

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 17 No. 5

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, February 4, 2021



SLIP SLIDING AWAY - A group of youngsters take to a hill near the Barton Farms subdivision in Uxbridge. Anyone heading out to enjoy winter activities is reminded to practice physical distancing with others, wear a mask when necessary, and have fun!

Photo by John Cavers

Recent trail break-ins shouldn't deter outdoor enthusiasts

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Multiple vehicle break-ins at various trail parking areas over the past few months have left would-be trail visitors wary of heading out on a walk. The organizations that manage the trails, however, say that if visitors follow a few easy-to-follow instructions, their trail outing should be safe.

In Uxbridge, there are three possible managing bodies for the trails - the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), and some are managed by the township itself. While these organizations do send staff on an ongoing and regular basis to inspect the trails and parking areas, there is no constant patrolling, which means incidents of importance must be reported to be dealt with.

Brian Moyle, manager of enforcement and compliance at the TRCA, says that while regular patrolling does happen, "It is vital to re-

member that within Uxbridge alone, there are over 120 km of TRCA trails, and it is impossible for our enforcement officers to be everywhere at once."

Joanne Doyley, communications specialist at the LSRCA, says that prevention is best, and recommends that all trail users "leave valuables at home, or hide them in your vehicle out of sight, carry a cell phone and refrain from using trails at night."

Doyley says that, along with lots of signage indicating best practices on the trails, there have also been recent improvements to the parking area to have improved sight lines from Conc. 7 to deter incidents.

Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) complete random checks from time to time of the parking areas, as well," she noted.

If trail users do witness something suspicious, Doyley advises them to "notify DRPS immediately (contact information is included on signage on all tracts).

"Users can pass on their exact location to po-

lice using the emergency post system distributed throughout the Main Tract. If in the main parking area, the exact street address is posted on the gate, kiosk signage and at the base of the driveway."

Moyle, of the TRCA, encourages the public to "report criminal and public safety activities observed on our landholdings directly to the police, while other matters should be reported to TRCA directly." He also mentioned how invaluable the assistance of the municipalities and the police services are when it comes to helping with TRCA enforcement.

If suspicious activity is witnessed on a township-managed trail, Amanda Ferraro, director of Uxbridge Parks, Recreation, Culture and Tourism, encourages residents to email Parks@uxbridge.ca with concerns, and to always call 911 if there is an emergency.

Trail users are also encouraged to download a wayfinding app called Avenza, which shows your exact location, complete with coordinates.

COMFLEX REALTY INC., BROKERAGE
www.comFLEX.ca
small commission **BIG RESULTS**
Patrick Bryant, Broker of Record
SELL for as low as 1%

Inside Your Cosmos

Don't count on chickens yetpage 3

Poetry in motionpage 5

Defining Success through Client Satisfaction!
Peter Magdziak
(905) 852-3222
petermproperties.com
ROYAL LEPAGE
Terrequity Realty, Broker/Owner

AXIS CHIROPRACTIC
•Chiropractic •Acupuncture
•Custom Orthotics •Massage Therapy
•Laser Therapy
304 Toronto Street South
905-852-9700
axischiropractic.ca

Catch the Ace
PROGRESSIVE WEEKLY LOTTERY
PROJECTED JACKPOT FOR THE NEXT DRAW IS \$5,600
DUE TO GREY ZONE RESTRICTIONS, DRAWS DURING THE LOCKDOWN PERIOD ARE ON HOLD. WATCH THIS SPACE FOR UPDATES.
Tickets available at **PharmaSave Uxbridge, Vince's Market Uxbridge, Canadian Tire Uxbridge, Uxbridge Legion Br. 170 & Stouffville IDA Pharmacy**
Ontario Problem Gambling Hotline 1-888-230-3505.
Lottery rules at www.uxbridgerotary.com/catchtheace.
No one under 18 may purchase a ticket or win the lottery.
In support of
Rotary Club of Uxbridge **Jumpstart**

COMING SOON! WIARTON WILLIE SAYS EARLY SPRING
Amazing townhouse INNISFIL. Recently reno'd and freshly painted. Lots of updates. Large, newer deck to enjoy. Garage and much more!
www.HowardAndDebbi.com
STAY SAFE!
DEBBI JEFFERSON & HOWARD LEE
905.642.6333
debbijefferson@bell.net
*Sales Representatives

COLDWELL BANKER
HAPPY BUYER!
Very happy for my buyer who just moved into this Condo Townhouse!
For your real estate needs, call Marie at 416-970-8979 to help guide you whether you are buying or selling!
Direct: 416-970-8979
Office: 905-852-4338
www.mariepersaud.ca
Not intended to solicit buyers/sellers currently under contract.



The Township of UXBRIDGE

Trail Capital of Canada

FOLLOW US



MORE INFO

www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for February 2021

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

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

Monday, February 15
FAMILY DAY – NO MEETING

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

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

Proclamations
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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.

Notice of Complete Application and Public Meeting Concerning an Application for a Zoning By-law Amendment

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

PURPOSE OF PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT:

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

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

LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:

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

FILE. NO.:

Zoning By-Law Amendment 2020-04
(ZBA 2020- 04)

APPLICANT:

Chris and Nadine Armour

MEETING DATE:

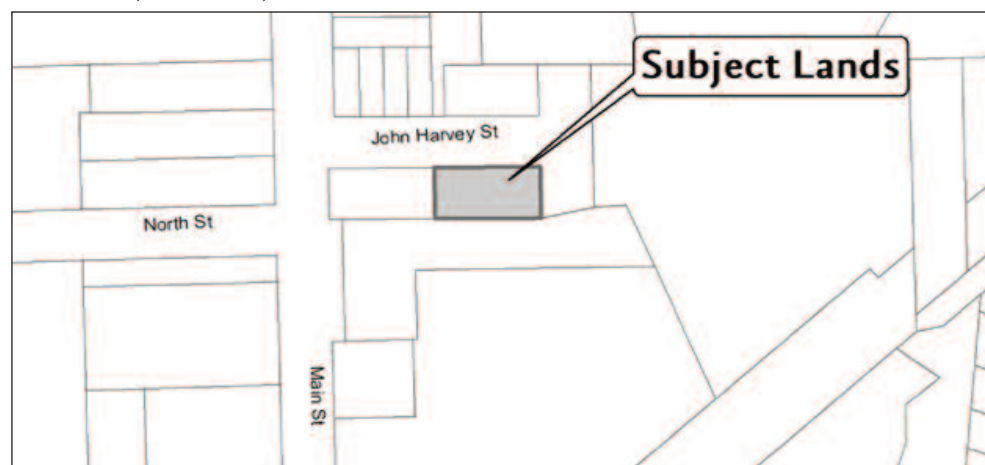
Monday, Feb. 8, 2021

TIME: Public Meeting 11:30 a.m.

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

Debbie Leroux, Clerk
Township of Uxbridge
Box 190, Uxbridge, Ontario, L9P 1T1
905-852-9181 Ext. 228
dleroux@town.uxbridge.on.ca

KEY MAP (not to scale)



Township of Uxbridge Seniors can borrow an iPad from the Library!

- Connect with loved ones
- Take part in Virtual Events
- Use your favourite apps
- Read e-books or news
- and much more! (wifi not included)

This program made possible through a partnership by

Reserve online (uxlib.com) or call 905-852-9747

SENIORS' CENTRE *Without Walls*

**A FREE TELEPHONE-BASED
SENIORS' ACTIVITY PROGRAM**



**UXBRIDGE SENIORS
AGES 55+**

***LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE*
THE COST IS FREE!**

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED:
ACCESS TO A TELEPHONE.**
NO INTERNET OR COMPUTER REQUIRED.

HOW TO REGISTER:

CALL 905-852-7831

LEAVE YOUR NAME AND PHONE
NUMBER AND OUR REPRESENTATIVE
WILL CALL YOU BACK TO REGISTER.

MONDAYS - FEB. 8 & 22, MAR. 8 & 22: Scattergories.
WEDNESDAYS - FEB. 17: Trivia, **MAR. 3:** Would You Rather,
MAR. 17: Fact Or Fiction, **MAR. 31:** 5 Minute Mysteries.

ALL ACTIVITIES BEGIN AT 1:30PM



USCC
Uxbridge Senior
Citizens' Club



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OLDER ADULT CENTRES' ASSOCIATION OF
ONTARIO (OACAO) WITH FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO.



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

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

TOWN HALL

by Roger Varley
Notes from the February 1
Council Meeting

Finance committee adopts 2021 budget: In a unanimous vote, Uxbridge council's finance committee approved the 2021 budget on Monday. All that remains now is for the budget to be formally approved by council this coming Monday.

The operating budget - (the amount needed to fund the township's day-to-day operations) - will see expenditures of \$17,775,000, with \$14,675,000 of that amount covered by taxes. The capital budget - (which covers infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges, etc.) - will see expenditures of \$10,875,000, with \$3,152,000 covered by taxes.

For the taxpayers, that means a 4.27-per-cent increase in their local property taxes. That means an additional \$70 on a house assessed by MPAC at \$600,000. When the township budget is blended with the Region of Durham budget and the provincial education levy, homeowners will actually see an overall increase of 2.31 per cent, or \$140, on a home assessed at \$600,000.

Finance committee chair Bruce Garrod said there remains confusion among taxpayers about how the tax bill is split.

"It comes in as a single tax bill, but a lot of it goes right back out," he said, noting 56 per cent of what Uxbridge collects goes to the region and 15 per cent goes to the province for education.

Part of the 4.27-per-cent increase in the local levy is a two-per-cent increase in funding to the township's Asset Preservation Reserve to cover the cost of future infrastructure requirements. In a report to council, treasurer Donna Condon said cancelling or deferring projects in the township's Capital budget "is a

short-term solution, with serious long-term implications." Garrod agreed, saying it is critical to maintain a long view on capital expenditures.

Heritage guidelines adopted: Council agreed to a recommendation of planning consultant Elizabeth Howson to adopt Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) guidelines and Heritage Conservation Plan guidelines when assessing and evaluating planning applications involving heritage sites.

Howson told council the guidelines would only apply to those seeking significant changes to a heritage property, but in those cases the applicant would need to provide "extremely detailed plans." She noted that provincial policy requires the conservation of significant heritage buildings and cultural heritage landscapes. She said the policy also requires that development or alteration of properties adjacent to heritage properties to have no impact on the heritage aspect.

Mayor Dave Barton said the guidelines give the township the power to make sure applicants do not have a negative impact on some neighbourhoods.

In reply to Councillor Pam Beach, who asked about the planned moving of the Isaac Gould house at 62 Mill St. to allow for a condo development, Howson said the developer would have to bring in a detailed plan on how the house was to be moved and the township would have to agree to the plan.

No roosting yet: Chickens will have to wait a while longer before they can roost in the urban area. By-law officer Kristina Bergeron re-introduced a report from September of last year regarding a survey taken to determine the public's views on allowing chickens to be kept in residential neighbourhoods.

However, council decided now was not the time to deal with the question and tabled the report until later this fall.

Hospital only local facility on outbreak list

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Local COVID case numbers are on the way down again, with only six cases recorded in the township as of Tuesday evening. The Uxbridge Cottage Hospital is contending with a few cases, however, and is still on Durham Region's covid tracking outbreak list. Butternut Manor, Douglass Crossing and Reachview Village have cleared their outbreaks.

Worries surrounding the possible community transmission of another COVID-19 variant are on the rise, however, and the Canadian government hopes to crack down on those entering from outside of the country. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced last week that mandatory PCR testing would soon be required for travelers entering Canada, in addition to the pre-departure testing that was mandated earlier this year. This new testing requirement could be implemented as soon as today, Feb. 4.

Travellers will be required to await their test results at a government-approved hotel, a stay that would be at their own expense and could cost upwards of \$2,000.

Transport Canada says there are very few exceptions to these rules, and many airlines have already agreed to halt service to Mexico and all Caribbean countries until the end of April.

Amidst a national vaccine shortage, with the inability to produce vaccines at home, Canada has been at the mercy of foreign governments, but that is set to change. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that production for vaccine development has been secured here in Canada.

"Precision NanoSystems and Novavax are now on track to manufacture vaccines right here in Canada," said Trudeau. Novavax will be produced in Montreal and, pending Health Canada approval, millions of Novavax doses will start rolling out as early as this summer.

While the Prime Minister half-joked on Tuesday that "the whole past year has felt like Groundhog Day," he also shared some hope by reiterating that Canada aims to "hit our vaccine target by the end of March" and that all those who wish to be vaccinated, will be vaccinated by September."

CORRECTION

In the Jan. 28 edition of the *Cosmos*, the page 1 story regarding the 2021 budget talks reported that net cuts to the budget would be \$76,000. The net cuts are, in fact, \$134,000 after the \$58,000 adjustment. The *Cosmos* apologizes for the error and for any confusion it may have caused.



Calling small business owners

COVID-19 support could be available to you.

- Grants of up to \$20,000 through the *Ontario Small Business Support Grant*
- Up to \$1,000 in support for purchasing PPE through *Ontario's Main Street Relief Grant*
- Rebates for property tax and energy costs



We're working to ensure small businesses can keep employing people and serving their communities now and when COVID-19 is behind us.

Visit ontario.ca/COVIDsupport to apply

Paid for by the
Government of Ontario

Ontario

This isn't a David vs Goliath story.

It's a David vs two Goliaths story.

Join us in levelling the playing field for local news.

Visit the website to learn more about the challenges our industry faces.
www.levellingthedigitalplayingfield.ca

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

Our two cents

We will get a happy ending

Tuesday was officially Groundhog Day, but the jokes were plentiful about how every day feels like Groundhog Day, lately. Just like Bill Murray's character, Phil Connors, in the iconic 1993 movie *Groundhog Day*, we're all waking up in the morning and doing pretty much the *same* thing, every day. Lockdown fatigue is real, and it's setting in on everyone, even those of us who get to go to work outside the home and have masked interaction with other human beings. Doing the wrong thing and just having one tiny little get-together with friends looks more and more tempting as the hours tick by. March Break is looming, and the desire to go someplace, *any* place other than the living room, is morphing into an ache, a longing to have something to look forward to.

We get it. But we also get the message that, if each one of us individually commits one tiny transgression, a whole lot of tiny transgressions are going to become one big spike in COVID-19 numbers. And so, the message that we want to pass on is simple - please, let's all of us promise one another to stick it out just a little bit longer.

The *Cosmos* has been trying really hard to be positive in these editorials, hoping to reach everyone in saying that we *gag* really are in this together, and together we just have tough this horrible situation out. If we do the hard work now, the reward will be sweet.

Some local businesses are going out of their way to do nice things for other local businesses - Blue Heron Books recently delivered a spate of construction paper high-fives that contained just a few positive words about each business that received one. A great idea, and it probably left a little glow in the heart of each recipient. That little glow is what is going to get us through.

A list of the acts of kindness that this community has seen over the past year could fill this newspaper five times over. We're all learning about ourselves - what our limits are, what our capacities are, how our resilience is. And we're also getting fed up. It's okay to be fed up, but it isn't okay to start flouting the rules that are currently in place.

We like to look back to historical plagues and pandemics to gain some perspective. None of them stuck around for years and years, and neither will this one. If we can dig deep and find even more patience in ourselves for just awhile longer... Watch *Groundhog Day*. It has a happy ending.

CAN YOU SOLVE THIS?



THE HANG RE!



ANSWER ON PAGE 7

John Wood, 2021
UXBRIDGE COSMOS

Letters to the Editor

Re: Tax increase 'defensible' because of COVID-19, Jan. 28 edition

An article entitled "City of Brandon approves 1% decrease in municipal taxes" recently appeared on the CBC. This quote from the piece: "This year we felt it was ever more important to provide our community with [as] modest an increase as possible, and so everyone really dug in and we were quite innovative," said Mayor Rick Chrest after a 10-hour day of deliberations."

I'm sure that Brandon council's decision will come as welcome news at a time when residents have lost jobs or businesses and many people are struggling to stay afloat through no fault of their own. Meanwhile, Uxbridge will be raising taxes by 4.27 per cent (while the current inflation rate is 0.7 per cent), and our mayor is advocating emptying people's wallets, while blaming the tax increase on COVID. It seems that Uxbridge council cannot be accused of "digging in" or being "innovative."

How is Brandon council able to reduce taxes, while Uxbridge raises theirs by six times the rate of inflation? Could it be that they haven't made jaw-dropping, expensive errors in managing a municipal engineering project? Or have they avoided employing by-law officers to go door to door instructing residents to remove fractions of a centimeter of snow from the public sidewalk? Perhaps they had the sense to cancel/amend contracts to remove snow from the parking lots of township properties that are closed during the pandemic?

Now more than ever, the taxpayer cannot and should not be casually used as a bottomless well to be tapped whenever poor management results in budgetary issues.

Mike Stones
Uxbridge

The Jan. 28 *Cosmos* reported on council's latest deliberations concerning the 2021 budget. Councillor Gary Ruona was reported as anticipating that Uxbridge Township residents would not be happy with the planned increase of 4.27 per cent in local taxes. He is quoted as saying: "We're going to get blowback, but I think the increase is defensible because of COVID-19."

In an apparent attempt to assuage taxpayers, Councillor Bruce Garrod, who chairs the finance committee, pointed out that when tax increases of the Region and schools are taken into account, the overall, or effective, tax increase will be a mere 2.31 per cent. This is not the first time that we've seen Uxbridge's tax hikes contrast with lower hikes for the Region and education. Approximately 27 per cent of our property taxes goes to the Township with the remainder going to the Region and education. Simple arithmetic would indicate that for 2021, the "take" of the Region and education combined is expected to rise by about 1.3 per cent, an increase that is less than one-third that for Uxbridge.

To cite COVID-19 as a justification for a 4.27 per cent rise in local taxes is, in my view, disingenuous. Have the Region's revenues and expenditures not also been impacted by COVID-19? Like Uxbridge, the Region has infrastructure that it must maintain. The Region maintains many kilometres of roads, handles garbage and waste, provides water and sewerage, police services and bus services. Has Uxbridge been impacted by COVID-19 in some special way, not experienced by the Region and our school system? And what about the taxpayers themselves? Many are having to somehow make do with reduced income because of COVID-19. Even those who are fortunate to have indexed government

pensions are seeing an increase of only about 1 per cent for 2021. Tax hikes that repeatedly outpace increases in people's income are unsustainable.

Mayor Dave Barton's recent comment about looking for ways to "empty our wallets" in regard to proposed parking fees at trailheads drew criticism in two letters to the *Cosmos* of Jan. 28, and rightly so, considering that Uxbridge residents are maintaining the trails through taxes and volunteer effort. Another letter in the same issue revealed that the township recently hired a tree service company to remove a Virginia creeper from a lamppost in Siloam! Surely such a trivial job could have been undertaken by the Works Department. In my view, whichever township bureaucrat was responsible does not have an eye on economy, whether or not the work was really necessary.

Mayor Barton would do well to focus on getting expenditures under control and ease off on increasing tax revenues, i.e., "emptying our wallets." Perhaps he and Councillor Garrod can learn some lessons from the Region and the school boards.

Earle Lockerby
Sandford

Re: Proposed paid parking at trailheads

Mr. Barton, you owe the entire trail-visiting population an apology for your statement "We need to find a way to empty their pockets." I liken your statement to the inn-keeper in "Les Misérables" who finds devious ways of cheating his guests to fill his own pockets.

"Master of the house, Keeper of the zoo, Ready to relieve 'em, Of a sou or two."

Trail users are guests, not clients.

...continued on page 6

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
Advertising/Sales: 905-852-1900

38 Toronto Street North, Unit One, Uxbridge Ontario L9P 1E6
E-mail: Lvann@thecosmos.ca Web site: Thecosmos.ca

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Friday to 4 p.m.

EDITORIAL POLICY: Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and in letters to the editor are not necessarily those of The Cosmos. Letters must be signed and the telephone number provided (number will not be published). Requests that a name be withheld will be honoured only if there is a compelling reason. Errors brought to our attention will be corrected. The Cosmos reserves the right to edit and/or refuse to publish unsolicited material. ADVERTISING POLICY: The Cosmos reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. The Cosmos is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors in advertisements or any other errors or omissions in advertisements. All material herein, including advertising design, is copyrighted, and may not be reproduced in any form without permission.



CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARD 2019



CMCA AUDITED



National NewsMedia Council



News Media Canada Médias d'Info Canada



Supporting Canadian Journalism to ensure the vitality of democracy

Learn More



9,500 copies of The Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge: 8,800 delivered by mail, 700 available in stores and boxes.



Wandering the Cosmos

column by Conrad Boyce

Surprises

There is a famous courtroom scene, written more than 400 years ago, in which the defence lawyer says mercy must be shown for her client. The plaintiff scoffs, “By what compulsion?”, and she shoots back in her best iambic pentameter: “The quality of mercy is not strained./ It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven/ Upon the place beneath.”

It’s a bit breathtaking. The lawyer, Portia, makes the audience look at mercy in a fresh way, as a balm bringing healing after a clash of wills. She also invites us to see rain itself as something much more than an atmospheric event, but as a blessing bestowed by God. Quite an accomplishment in 19 words.

But that’s the gift of great poetry, and great poets: using just a few words to make us see something from a startling new perspective. When I was a first-year university English student, I remember a poem being defined very simply as a surprise. A surprise that gives delight, or insight, and very often both.

Here’s an example of the “delight” variety:

“The cow is of the bovine ilk

One end is moo, the other, milk.”

You can’t help but laugh at that, and what else is laughter but a reaction to delighted surprise? Both poets are using the same medium, the versatile English language, to first elicit a surprised reaction from the reader or listener, and then make us say in retrospect: wow. As in wow, soft rain really is a tangible gift from heaven, I never thought of it that way; or wow, I never would have thought to rhyme “ilk” with “milk”.

Admittedly, the two poets I’ve quoted are among the most celebrated in their respective genres: William Shakespeare for verse drama, in this case *The Merchant of Venice*, and Ogden Nash for comic verse, in this case “The Cow”.

But almost any writer who deliberately applies her or himself to the craft will experience the same surprise, even if no one else ever sees or hears their poetry. The other day, I got a chance to read some poems written by a Nova Scotia teen in 1970. She may never have written another poem in her life, but that year she used poetry to sort through some feelings that would be familiar to any teen, then or now. If she still occasionally re-reads those poems, I hope she is as impressed as I am at her eloquence. She really had a way with words.

One of my favourite writers, as you might know, is a chap named Robert Service, who became known as the Bard of the Yukon. Service did write a few novels and even dabbled in non-fiction, but all of his best-known work is

in verse - you might be familiar with “The Cremation of Sam McGee”? Now, Service is almost never taught in university literature classes, and he himself said that he never really saw himself as a true “poet,” like Keats or Longfellow.

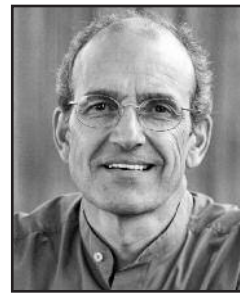
“I’m just a storyteller,” he said, “who happens to use verse instead of prose.” But he’s not one of history’s best-selling poets for nothing, and if you really take the time to look at his work, you’ll soon see the fellow’s a genius, particularly at the magic of rhyme, as well as in portraying the essence of a time and place. Consider the following, which simultaneously captures the power of music, and the madness of “cabin fever”. It’s from “The Shooting of Dan McGrew”.

“Were you ever out in the Great Alone, when the moon was awful clear,/And the icy mountains hemmed you in with a silence you most could hear;/With only the howl of a timber wolf, and you camped there in the cold,/A half-dead thing in a stark, dead world, clean mad for the muck called gold;/While high overhead, green, yellow and red, the North Lights swept in bars? —/Then you’ve a hunch what the music meant. . . hunger and night and the stars.”

When I was growing up, one of my favourite poets was Robert Frost. He was invited to read at Kennedy’s inauguration in 1961. The tradition of inaugural poets brought us to Jan. 20 of this year, and a stunning performance that inspired this reflection on poetry. The writer was a young Californian named Amanda Gorman, and her recitation of “The Hill We Climb” was the highlight of the ceremony. There are many passages worthy of literary and political analysis, but the best is the final quatrain: “The new dawn blooms as we free it./For there is always light,/if only we’re brave enough to see it./If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

The surprise in this poem is the insight that the future envisaged by the incoming president won’t happen just by hoping for it; first we have to figure out how to get there, then personally make it happen.

Amanda Gorman’s poem was never meant to just lie on the page. It was always meant to be spoken, given human music, as Gorman herself dramatically demonstrated at the Biden inauguration. And now that she’s a celebrity, Amanda has been invited to deliver a poem this Sunday at the Super Bowl, another first. I can hardly wait. It will be a surprise for certain.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Cure within our grasp long ago

It took fluid in glass vials, monkey tissue and a gentle rocking motion to make a Canadian research scientist a heroine and put her laboratory on the international pharmaceutical map.

In 1952, the worst polio epidemic was spreading across North America. In Canada, the disease peaked in 1953 with 9,000 cases and 500 deaths, the worst national epidemic since the 1918 influenza pandemic. However, Dr. Jonas Salk, an American biologist and physician specializing in the study of virology, experimented with inactivated poliovirus cells to generate the first successful killed-virus polio vaccine.

Salk’s dilemma? How to mass produce the vaccine. Tucked inside the Department of Hygiene at the University of Toronto, a small lab had discovered that the polio virus grew rapidly on monkey kidney tissue in a synthetic liquid form. A PhD fungus specialist named Leone Farrell managed to adhere the tissue to the inside surface of a five-litre bottle. Then, she continuously agitated the bottles to allow the medium to generate cell production.

Dr. Farrell’s system became known as “the Toronto technique.”

The next year, 1953, the procedure yielded 3,000 litres of live virus for Dr. Salk’s polio vaccine trials. Twice a week for nearly two years, a vehicle arrived at the U of T lab to collect the virus-filled bottles packed in dairy cans for shipment to the U.S. There, the virus was killed for Salk’s vaccine production. On April 12, 1955, the medical world announced that the Salk vaccine had been effective in almost 90 per cent of the tests on children. Mass immunization began in the U.S., Canada and Finland.

Dr. Salk became an international celebrity. And the U of T’s campus production facility, Connaught Laboratories, seemingly overnight became a bio-centre of excellence. In truth, Connaught had a tradition of success in the field dating back to 1914. And the best part was Connaught was a financially self-supporting, publicly owned lab. It would continue its trailblazing record – contributing to medical breakthroughs and developing affordable treatments and vaccines against killer viruses – well into the 1980s.

Then, it was sold to private investors outside Canada!

That’s right. If you’re furious that Canadians are not receiving COVID-19 vaccines fast enough or in large enough quantities, don’t blame Justin Trudeau’s Liberals.

In fact, you should blame Pierre Trudeau and Brian Mulroney. In the 1970s, the U of T sold Connaught for \$26 million to the Canada Development Corporation, an agency Pierre Trudeau’s Liberal government created to promote private Canadian business. Then in 1985, Brian Mulroney’s Progressive Conservative government pri-

vatzed Connaught completely, selling it to Sanofi Pasteur, a large pharmaceutical enterprise in France. The transaction infuriated both sides in House of Commons debate in 1989.

“What Canadian industries is [Prime Minister Mulroney] not prepared to sacrifice?” exclaimed Liberal critic James Peterson.

“Protectionism puts a Wall of China around Canada,” replied Mulroney.

If you’ve never heard of Connaught Labs, you might be surprised that their successes are legion. From the outset, their objective was pursuing human health, not profit. During the diphtheria epidemic of 1913, Toronto doctor John FitzGerald learned that children were dying when treatment was available in the U.S.; but at \$25 per dose most families couldn’t afford it. Soon after, FitzGerald created a diphtheria antitoxin with Connaught, and distributed doses across the country via public health clinics. Next, Connaught developed vaccines against tetanus, meningitis and typhoid at minimal cost and made them universally available.

If you thought Connaught had something to do with the development of insulin, you’d be correct. In 1921, the same Dr. FitzGerald invited Dr. Frederick Banting to Connaught’s farm site. They experimented with the production of a version of an extract using calf pancreas (sourced in local slaughterhouses). A test patient at Toronto General Hospital’s diabetes ward, Leonard Thompson, 14, received the first human insulin extract; daily injections helped him live another 13 years when he died of pneumonia brought on by influenza. The next year, Connaught became the first laboratory to introduce insulin commercially. Then came blood plasma, penicillin and the anti-polio vaccine.

And were Connaught still a Canadian publicly owned facility, there’s no reason that development and distribution of a Canadian COVID-19 antidote wouldn’t have happened along the lines of the Pfizer, Moderna or AstraZeneca vaccines.

Sadly, it takes global pandemics and thousands of deaths to provoke remedial action in the public interest when pre-emptive planning was entirely possible. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the initiative that will see a National Research Council-owned facility in Montreal produce the made-in-Canada Novavax vaccine.

And that’s wonderful.

But shouldn’t we recognize and invest in innovation, such as Dr. Leone Farrell’s “Toronto technique” and publicly focused agencies such as Connaught Labs, instead of waiting for profit-motivated interests to fill the void, usually when it’s too late for the common good?

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

Shop Online @ canadiantire.ca

COLLECT YOUR ORDER

curbside

Curbside pick-up hours

Monday to Friday 8am-6pm

Saturday & Sunday 8am-5pm

AUTO SERVICE

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Monday to Friday 8am-6pm

Saturday & Sunday 8am-5pm

Call 905-852-9857 to book your appointment



Canadian Tire Uxbridge
905-852-3315

Focus on Finance

with Tammy Scuralli, Edward Jones

Nearing Retirement? What Questions Should You Ask?

The recent market volatility has affected just about everybody's financial and investment situations. If you were planning to retire soon, will it still be possible? Of course, the answer depends somewhat on your employment situation. With so many people's jobs being affected by the coronavirus pandemic, your retirement plans may also have been thrown into confusion. But assuming your employment is still stable, what adjustments in your financial and investment strategies might you need to make for your retirement?

Here are a few areas to consider, and some questions to ask yourself:

Retirement goals Now is a good time to review your retirement goals and assess your progress toward achieving them.

You may want to work with a financial professional to determine if the current environment has materially affected your goals or if you need to make modest adjustments to stay on track.

Retirement lifestyle You probably created your investment strategy with a particular type of retirement lifestyle in mind. Perhaps you had planned to become a world traveler when your working days were over. Of course, in the near term, extensive travel may not be possible, but once we move past the pandemic, your freedom to roam will likely return. But if your investment portfolio is not where you thought it might be, can you (or do you want to) adapt your lifestyle plans? And can you accept the same flexibility with your other lifestyle goals, such as purchasing a vacation home, pursuing hobbies, and so on?

Tradeoffs Based on your retirement goals and your willingness to adjust your retirement lifestyle, you'll want to consider your options and tradeoffs. For example, would you be willing to work more years than you had originally planned in exchange for greater confidence in your ability to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle? By working longer, you can continue adding to your Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) and Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA) or similar retirement plan, and you may be able to push back the date you start receiving CPP/QPP and/or OAS to receive bigger monthly benefits. You might also review your budget for opportunities to reduce spending today and potentially save more toward your retirement goals.

CPP/QPP and OAS – You can file for CPP/QPP benefits as early as 60, but the amount you receive will be higher the longer you wait. The standard age to take CPP benefits is age 65 but can be deferred until age 70, with each month of deferral resulting in an increased benefit. Similarly, OAS claims can be deferred beyond age 65 to benefit from higher payments. As you created your retirement plans, you likely also calculated when you would take CPP/QPP and OAS, but you may need to review those choices. If you postpone retirement a few years, what effect will that have on when you choose to make your claims and, consequently, the size of your benefits? You won't want to make a hasty decision, because once you start taking CPP/QPP and/or OAS, you can't undo your choice.

This is a challenging time to be entering retirement, and you'll have some questions to answer. But even in the midst of uncertainty, you still have many choices. Consider them carefully and make the decisions that work for you.

This column, written and published by Edward Jones, Member Canadian Investor Protection Fund, presents general information only. Insurance and annuities are offered by Edward Jones Insurance Agency (except in Quebec).

For more information, please contact Tammy E. Scuralli, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones, at 905-852-1244.

Letters, from page 4

They don't need or want their pockets emptied. Yes, we can encourage them to visit our shops, but I fail to see how charging a fee will encourage them to do so.

I don't understand how Uxbridge can charge for parking at the various Durham Forest locations when the township neither controls the trails nor the land. I am sure the TRCA would be more than happy for someone to build washrooms and pave a parking lot, but they will want the revenue.

The Great Trail does not belong to the town. Charging someone to walk the rail-trail is a great way to encourage them to walk along the Scugog and Brock sections of the trail. So much for encouraging a visit to the shops in town.

The town trails are nothing more than paths along a river's edge or through a local park. These paths are not paved and often are waterlogged, soggy messes for months at a time. In the summer they can be overgrown with shrubbery swatting you as you walk by. For the most part they're not "Accessible." I can't imagine paying to walk there.

That leaves the Countryside Preserve as the only remaining place of interest. Like the town trails, it's not "accessible," it's not a place to linger. There's no picnic shelter or bbq pits, or playground for the kids, or drinking water or washrooms. Although it's lovely to visit, I'm not sure that it's worth the price of paid parking, especially after that 45 minute drive from elsewhere.

While I support creative thinking, this type of creativity is not productive.

**Grant Baines
Uxbridge**

In last week's edition there was a letter to the editor written by Sandra Reiner that referenced my name. I would like to respond.

Please move on, Sandra.

I totally understand the hurt, anger and disappointment you and your husband, Doug Moffat, must have felt a few years ago when your offer to purchase the Gould home on Mill St. was not accepted. Knowing how well you maintained your former

century home in Scugog Township, there is no doubt in my mind that you would have done an outstanding job in refurbishing this significant heritage century-old home in Uxbridge Township had you been able to purchase it.

Your offer was not accepted and the present owners of the property have gone through every step of the planning process meticulously. Residents in the area, including yourself, went to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) formerly known as the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) to fight against the development of the property. LPAT sided with the property owner, not the residents group.

Last week, the Uxbridge Committee of Adjustment, of which I am a member, had an application from the owners of the former Gould property for a minor height adjustment. The committee is authorized to grant a minor variance if all of the following criteria, established under the Planning Act are met:

- The variance is minor
- The variance is desirable for the appropriate development or use of the property
- The general intent and purpose of the Zoning By-law is maintained
- The general intent and purpose of the Official Plan is maintained

Council supported the application through a report written by its planner. Two delegates were heard, Misters Rob Miller and Doug Moffat, who both spoke against the application. A third resident asked some questions. I note that Rob Miller is a member of the Committee of Adjustment but declared a conflict of interest as his property backs on to the property.

I made the recommendation that the application be granted, which was unanimously supported, as it met the criteria stated above.

As for caring about our heritage homes, I believe that Uxbridge Heritage Committee has done a great job over the years. There have been disappointments, but much has been accomplished thanks to this hard-working volunteer committee.

As stated earlier – time to move on Sandra. Seven years of attacking me and council is quite enough.

**Gerri Lynn O'Connor
Uxbridge**

UTS TREE CARE

SINCE 1981

- ISA Certified Arborists
- Bucket & Crane Trucks
- Consulting
- Fertilizing
- Hydro Line Clearing
- Stump Grinding
- Tree Pruning and Removals
- Planting and Plant Health Care

905-852-5313 UTSTreeCare.ca

MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the January monthly draw for the 2021 Trip of the Month Club.

The 'Beautiful Baja' trip was won by Deborah Dee, ticket #246, sold by Deb Dee.

2nd place draw - \$150, won by Vince Cicchelli, ticket #201, sold by Greg Eickmeier.

3rd place draw - \$100, won by Tracy Mogk, ticket #130, sold by Getaway Travel.

Congratulations to our January winners and best of luck to all our ticket holders for the 2021 Trip of the Month Club draw for February's trip - 'Ski Lake Louise'! Package includes round trip flights to Calgary, Alberta, round trip airport transfers, 4 nights' accommodation in a one bedroom condo at the 4-star Hidden Ridge Resort, 4 day ski pass for 2, including one lesson per person, round trip ski shuttle daily to Norquay, Sunshine or Lake Louise (your choice), and buffet breakfast daily.

As restrictions are still in place for travel, a voucher for \$2,500 from Getaway Travel or cash option of \$2,250 is available instead of the trip.

Rotary Club of Uxbridge



Imagine if the news wasn't there.

Google and Facebook use their monopoly power to pocket 80% of online advertising revenues. These corporate giants benefit from the news content produced by Canadian journalists and publishers – without paying for it.

Ottawa needs to act now to protect the future of your local news.

Learn more at:
levellingthedigitalplayingfield.ca

**News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada**



COSMOS BUSINESS BULLETIN BOARD



GILLDERCROFT
FURNITURE

Early Style Canadian
Handcrafted Pine Furniture

905-852-2275 Like us
www.gilldercroft.com 



GOODWOOD
HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Home renovations including: additions,
kitchens, bathrooms, basements, garages,
hardwood flooring, trim etc

905 852 0057 



GILLANDERS
AUCTION SERVICES
WWW.G-A-S.CA

Online Auctions

Ajax Woodworking Shop
Equipment, Tools, Lumber, Antiques
February 18 - 25, 7 p.m.

Richmond Hill Estate Sale
+ Additions
Furniture, Art, Tools, Antiques.
March 4 - 11, 7 p.m.
Call to consign early
Contactless transactions
Curbside pickup

gillandersauctionservices.hibid.com
647-212-2275
Like us on Facebook  



BRIAN J. EVANS
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Best GIC rate: 1.50%
Terms & conditions apply
Effective February 1, 2021

LIFE INSURANCE
YOU CAN AFFORD...
We Can Help You!

38 Toronto Street North, Unit 2
905-852-3184 www.investsmart.ca

JONES PUMPING
Septic & Holding Tanks

905-852-2486
416-476-7170

Serving Port Perry,
Uxbridge &
surrounding areas

MOE licensed



Captain George's
Fish & Chips

Halibut & Chips Special
\$9.99
7 days a week!

Haddock & Chips Special
\$10.95
7 days a week!

Buy one, get one
\$5.95
7 days a week!

Open 7 days a week
Take-out only. 905-852-0777
21 Brock St. W., Uxbridge

**PUT YOUR AD
IN THIS SPACE**
and get seen by everyone in
Uxbridge Township!

Call
905
852-1900
for details



RON BROWN AUTO

We will not be undersold.
We service all
makes and models.
We fix it right the first time!

170 Main Street North
905-852-5981

Windcrest
electrical contracting ltd

Paul Fraser
Cell 416.527.0878
windcrestelectrical@gmail.com
esa #7007893

need a hand?
Call My Guy

Handyman Services
For all your
home
projects 

Brad @ 647-472-1484



UPRIGHT
DOOR SERVICE INC.

Garage Doors
& Openers

905-852-1981
uprightdoorservice.com

LIGHT FOR YOUR PATH

*"...be brave. I, the Lord
your God, will be with you
everywhere you go."*
Joshua 1:9b

 **Canadian Bible Society**
The Word. For Life.
UXBRIDGE BRANCH
More Bible help at:
www.biblesociety.ca/the_word_and_you

CLASSIFIED

Classifieds are \$15/week up to 25 words; \$0.20 per additional word (plus HST). Payable in advance by cash, cheque, debit or credit card. Contact Lvann@thecosmos.ca or 905-852-1900 Deadline: Tuesday, 12 noon. Ask about online link possibilities, too.

SERVICES

ONTARGET ELECTRIC INC. – Master Electrician and Licensed Electrical Contractor, ESA/ECRA license #7013923. Electrical upgrades, repairs, new builds and renovations. Covid safe. For more information visit www.ontargetelectric.ca or contact sam@ontargetelectric.ca 289-338-2734 2/25

HOME-WATCH HOUSE/PET SITTING SERVICES: Voted #1 for Protecting Your Home and Caring for Your Pets. Home Owners have trusted Heather Stewart for 17 years for her reliability and detailed professionalism. Property Services /

Dog Walking / Cat Sitting / Doggie Sleep-Overs! Visit home-watch.ca for more info on Heather's services. Call or text 905-852-8525, email hstewart@home-watch.ca and follow us on Instagram - HomeWatchUxbridge 2/25

LAWN SLIDE SERVICES - "Reliable Service with Quality Results". **Snow Removal** - contact Noah, 647-523-6730 or email lawnslide@gmail.com Serving Uxbridge and Surrounding Area. 2/25

THE GIRLS BRA SHOP - Find the bras you'll love living in with our expert fitters at The Girls Bra Shop in Stouffville. Contact

thegirlsbrashop@gmail.com for details. 905-642-3339. An uplifting experience! 2/25

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD. Hardwood. Small truckload, \$125 delivered. Call 416-460-4637 or 905-640-5977. 3/11

WANTED

COLLECTING gently used/clean heavy sleeping bags, blankets, wool socks, boots and tents for the homeless. Please text or leave a message. 647-884-1720. 2/18

Cartoon solution - Hang in there!



the co-operators®
A Better Place For You®

 **Jeff MacLeod**
Financial Advisor
The Co-operators
102-2 Campbell Dr | Uxbridge
905-852-1811
cooperators.ca/local/jeffrey-macleod

Home Auto Life Investments Group Business Farm Travel

WE ARE OPEN AND HERE TO 'MEAT' YOUR BUTCHERING AND CULINARY NEEDS!



THE MEAT
MERCHANT
Family Owned and Operated Since 1990

905-852-9892

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS!
www.themeatmerchant.ca

3 Brock Street West

OPEN

FOR BUSINESS?

Let your customers know with an ad!

Lvann@thecosmos.ca
905-852-1900 647-220-9173



Uxbridge
Denture Clinic

VISIT OUR
NEW WEBSITE

uxbridgedentureclinic.com

Alex Mitchell
DD Denturist

- Complete and Partial Dentures
- In-house Lab
- Free Consultations
- Free Parking
- Same day Reline and Repairs
- House calls within the Uxbridge area

2 CAMPBELL DRIVE
SUITE 307A, UXBRIDGE
905-852-5859



Gerald Lawrence
Manager/Sales Representative



Judy Esmonde
Broker



Marie Persaud
Sales Representative



Gwen Layton
Sales Representative



Shane Coxworth
Sales Representative



Chris Larmer
Sales Representative



COLDWELL BANKER
R.M.R. REAL ESTATE,
BROKERAGE
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated
www.ColdwellBankerUxbridge.ca
75 Brock St. W., Uxbridge
905-852-4338 • Toll Free 1-866-666-2696

www.ColdwellBanker.ca


COLDWELL BANKER
R.M.R. REAL ESTATE,
BROKERAGE
www.ColdwellBankerLuxury.com
The Global Luxury Difference

JUST SOLD



10-Acre, 4 Beds/3Baths, 2-Car Garage, Workshop. Several buyers lost out on this property in multiple offers or after it sold, so please call visit www.QuickHomeValues.ca for a Free Home Evaluation Today!

Gerald Lawrence, Sales Representative
www.MultipleListings.ca
Cell: **416-556-0238**

FOR SALE



4 bedroom, 4 bath, 2-storey home in a quiet neighbourhood. Finished basement. Inground pool. Call Judy today for more info.

Judy Esmonde, Broker
www.JudyEsmonde.com
Cell: **416-677-8709**

FOR SALE



EXCLUSIVE LISTING
Aberdeen Place, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom spacious 4th floor condo with ensuite laundry, underground parking and locker, ensuite storage, updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors throughout except in washrooms/laundry room/storage room, ceiling fans in both bedrooms, kitchen, living and dining room. Offered for sale at \$425,000.00. Call me at 416-970-8979 to arrange for a viewing.

Marie Persaud, Sales Representative
www.MariePersaud.ca
Cell: **416-970-8979**

SOLD!



THINKING ABOUT BUYING OR SELLING YOUR HOME?
Let's work together to position you properly for a speedy, stress-free sale at top dollar or to find your dream home. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 647-991-3276.

Gwen Layton, Sales Representative
www.GwenLayton.ca
Cell: **647-991-3276**

FREE CMA



IT'S TIME TO START THINKING SPRING!
Give us a call today to discuss your personalized marketing plan.

Chris Larmer, Sales Representative
www.powerofbluex2.ca
Cell: **416-500-6377**

FOR SALE



UXBRIDGE BUILDING LOT
Build your dream home right in the heart of Uxbridge. 48.7' x 125.1'
\$325,000

Shane Coxworth, Sales Representative
www.powerofbluex2.ca
Cell: **905-903-7965**



A safe, reliable and flexible way to get around Durham Region!

On Demand

To learn more or to book a trip with **On Demand**, call 1-866-247-0055

Pay when you board using exact cash fare or by using  **PRESTO**



DurhamRegionTransit.com



transit



You can also use the Transit App and the DRT On Demand App