

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 17 No. 17

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, April 29, 2021



STARRY, STARRY NIGHT - The night sky leaves a trail over the pond that sits behind Rooster's chip truck in Leaskdale. "Star trail" photos are a specialty of *Cosmos* photographer John Cavers. Cavers recently won a Better Newspaper Competition award - Best News Photo for his shot of the C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE) comet, which was featured on the cover of the July 30, 2020, edition of the *Cosmos*. The awards are handed out annually by the Ontario Community Newspaper Association. *Photo by John Cavers*

Residents learn of cyber attack one month after breach

by Justyne Edgell,
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Many Uxbridge residents learned Monday that their personal information may have been compromised during a cyber attack at the Region of Durham at the end of last month.

An April 20 statement on the region's website says that, on March 25, the Region of Durham "became aware of a cybersecurity incident that occurred with a third-party software provider." It then posted a notice about the breach on its website on April 9. On Monday, one month after the breach, many Uxbridge residents received a letter in the mail from the region saying that this incident "may have impacted your personal information."

The March 25 statement noted that regional IT teams "took immediate steps to secure [their] systems" and that the systems have since been secured. It also said that the matter is being investigated and that the appropriate authorities are involved.

According to the letter received by residents, the following information was said to possibly be compromised: details provided by the Township of Uxbridge related to property roll number, which may include name, property roll number, date of birth, citizenship, religion, school system, occupancy/tenants, occupants'/tenants' date of birth and / or associated business names and addresses. The regional statement says that "some health, financial and/or other personal information" was accessed.

The mailed letter says, "It is important to note that there is no evidence confirming that all the information listed above was compromised or misused. We take the security of our personal information seriously. Out of an abundance of caution, we wanted to notify you of the incident."

On Tuesday evening, after receiving calls from the public regarding the mailed-out letters, the Township of Uxbridge released a statement saying that the Township "takes the protection of

private information very seriously," and that extensive data protection protocols are in place. The township noted that property information about roll number, property address, mailing address, owner names, legal address, tax classification, assessment values, religion, school board, and school support is publicly available through the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). It also stated that the Township does not send or share tax information or financial payment details with the region of Durham; that the tax department does not collect or store birth date information; and that the Township does not keep or store health information, including medical or health card data.

Both the letter from the region and the statement from the Township state that individuals may file a complaint with the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario and that a dedicated regional call line for questions regarding the incident has been set up at 1-833-526-0566.

Patrick Bryant, Broker of Record

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Ontario Problem Gambling Hotline 1-888-230-3505.
Lottery rules at www.uxbridgerotary.com/catchtheace.
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Uxbridge at a Glance

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The Township of Uxbridge

Trail Capital of Canada

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MORE INFO

www.uxbridge.ca

Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for May 2021

Monday, May 3, 10:00 a.m.
COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.
CANADA DAY COMMITTEE

Monday, May 10, 10:00 a.m.
COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 11, 7:00 p.m.
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 17, 10:00 a.m.
COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 18, 7:00 p.m.
B.I.A. BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, May 19, 3:00 p.m.
AGE FRIENDLY COMMITTEE
7:00 p.m. COMMITTEE OF
ADJUSTMENT MEETING

Monday, May 24
NO MEETING – VICTORIA DAY

Thursday, May 27, 9:00 a.m.
TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING

Proclamations for the month of May
International Day Against Homophobia,
Transphobia and Biphobia - May 17, 2021

Township of Uxbridge Update

The following closures are now in effect for the duration of April:

- Water samples may continue to be dropped off – please ring bell for assistance.
- Parks, trails, playgrounds and the Off-leash dog park remain open - users are expected to maintain a 2m distance from others not in their household. No gatherings of groups larger than 5.
- Pump Park and Skate Park, tennis, soccer and baseball facilities are closed

FROM THE TAX OFFICE Property Tax due date is April 28, 2021

Tax Payments Options:

- Due to COVID-19 emergency measures, the Municipal Office is not open to receive payments in person.
- In an after-hours Drop Box located in the Municipal Office front parking lot – DO NOT DEPOSIT CASH. Post-dated cheques are accepted.
- By Mail - Payments must reach the Municipal Office by the due date.
- Through Internet or Telephone Banking.
- At most Financial Institutions.
- Credit cards and e-transfers are not accepted for tax payments.

Penalty/Interest Charges:

For non-payment of a tax 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 of 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 a reprinted tax bill, receipt or Statement of Account is required for any year's taxes, a fee of \$15.00 will apply.

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

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping will begin shortly in Rural subdivisions and Hamlets, weather permitting. Please rake boulevard sand into the street for pickup, rather than collecting in pails.

Pharmacy Vaccine Locations

All pharmacies in Uxbridge are now providing COVID-19 vaccinations for those 40+. Visit covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations and enter your postal code to view a list of local pharmacies servicing Uxbridge and the surrounding area. Contact the participating pharmacy directly to book your appointment.

Board & Committee Appointments ART AND VISUAL ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE 2018-2022

The Council of the Township of Uxbridge invites applications from members of the public who are qualified electors of the Township of Uxbridge who wish to have their names considered for an appointment to the Art and Visual Enhancement Committee for the remaining term of Council of 2018-2022. The purpose of The Art and Visual Enhancement Committee is to promote Art in the Township. AVEC is committed to increasing the focus on public art in the community and to capitalize on the extensive arts talent in the area.

Any person interested in offering their services, and would accept an appointment, is invited to submit a Committee Member Application Form available on the Township's Website www.uxbridge.ca along with a letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience to the undersigned by Friday, May 7, 2021.

Any questions regarding this Committee 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

dleroux@uxbridge.ca

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Fax: 905-852-9674

Horseshoes at the Museum

Register with Bob Kirvan at 905-852-9176. Running Tuesdays at 6:30pm throughout the summer!

Summer Employment Opportunities

Full details of all current positions are available at www.uxbridge.ca/careers

Uxbridge Historical Centre
COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATE

Closing Date: Friday, April 30, 2021

Uxbridge Historical Centre
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT &
PROGRAMMING ASSOCIATE

Closing Date: Friday, April 30, 2021

Uxpool – SUMMER SWIMMING
INSTRUCTORS / LIFEGUARDS

Closing Date: Friday, April 30, 2021

We are an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The Township of Uxbridge will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process to applicants with disabilities and/or needs related to the OHRC. Personal information provided is collected under the authority of The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to
Uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders

- U21-15 Catch Basin Cleaning
Closes May 4 at 2:00 p.m.

All bids must be received by the Township by the deadline stated, either electronically via the Township's website or in-person (by appointment only) at the Township Office located at 51 Toronto St. South. Public tender openings are not happening currently however bid results will be posted at Uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders in a timely manner.

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COVID vaccination registration NOW OPEN in Uxbridge for residents 60+ and those turning 60 in 2021.

To book your appointment call 1-888-444-5113
or click www.durhamvaccinebooking.ca



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

Fall fair still in the works for September

Uxbridge Fall Fair organizers recently announced that there *will* be a 2021 Uxbridge Fair, but noted that it will be presented in what they called a “significantly altered format.”

Uncertainty around COVID-19 restrictions means that some events may not be held in order to safeguard the well-being of patrons, exhibitors and volunteers. This means that the Tractor Pull and ever popular Demolition Derby have been postponed, most likely until 2022.

Given Elgin Park’s availability, several events will be held off site. The Antique Engines Display and Antique Car Display are two events that will likely be held at a site or sites other than Elgin Park.

Organizers also noted that there will be virtual competitions in categories like Homecraft and Horticulture. Online registration will be available for entrants.

The Fair is running a Sunflower Challenge in partnership with the Horticultural Society. Seeds will be available for pickup at some downtown businesses, and there is a cash prize component.

The Fair’s title sponsors are CSN-Precision Auto and Choko Authentics Fast Eddy Speed Wear. Any sponsors or other benefactors may make a donation to the Uxbridge Fall Fair and send to P.O. Box 1472, Uxbridge, L9P 1N6 or e-transfer to uxbridgefallfair@outlook.com Donations may also be left at SugarFX or at The Bridge Social. For more, visit uxbridgefair.ca



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Find out when, where and how to get vaccinated at ontario.ca/covidvaccineplan or call 1-888-999-6488 for assistance in more than 300 languages.



NOTICE OF PESTICIDE USE



Between May and October 2021, the Regional Municipality of Durham and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation will be conducting larviciding programs, under the authority of Durham Region’s Medical Officer of Health, to control larval mosquitoes in order to prevent the development of vectors of West Nile virus.

The pellet and/or briquette formulation of the larvicide methoprene (Altosid - Registration No. 21809 and No. 27694 under the *Pest Control Products Act, Canada*), or the water soluble pouch formulation of the larvicide *Bacillus sphaericus* (VectoLex WSP - Registration No. 28009 under the *Pest Control Products Act, Canada*), will be placed into catch basins of storm drains in areas across the Regional Municipality of Durham.

The granular formulation of the larvicide *Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies israelensis* (VectoBac 200G - Registration No.18158 under the *Pest Control Products Act, Canada*) will be placed in temporary pools of standing water, ditches, and storm water retention ponds in areas throughout the Regional Municipality of Durham.







The granular formulation of the larvicide VectoBac 200G and/or the granular formulation of the larvicide *Bacillus sphaericus* (VectoLex CG - Registration No. 28008 under the *Pest Control Products Act, Canada*) might also be placed in sewage lagoons in areas across the Regional Municipality of Durham.

All larvicides will be applied by Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks licensed applicators or trained technicians.

For more information on the locations and dates of treatment on:

Regional and Municipal property - contact the Durham Region Health Department at 1-800-841-2729 or visit durham.ca/WestNile for additional information about West Nile virus

Ontario Ministry of Transportation property - contact Ontario Ministry of Transportation at 1-416-235-5462 (collect calls accepted) for additional information.



Our two cents

Fish at my house

Editor's note: a friend and reader submitted this tale to us, and after we read it, we had such a good laugh that we thought we would forgo a regular editorial this week and share the laugh. Heaven knows we could all use it!
Enjoy!

Submitted by James Creighton

The other night, my wife was trying a new recipe for dinner, and as I sat down to taste her creation, memories of a "famous" fish dinner that I had when I was a child came back to me.

I grew up in a small village in Scarborough called Guildwood. I felt very lucky to have a mother, father, two brothers and a much younger sister. We lived a happy life until the "smoked cod incident."

My mother was a good cook, often trying new dishes out on us. She was also known for her weird but family-friendly creations.

My mother was deaf, but she was an awesome lip reader. On the day of the "smoked cod incident," apparently she had not lip read the cooking instructions from the fishmonger very well. Because instead of using regular cod, she used smoked cod - with the cheese sauce.

That evening, we were all seated at the dinner table chatting about our day. My mother ceremoniously served the cod. It looked great but smelled horrible. We were all looking at each other, and although Mom could not hear, we certainly knew to keep our thoughts to ourselves. I can only equate the smell to that of a chemical dump site. It was horrendous.

My father, picking up on the glances that we kids were giving each other, smelled it himself. He then very casually took his plate from the table and placed it on the floor as our dog Peggy, a Collie/Shepherd mix, walked towards it. Like in many houses with dogs, Peggy was used as our pre-rinse before the dishwasher, and she was no stranger to food on a plate. Peggy sniffed the plate, sneezed and walked away. Clearly no one in the house, including the dog, was eating my mother's cod dish that night.

My father pushed his chair back from the table, and announced that "if the dog won't eat it, neither will we."

"Who wants fish and chips?" We all felt relieved.



The Uxbridge COSMOS

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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.



Letters to the Editor

Re: "Grab the lifejacket," April 15 edition

What utter nonsense. Everyone has the right to take whatever vaccine they feel is safe for them, or not at all. No one has the right to coerce anyone one way or the other. The medical gestapo is wrong to suggest Canadians should have no choice in the matter - they do. This country remains a democracy, for now, at least. After all, it is not Canadians who have caused this mess, it is our governments and public health departments who have failed to protect us.

I have taken the vaccine of my choice and only because I want to travel, if this COVID fiasco ever ends.

I suggest everyone considering COVID vaccines discuss their options with their family doctor, not this lot.

As for lifejackets, if I ever need one, I hope I don't reach for one designed for a child because one size does not fit all.

Mary K. Maynard
Goodwood

The question isn't "Am I Wrong?" The question is: "Why can't the Cosmos admit when they are wrong?"

I was disappointed with the Uxbridge Bruins when I read Roger Varley's April 15 article until I spent 30 seconds reading the actual tweet that it was based on. Varley missed the point of the joke completely. Sometimes we miss punchlines as individuals but the fact that it was overlooked by his editor and was printed is surprising.

I was extremely disappointed that they didn't issue a retraction in the paper [last] week. This proves that the editor of our local paper doesn't care about the reputation of one of our local institutions who have been shut down for the entire year due to this pandemic.

The apology to the Uxbridge Bruins is overdue.

S. Brooks
Uxbridge

Editor's note: The Uxbridge Cosmos has been a proud supporter and sponsor of the Uxbridge Bruins for many years, and will continue to be so.

Welcoming bikes wins award for brewery

by Justyne Edgell,
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter

The Second Wedge Brewing Co. recently added another accolade to its collection, having recently been named the winner of the York Durham Headwaters area Best Bicycle Friendly Business Award.

Thirteen Ontario businesses were awarded this prize for their efforts to go above and beyond, offering extra services and amenities to cyclists who visit their locations.

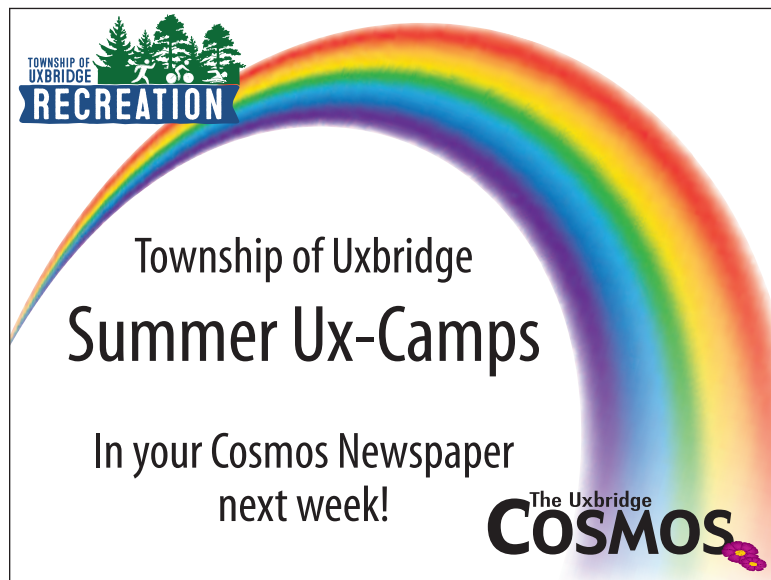
The awards were presented by Ontario By Bike, an organization which "helps ensure cyclists are welcomed at businesses they choose to stop at, whether it be as a cycle tourist, on a longer trip, or while biking closer to home."

"We've been lucky to be so warmly embraced by the Uxbridge cycling community these last five years," says Joanne Richter, co-owner of The Second Wedge, "and it's been very rewarding to put out the welcome mat for cyclists visiting from other regions as well. We look forward to lots of bikes parked outside our tasting room and beer garden again soon."

Until then, beer lovers can order online at thesecondwedge.ca, and receive Uxbridge home delivery. Or, hop on a bike and ride over to pick your order up!

CORRECTION

Last week's edition of 'The Nature Nut' by Nancy Melcher (p. 11) featured a photo that, due to a production error, incorrectly labelled a Red Trillium as a Jack-in-the-pulpit. The Cosmos apologizes for the error and any confusion it may have caused.





Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

Finding a little happy

Checking the weather forecast for Uxbridge this morning, I saw that we can expect rain (or snow?) every day until next Tuesday, with the exception of Saturday. The highest temperature forecast for that period will be 16C.

On top of that, I'm still wearing a winter coat, as I have been for the past seven months and we're almost into May. Of all the things we have, collectively, been forced to forego as a result of the pandemic, the one that I miss the most is being able to sit outside on a bench or a patio and enjoy a cup of coffee. It's been too d**med cold and windy.

As I have stated many times, I'm a voracious devourer of news but that has become something of an ordeal over the past 12 months since just about every item falls into the doom and gloom category: e.g. the Myanmar junta, the Russian military buildup on the Ukrainian border, India's horrific COVID-19 surge, rampant police shootings in the U.S. and on and on. And the weather just won't co-operate. Is it any wonder that I'm grouchy, moody and discombobulated? Am I alone? I think not.

What I desperately need right now - (probably what we all need right now) - is a little happy. When I say happy, I don't mean distraction. I mean something that will lift the spirits longer than a few minutes, something that will give me a little hope that things are going to get better, something that will connect me with the world again in a positive way.

We all (most of us) rejoiced last year when we learned the COVID-19 vaccines were available, but that rejoicing was short-lived as we became aware of the delivery delays and the snail's-pace rollout of the vaccination clinics. Many rejoiced recently when Derek Chauvin was found guilty in the death of George Floyd, but that, too, was short-lived as police continued shooting and killing Black men and women. Many were happy to see the end of the Trump presidency, but then had to face the fact that the Republican party is still hell-bent on being the party of white supremacists, racists and crazies. As I say, these things lifted the spirits, but only for a few minutes.

Even here, our spirits are lifted briefly when stores and patios are allowed to open, only to be dashed when they are closed again days later.

Obviously, what would make me and the rest of the world happy would be an end to the pandemic, an end to world hunger and an end to war. But there aren't enough beauty pageant winners to make that happen. So I'd settle for a just a little happy. Things like open patios and open golf courses, with the weather improving. Things like hugs and handshakes and face-to-face conversations with old friends. Events I can enjoy without having to watch them on my computer. Winning the lottery.

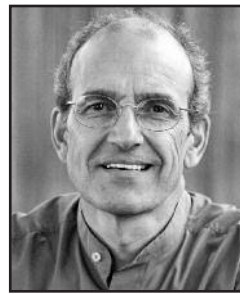
However, the ones who really need a little happy are the children. We seniors already know life is just a vale of tears: kids shouldn't have to face that reality in their younger years. How many birthday parties have been missed? How many haven't played with their friends for a long time? How many are confused by new rules they don't understand? How many are missing the warmth and embrace of their extended families? How many are just simply scared?

There are those among us who are doing their best to bring a little happiness into our lives. For example, the recent Seniors Centre Without Walls and Communi-TEA Zoom meetings provided participants with a lot of laughs and information and they were a welcome relief from the hum-drum of life as it now is. But, as the song says in *The King and I*, those meetings were too few and over too soon.

To end on a slightly positive note, I quote former NDP leader Jack Layton's final words: "My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world."

Well, I doubt that I'm going to change the world, but I'm going to try hard to be loving, hopeful and optimistic. Maybe that will help me find a little happy.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

How to pay for paid sick days

It's been seven days since the premier apologized to Ontarians. It's been 13 days since he did what he apologized for – unnecessarily closing outdoor recreation facilities and giving police the power to randomly stop citizens during the stay-at-home order. And it's been nine days since Doug Ford went into self-isolation at his mother's home in Etobicoke, after a member of his staff tested positive for COVID-19. In other words, the premier has not physically served in his office, nor at the Ontario Legislature since a week ago Tuesday. In other words, technically, Doug Ford has *not* been *at work*.

He continues, of course, to be paid... which means Premier Doug Ford is getting paid for sick days!

That means the premier has received nine days of his annual salary – about \$5,148 of his \$208,974.00 annual income – *all against the stated policy of his own administration*. Perhaps, he'll realize the oversight and, like the time he gave back \$10,000 of his salary because the budget arrived in the Legislature later than promised, he'll return the \$5,148 he's been paid for being away self-isolating.

If there was any question about the Conservatives' position on paid sick leave, the evidence is legion. In 2018, right after they came into power, they scrapped Bill 148. Among other measures, the Liberals' Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act provided two paid, job-protected emergency leave days for all workers. But the Conservatives repealed it.

"Sixty thousand people lost their jobs under Bill 148," Ford claimed, (which referred principally to part-time positions), "We're going to create more jobs ... unlike the Liberals, who destroyed this province."

Then came the pandemic. Following Ontario's March 2020 stay-at-home order, which affected principally women who vacated jobs to attend their families at home. According to the province's Financial Accountability Officer, Ontario lost 355,000 jobs – the single largest decline on record and nearly six times worse than what Ford claimed was the result of the Liberals' two paid sick days legislation.

Then, the very day the Ford administration scrambled to put the premier in front of a camera in Etobicoke for his "apology" press conference, downtown those Conservatives on the job voted down MPP Michael Coteau's private member's legislation. Bill 247 would have introduced a provision to Ontario's employment standards to provide up to 10 paid days of leave per year because of personal illness, injury or medical emergency. "(The Conservatives)" votes are not against an Opposition MPP's

bill," Coteau told the *Star*, "but against the 83 per cent of Ontarians who support paid sick leave." The defeat of Coteau's paid sick leave bill marked the 21st time, either through motions or previous bills, that the Conservative party and the premier have voted against paid sick days. "This is not a partisan issue," Coteau said finally. "This is about the best science."

But for some reason, few members of Doug Ford's cabinet, which (they tell us) regularly receive recommendations from its COVID-19 Science Advisory Table, have taken the experts' warnings seriously. As early as January of this year, when Ontario faced a second wave of COVID cases, Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Ontario's associate chief medical officer of health, said more had to be done "to help residents comply with public health rules ... including instituting paid sick days."

However, instead of putting science first, in my view, the Ontario government has put its self-preservation first. The Ford Conservatives have blamed the Trudeau Liberals for not going far enough. And, sure, there's plenty of blame to go around. The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit from Ottawa has assisted some 300,000 Ontarians, who received \$450 after taxes. Its after-the-fact rollout is clearly not effective either. "There's \$700 million from the federal government sitting there. The system is broken," Ford said.

But if a year of political ping-pong has illustrated anything in Ontario, it's proven the paid sick days buck stops at Queen's Park.

So, 13 days after the missteps against the scientists' recommendations, seven days after the apology, and 14 months after the pandemic hit, why do Ford and his ministers still tell us (worse, why do we still believe them?) that they've got a plan for paid sick days?

In the face of stonewalling against doing the right thing, I think it's time that the premier, and his entire caucus of 76 Progressive Conservatives pay back the people of Ontario the equivalent of the days when they ignored the science, the days when they failed to vaccinate racialized or hotspot neighbourhoods, or the days when they made silly pronouncements only to rescind them after public outrage – and give the equivalent of their pay back for all those days.

The payback would more than fund sick days lost by Ontario workers, although never compensate the pain and suffering such ideology has hastened.

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

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Crocheted poppies proposed for Cenotaph, Sharpe statue

by Roger Varley

Laura Taylor-Shields made a pitch to council to garner support for a proposed poppy project that would see crocheted poppies draped around the cenotaph area during the Remembrance Day period.

She said she made poppies for the Niagara Poppy Project last year, which saw thousands of poppies donated from around the world.

"Why not our town?" she asked. "We're an artsy community."

She said this year would be ideal for the project as it marks the 100th anniversary of Remembrance Day poppies in Canada.

Her presentation included photos of the cenotaph and library overlaid with illustrations of how the poppies would be displayed: hanging from the library balcony, along the Cenotaph fencing and around the base of the Cenotaph. She also offered it might be possible to drape some of the poppies around the

Sam Sharpe statue. She said the display would be used year after year.

Taylor-Shields said she has started a Facebook page called the Uxbridge Poppy Project and she already has people engaged in making poppies. She also has reached out to the residents of Douglas Crossing, Shobbrook Gardens and Butternut Manor to see if they would be interested in taking part. Poppies already made can be dropped off at the legion and Preston Gallery. She said the initial goal is to have 3,000 poppies on display and to meet that goal she is looking for donations of cash and yarn.

Barton, noting that Remembrance Day "is one of our most sacred days," said council would have to be careful in its approach to make sure that such a display would be done in a respectful manner.

Garrod moved that the proposal be referred to staff, the legion, the library board and the historical society for comment.

'Triplets cause great excitement in Uxbridge' 80 years ago

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

In May, 1941, a miracle occurred in Uxbridge. A set of naturally occurring triplets was unexpectedly born into an already sizeable local farming family, earning media attention from all over Ontario. This Sunday, May 2, David, Doreen and Doris Evans will celebrate their 80th birthday.

"It was by God's grace, love and mercy that we made it to our 80th birthday together," says Doris.

The front page of a local newspaper from May 8, 1941, featured the triplets' father, Wilfred Evans, in an interview with the *Toronto Daily Star*. In the interview, Evans describes telling his "four anxious children" that "there were three storks instead of one. You got the new baby sister – like you hoped. In fact, you got two new baby sisters, with a new baby brother thrown in for good measure."

Doris Evans was born first, leading her to be called "One" until a name was chosen for her. Born at 5:30 a.m., she weighed 4¾ pounds. "Two", who became Dave, was born shortly afterwards and weighed 4½ pounds. And "Three" was Doreen,



Naturally occurring triplets were the talk of the town in Uxbridge in May, 1941. All three turn 80 this weekend. From left: Dave, Doris and Doreen Evans were born to Wilfred and Gladys Evans, who owned a farm just east of town.

Submitted photo

born three hours later and weighing 4¼ pounds.

Family lore has it that the triplets were born on the family farm on

Marsh Hill Rd., just east of Uxbridge, and that, with no incubators present, they were kept warm in the oven. Neither is true – they were born in Mrs. H.J. Allen's nursing home, which was located on Main St., across from the Uxbridge Music

Hall. Mrs. Allen's first job after the babies' arrival was to go and purchase more baby clothes, as their mother, Gladys Evans (née St. John) had only brought baby clothes for one!

When the *Daily Star* asked Wilfred how it felt being the father of triplets, he replied that he felt "As though I'll have to get more than 50 cents a bag for potatoes from now on."

Doris, Dave and Doreen were new younger siblings to Lawrence, Ross, Floyd and Mildred – 12, 8, 7 and 4 at the time, respectively.

Three new additions to the family meant all hands on deck, and the three older boys were enlisted to help take care of their new siblings. Ross was assigned to look after Doris, Lawrence took charge of Dave, and Floyd watched over Doreen.

Doris Evans went on to marry Allan Hockley, had two children, and now lives in Waterloo. Dave stayed in Uxbridge and operated a successful plumbing business for many years, and he and wife Shirley had two children. Doreen married Tom Pickett, had three children, and now lives in a long-term care home in Scarborough. The three siblings won't be spending this milestone birthday together due to COVID-19 restrictions, but plan to mark the occasion with their own private celebrations.

In the 1941 *Daily Star* article, Dr. Mellow said that, according to a textbook he owned, naturally occurring triplets come along once in 7,910 births.

"It means," said Dr. Mellow, "that by the laws of average, this won't happen again in Uxbridge for 80 years."

It's been 80 years...Uxbridge is waiting!

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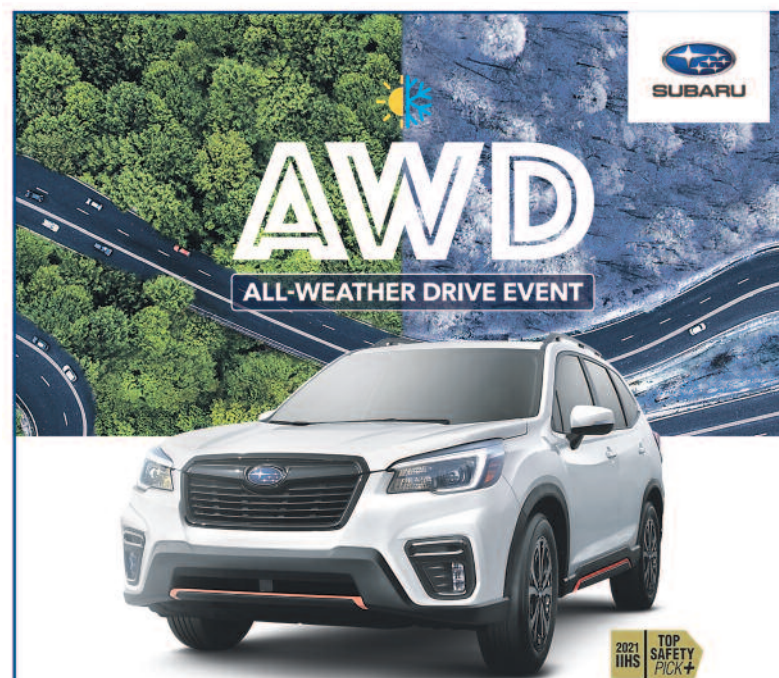
The family is sad to announce that Inge died April 15, 2021, peacefully and in the comfort of her own home at the age of 95.

Born in Hamburg, Germany, raised in Stavanger, Norway (including her teen years during the Nazi occupation), she immigrated to Montreal in her early twenties. After raising her sons in California, Vancouver and then Ottawa, she relocated to Uxbridge in 2008 for her final years.

Inge was predeceased by her husband, Harold Hugh Christian (Chris) Boulton. Cherished mother to her sons Bruce and Dave (Karen). Kind and loving grandmother of Isabelle, Eric (Caeley), Ben, and Chris (Payton) and great-grandson Florian.

A quiet observer, she always carried herself with style and dignity. She enjoyed travel, gardening, cross country skiing and keeping current with world events. Inge took great pleasure in the adventures and successes of her grandchildren.

In light of COVID restrictions there will be no service. Should you wish to consider a memorial donation, the family would appreciate a donation to the Rotary Club of Uxbridge Charitable Foundation, via Canada Helps. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388, Uxbridge L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). Condolences can be made at www.lowandlow.ca



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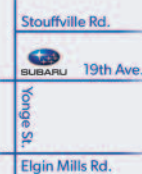
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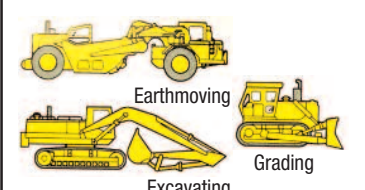
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