

Rich Damianopoulos can be reached through the DCDSB website at [www.dcdsb.ca/en/our-board/Board-of-Trustees.aspx?\\_mid\\_=127879](http://www.dcdsb.ca/en/our-board/Board-of-Trustees.aspx?_mid_=127879)



Rich Damianopoulos took over the role of DCDSB trustee for North Durham halfway through the position’s term - and right in the middle of a global pandemic. Despite those challenges, he’s optimistic about the opportunities that being a school trustee give him.

Submitted photo



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### Across

- 1. Expert
- 5. Ciao
- 8. All \_\_ Jazz
- 12. Blood-related
- 13. Blockhead
- 14. Uncivil
- 15. Office fill-in
- 16. Bobby of the Bruins
- 17. Eager
- 18. Oriental
- 21. Victory symbols in World War II
- 24. Hanging strand
- 28. Finale
- 29. Hither's partner
- 31. Florida city
- 32. Trot or canter
- 34. Spoil
- 36. Nip partner
- 37. Underway
- 39. Doctorate
- 41. Linda \_\_, Supergirl's alias
- 42. Spice
- 44. Together
- 46. Postman's tote
- 48. Indian dress
- 51. By way of
- 52. Strip of wood
- 56. Ballyhoo
- 57. To \_\_ is human
- 58. Mishmash
- 59. Skirt lines
- 60. Seize suddenly
- 61. Kind of column

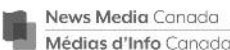
### Down

- 1. Hood's gun
- 2. Four stringed guitar (abbr.)
- 3. Lip
- 4. Pull out a dowel
- 5. Develop well
- 6. Turkic tent
- 7. Protected bird
- 8. Pass through
- 9. Expression of affection
- 10. Commotion
- 11. In\_\_rity
- 19. Whatever
- 20. Butt
- 21. Vegetarian
- 22. In a state of chaos
- 23. Fool
- 25. \_\_ Ste. Marie
- 26. Master of ceremonies
- 27. Was sweet on
- 30. Shuteye
- 33. British troops, in slang
- 35. Pie content
- 38. Drink with jam and bread?
- 40. Code of life
- 43. Accepting that..
- 45. Eskimo dwelling
- 47. Italian currency
- 48. Movie theatre talk
- 49. Yes, captain
- 50. Dashboard abbr.
- 53. Austrian peak
- 54. Knot
- 55. Construction site container



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32	G	A	I	33	T			34	M	A	35	R		36	T	U	C	K			
37	A	F	O	O	38	T			39	P	H	D		41	L	E	E				
42	N	U	T	M	E	43	G			44	U	N	I	T	E	D					
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48	S	49	A	50	R	I			51	V	I	A		52	L	53	A	54	T	55	H
56	H	Y	P	E					57	E	R	R		58	O	L	I	O			
59	H	E	M	S					60	N	A	B		61	O	P	E	D			

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The Nature Nut, from page 9

Do the needles grow as overlapping scales rather than individuals? It's an eastern white cedar. You may have a cedar chest to keep moths from eating your wool sweaters. It has a distinct aroma! Fun Fact: there are cedar trees more than 700 years old that grow on the Niagara Escarpment!

Our local forests have many different kinds of trees. Now you can look at the evergreens and decide what type each individual is, while you're out enjoying the trails or your own woodlot here in the Trail Capital of Canada. I hope we meet on one of my walks.

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

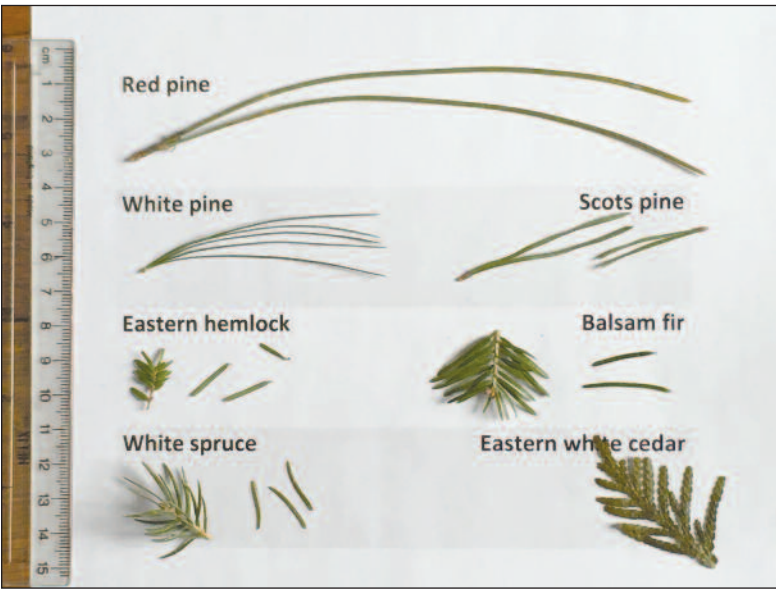


Image and photo compiled by Nancy Melcher



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On February 11, 2021, we lost a strong and spirited woman. Vera Beverley passed, surrounded by the love of her family at the age of 86.



Vera enjoyed the simpler things in life. She loved her Bingo, her bargain shopping, having tea with friends, and family filled her days with happiness.

Vera was pre deceased by her husband Ken in 1970, and remained a loving mother to Darlene (Burke), Dale (Kathy), and Shawn (Wendi). She was a proud grandmother to Kelly (Christine), Colin (Erika), and Mackenzie (Casey). A special great-grandmother to Oliver and newborn Dawson. Vera will also be mourned by siblings Shirley (Ernest), Holly (Sheila), and Wilma (Don), as well as many nieces and nephews.

Vera fought a courageous and valiant fight with cancer. At her request, she will be cremated and there will be no service. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge ON, L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073).



In Vera's honour, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences can be made at [www.lowandlow.ca](http://www.lowandlow.ca)

**WEBSTER,  
Margaret Jane**



Our beautiful Mother, Grandma and Great-Grandma passed away peacefully at her home in Uxbridge on Sunday, February 7, 2021. Born in Ireland in 1921 to James and Elizabeth Johnston, she arrived in Canada with her family May 5, 1929.

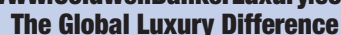
She was predeceased by her beloved husband Neil in 1973. She was also predeceased by her sister Agnes Taylor, her brother Tom Johnston, and her son-in-law Nigel Norris. She was the loving mother of daughters Nancy Norris and Carol Brady (Frank), and the proud Grandma of Mark Norris (Mauricio), Julie Gribble (David), Cheryl Brady (Michael) and Neil Brady (Megan). She was an adoring Great-Grandma to Adam Gribble, Matthew Gribble (Danielle), Tyler Norris-de Sa, Ethan Ward and Lincoln Ward.

Mom was a strong little woman with a kind and gentle demeanor. She had an incredibly generous spirit and her greatest pleasure came from what she could give to others. She loved simple pleasures like time with her family and, in her later years, she became an incredible sports fan, spending many enjoyable hours, T.V. remote in hand, watching any number of sports, especially her beloved hockey.

*Mom, Grandma, Great-Grandma  
You have touched our lives  
In ways that are both big and small  
What a beautiful gift  
From a wonderful woman  
We will love you always*

A private family service has taken place and interment followed at the Brampton Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge, Ontario, L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Online condolences can be made at [www.lowandlow.ca](http://www.lowandlow.ca)





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