

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 17 No. 21

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, May 27, 2021



THESE PAWS ARE MADE FOR WALKING - Two Dog Guides and their humans met up with Uxbridge Lions Club member Bob Armitage (in purple) and his wife, Sue, for a photo op promoting the annual Walk for Dog Guides. "Violet", left, with Alex Saunders, is currently in training, while "Cagney", right, has been with Jonathan Wilson for eight years, and is about to retire. The virtual walk, which raises funds through the Lions Club to provide dog guides to Canadians with disabilities, happens this Sunday, May 30. Ted Barris, who emcee's the Uxbridge walk, was also presented with the Helen Keller Fellowship award for his 20+ years of support for the Walk for Dog Guides. To participate or donate to this year's virtual walk, visit walkfordogguides.com/fundraisers/uxbridgelionsclub

Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Local garden centres help gardeners go green by recycling

by Justyne Edgell

Making a garden green may be fun, exciting, and rewarding, even. But it can also be frustrating when disposing of the plastic plant pots and trays in the garbage, rather than recycling them is anything *but* green.

These plastic trays and pots are made of a low grade plastic, which means they don't qualify for recycling, in accordance with Durham Region's "Know Before You Throw" guidelines for municipal recycling.

This is only a small part of a much larger issue, as the petroleum-based material that the plant containers are made of can't biodegrade at all, so throwing it into landfill means it will likely only break down into microplastics, which can possibly leach into and contaminate water systems. Finding responsible ways to dispose or

reuse plastic plant pots and trays should be high on any gardener and nature lover's radar!

Certain local garden centres will take plastic pot and tray returns; however, it is often only the trays which they can accept and reuse.

Every year, people throw away enough plastics to circle the Earth four times.

Darlene Otter, owner of Otter Greenhouses, says she wishes there were a better way to recycle the plastic pots.

"The pots can be contaminated and unfortunately, we have no way to sterilize them here,

but the trays can be used over and over until they are broken."

Before the pandemic, John Statham of John's garden accepted plant pot returns, but for the past two seasons he has put that practice on hold.

This year, the Zehrs garden centre is accepting returned plant pots and has a system to recycling the plastic into more pots for next year.

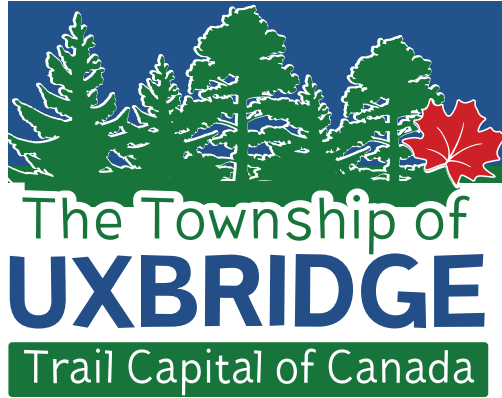
Certain home and garden improvement stores, like Lowes and The Home Depot, have recycling programs for plastic, along with their tier, battery and lightbulb recycling programs.

Check with your favourite plant merchant or ask an avid gardener to discover if they can reuse the pots, or perhaps find a creative way to repurpose them around your home.

Inside Your Cosmos

Give a gift of foodpage 3

Helping India breathe easierpage 8



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

The Township of
UXBRIDGE
Trail Capital of Canada

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for May, 2021

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

Monday, May 31, 6:00 p.m.
CLIMATE ADAPTATION &
TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Proclamations for the month of May
• Sexual Assault Prevention Month

Meeting Schedule for June, 2021

Monday, June 7, 10:00 a.m.
COMMITTEE MEETING
4:00 pm.
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 8, 7:00 p.m.
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF AN INTERIM CONTROL BY-LAW THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge passed By-law No. 2021-059 on the 10th day of May, 2021, pursuant to Section 38 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, as amended, to provide for Interim Control with respect to New Drug Addiction Treatment and Harm Reduction Facilities including Methadone Dispensaries for a period of one year.

AND TAKE NOTICE that the Interim Control By-law applies to all of the lands within the geographic limits of the Township of Uxbridge. For this reason, no Key Map is provided.

AND TAKE NOTICE that Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge has authority pursuant to Section 38 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, as amended, to extend the period during which the Interim Control By-law will be in effect to a total period not exceeding two years.

An explanation of the purpose and effect of the By-law is given below. For a complete copy of the Interim Control By-law, please contact the Clerk's Department during regular office hours.

DATED AT THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE THIS 19th DAY OF MAY, 2021.

Debbie Leroux, Clerk

Township of Uxbridge, Box 190, 51 Toronto St. S., Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1T1
905-852-9181 ext. 228

dlroux@uxbridge.ca

Township File: N/A

Interim Control – New Drug Addiction Treatment and Harm Reduction Facilities including Methadone Dispensaries

PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF THE BY-LAW

• The Interim Control By-law (No. 2021-059) was passed to allow Township staff and consultants to undertake a study in respect of land use policies for new drug addiction treatment and harm reduction facilities including methadone dispensaries and clinics, needle exchange sites, overdose prevention sites, and drug addiction treatment and drug rehabilitation residential facilities for all the lands in the Township of Uxbridge. The study will provide a basis for the development of a policy and regulatory framework, anticipated to include amendments to the Township's Official Plan and Zoning By-law.

• The Interim Control By-law provides that notwithstanding the permitted uses and regulations of the Township Zoning By-law, no person shall use any land, building or structure or expand any use on the land, or use or erect any building or structure, including any addition to an existing building for the purpose of new drug addiction treatment and harm reduction facilities including methadone dispensaries and clinics, needle exchange sites, overdose prevention sites, and drug addiction treatment and drug rehabilitation residential facilities (including those located as an accessory or ancillary use within a pharmacy, other retail store or other similar commercial or institutional use).

• The Interim Control By-law will remain in effect until May 10, 2022 unless otherwise extended in accordance with Section 38 of the Planning Act or repealed by Council at an earlier date.

2021 SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Uxbridge Public Library Summer Student for Children's Program

Please note that the start date for these positions may be subject to the provincial government's pandemic mandates.

The Township of Uxbridge Public Library is looking for a student to work with our Children's Summer Program Coordinator, to provide exciting, enjoyable, educational in-person and/or online programs for school-age children at the Uxbridge Public Library. The successful candidate will help to plan, coordinate, and conduct all children's summer programming, as well as assist with the general operations of the Uxbridge Public Library as needed.

Qualifications and Experience

- Should be enrolled in a post-secondary program in the Fall of 2021.
- Experience in planning and conducting activities for/with children.
- Previous experience in a library setting and/or Insignia ILS is an asset.
- Self-motivated and well organized.
- Ability to adapt.
- Solid knowledge of common word processing and publishing programs.

This position is 35 hours per week from July 5, 2021, until August 27, 2021, with a wage of \$14.25/hour. Please note that this position will be contingent on student grant funding approval.

If this position is of interest to you, please forward your resumé to Ethan Goldsmith, Children's Summer Program Coordinator at ethan.goldsmith@uxlib.com. Resumés will be accepted until Friday, June 4, 2021. We thank all applicants, however only those selected to proceed through the hiring process will be contacted. Phone interviews will be conducted during the week of June 14, 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.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge proposes to enact a By-law to stop up, close and convey the following described road allowance:

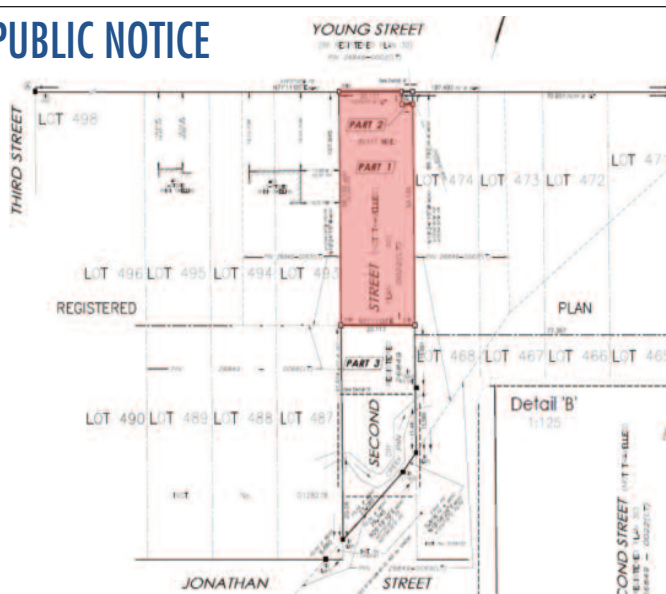
Part of Second Street Registered Plan 30, more particularly described as Parts 1, 2 and 3 on Plan 40R-31341, Township of Uxbridge, Regional Municipality of Durham;

FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the Township Council at its meeting held on May 10th, 2021, declared by Resolution 2021-05 the aforementioned road allowance to be surplus to the needs of the Municipality.

A copy of the plan showing the location of the road allowance may be viewed in the Office of the Clerk. Council will hear any person who claims that their land will be affected by the said By-law and who applies to be heard at the virtual Public Planning Meeting on June 14th at 10:30 a.m.

Dated this 18th day of May, 2021.

Debbie Leroux, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk



COVID vaccination registration NOW OPEN
in Uxbridge for residents 18+ or those
turning 18 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

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping has begun, and will take 6 – 8 weeks to complete. Please try not to park on the streets during this time. Please leave the sand on the road as there will not be any special pick up of sand left in piles or in pails. It is acceptable to rake any sand that has accumulated on the boulevard into the curb and gutter prior to the sweeping of the street. Any areas that are missed due to parked cars will be redone after all sweeping is complete.

Below is the schedule for sweeping:

**1. Rural subdivisions and hamlets
COMPLETED**

2. N/W corner of town
3. S/W corner of town
4. S/E corner of town
5. N/E corner of town
6. Town parking lots

(The town portion is divided into 4 areas with Brock & Main Streets as the centre point.)

A gift of food for food workers

by Roger Varley

Local resident Zed Pickering has launched a campaign to honour Uxbridge's food store workers with gifts of food.

Pickering said he is encouraging residents to purchase gift cards from local restaurants, with the cards to be collected and distributed among staff at the township's grocery stores.

"We've all stood in those lines and seen how they've had to step up," he said of the workers. "We've asked them to do more than they usually would. It's a way to thank our heroes."

Pickering launched the idea a couple of weeks ago on Instagram. He said the idea has been shared by a number of people and 105.5 radio has helped spread the word. He said gift cards have already started but the program needs more support.

He said people can choose to buy gift cards at whatever local eatery they want and then drop the cards off in a basket at Blue Heron Books on Brock St. After the cards have been quarantined for a while, they will be sent to the food stores for distribution. The cut-off date for delivering the cards to the book shop is June 6.

"I hope everyone will want to jump on board," Pickering said. "It's a way to support our food workers and our restaurants at the same time."

CORRECTION

In the May 20 edition of the *Cosmos*, the article entitled "Return, re-sell, recycle - a win-win-win business", credited loadupliquidators.ca for the photos. The correct website is loadupliquidation.ca. The *Cosmos* apologizes for the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.



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Your turn is coming soon.

Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine plan is helping to stop the spread and save lives. Thousands of people across the province are getting vaccinated every day.

As vaccinations continue, we need to stay the course to protect those we love. Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Keep your distance.

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.

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Ontario 

Our two cents

If we bill it, will they come?

Paying for parking at a municipal amenity was in the news last week ("From out-of-town? Please pay at the skate park") when council agreed to support a six-month trial paid-parking system for non-residents using the skate park/pump park at the Fields of Uxbridge. As readers may recall, this isn't the first time that council and/or staff have suggested paid parking within the township - think way back to January, when paid parking and "emptying wallets" at some of the various trail heads in the area became a hot-button topic for awhile. The terms and conditions of this more recent report/proposal are much clearer than the January report was, in that it very pointedly says only out-of-town users of the skate and pump park will have to fork out the suggested \$10/hour parking fee. The report also pointedly says that this is an effort to not only control the outrageous parking situation that occurs on the site when there are more visitors than the 16 allotted parking spots, but also an effort to keep the skate and pump park more available to local users.

Now, we totally get that parking willy-nilly all over the Fields of Uxbridge, Reg. Rd. 1 and Ball Rd. is an accident waiting to happen. And we understand that the skate park and pump park were built to provide a high-end, unique opportunity to enjoy outdoor sport. But (of course there's a but) do we really want to earn a reputation for having top-notch facilities that visitors to Uxbridge can only use if they pay for parking?

As Roger Varley mentions in his piece on page 8, many of the parks' users are from out of town. Many of the trail users are from out of town. We understand the need for revenue, but it seems rather incongruous to bill ourselves the Trail Capital of Canada, or build a world-class pump park, then make everyone who comes from "outside" pay for parking. We're actively trying to sell this town to visitors and tourists, and we're a little worried that charging out-of-towners for parking will leave them thinking twice about coming here. Right now they may come to the pump park, then go for ice cream at Kawartha Dairy, or stop for a burger somewhere along Toronto St. S. Tell them their two-hour visit to the skate park is an extra \$20 expenditure, and it may be that we lose the \$20 as well as any other money they may have spent while here. It's a conundrum, indeed. And what's next? The new multi-sport complex going in at Bonner Fields will likely attract a lot of out-of-towners. Will it be added to the park n' pay list of attractions in Uxbridge? We're not the big city. If we want to *encourage* people to come here, we can't be Greedy Gusses and send them away. For them to empty their wallets, they have to *want* to be here, first.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.



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The Uxbridge COSMOS

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Letters to the Editor

This past Sunday I was in line waiting to enter the Uxbridge Farmers' Market. It was very busy and the line slowly moved to the entrance. After a short time I collapsed. I am recovering now, and there are a number of people I would like to thank for their kind assistance.

First, the couple behind me who sensed that I might be unwell, caught me and safely lowered me to the ground. And to my good friend Adrian from Will O' Wind, who left his busy stall and came to see if I was okay.

Most especially I want to thank two

off-duty nurses who comforted me, kept the crowd back and called for an ambulance. And thanks to the two EMT for their professional conduct as I was assisted into the ambulance, did initial checks and got me to the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital.

I would also like to thank the many, many people in the crowd who watched it all with obvious concern.

Finally, thank you to Doctor Munn and all the nursing staff at the hospital. Numerous tests were done and medicines applied. Later in the day I was discharged. I have drugs to take over the next weeks and remain

under doctor's care.

I was lucky that I was surrounded by so many caring people that morning. If this had occurred during one of my walks through the trails the result would have been very different.

I am comfortably at home now under the watchful eye of my two great kids. Feeling fine, I expect a full recovery.

So, thank you all for your kindness, concern and great work. I feel blessed to live here in the great town of Uxbridge.

*David Moseley
Uxbridge*

Eulah Irene Shier (née Parish)

June 8, 1919 – May 18, 2021

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 – Peacefully, at Amica Retirement Home, with her loving daughter Anne and friend Evelyn by her side, Eulah Irene Shier (née Parish) passed away just shy of her 102nd birthday. Beloved wife of the late Howard B. Shier (2007). Dearly loved mother of the late Marilyn Siegrist (Tom), Anne Walker (Jim) and Gerry Shier (Dawn). Cherished grandmother of Sherri (Joe), Cynthia (Dean), Cathy (Neil), Miriam, James (Ximena), Trilby, and Leslie (Chris), Tara, Megin and Steve. Proud great-grandmother to: Douglas, Trevor, Ryan, Chloe, Jake, Jenna, Brian, Ava, Anabelle, Camden, Carmen, Vanessa and Liam. Eulah is predeceased by her parents Ellesworth and Isabelle Parish and her brothers Morley and Lloyd. Eulah will be missed by her many nieces and nephews.

Eulah was a devoted mother who raised 3 children. A stylish and elegant woman, Eulah was an exceptional homemaker and avid gardener. Wherever she went, Eulah made lifelong friends who she loved to entertain at her home, the cottage or in Florida. Once her children were grown, Eulah went back to school to become a hairdresser. She

managed and ran her own beauty salon in Uxbridge and later managed a motel in Ocala, Florida, where she and Howard divided their time.

Eulah was a member of the Trinity United Church and Eastern Star. She touched many hearts with her kindness and compassion. She was always quick to help others in need. Many friends and family often commented on Eulah's remarkable memory. She loved telling stories of the old days to friends and family. Eulah had an indomitable and courageous spirit. She never gave up, stayed positive and always faced life's challenges head on.

The family would like to thank Eulah's many friends for their support and kindness throughout the years. Special thanks to Evelyn Murphy for her devoted care and Bonnie Rynard for her many kindnesses. We would also like to thank the nurses, PSWs and staff at the Amica Retirement Home, where Eulah lived for the last 10 years.

A private family service will be held due to current restrictions. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, 23 Main Street South, Box 388 Uxbridge L9P 1M8 (905-852-3073). In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Trinity United Church in Uxbridge, Heart and Stroke Foundation or a charity of your choice. Online condolences can be made at www.lowandlow.ca





...I'm just sayin'

column by Justyne Edgell

Nothing better than puppy kisses

My family recently had to put down our 15-year-old dog, who was, it seemed, the heart and soul of our family. We got him as a puppy and loved the heck out of him until he was a crotchety senior, plagued with a myriad of medical conditions.

We were absolutely heartbroken when he passed, and still are, but we always knew another pup would be in our future. And that future is now! This past weekend we welcomed home the sweetest, most gentle, darling little guy. An eight-week old Cavalier Spaniel cross Beagle with the most endearing puppy eyes you have ever seen.

My family and I have been applying to dog rescues for a few weeks now, and it has been a bit of an exhausting process. I have heard all about the high dog demand and the “pandemic puppies,” but we seemed to be expending so much energy trying to prove how worthy we were to adopt, without an ounce of acknowledgment in return. While I understand that these rescues are supported mainly by donations and volunteers, and that time is very valuable when they are caring for troubled animals and trying to manage the organization, it felt quite disappointing to pour our hearts into application after application and hear nothing in return, only to later see an “Adopted” notice for the dog we had been interested in.

At one point we thought that maybe there was something wrong with us, that maybe we were saying something undesirable in our applications. Perhaps the fact that we have a cat whom we love so dearly or a large yard that is safe to play in, or that we recently lost our diabetic, hypothyroid-suffering, blind and deaf dog that we cared for, with all those ailments, was “not what they were looking for” in a dog adopter.

So although we have always said that we'd rather have a rescue over a breeder batch pup, when we saw the notice for this little litter, we reached out and somehow we were lucky enough that the pups weren't all called for. And when we saw this little man, OUR little man, we were instantly in love.

Picking up a puppy on the Sunday evening of a long weekend, in the middle of a pandemic lockdown, however, does cause some difficulties. The outdoor, masked, first meeting was

quite painless, but thankfully when we picked him up, we were sent home with a bag of kibble; otherwise it would have been porridge and rice until the pet store reopened for curbside pickup on Tuesday!

It's been a while since we have experienced the puppy years. The chewing and digging and crying in the night is a little overwhelming at times, but so, SO, worth it when you look into those big brown eyes and he snuggles into your chest. As I sit here and write this, I have a little pup chewing on the side of my laptop. Yes, slightly undesirable, and quite hard to focus, but I'll say it again, THOSE EYES. They could make even the kindest person do bad things.

Puppies take that patience, attention and extra care that, really, only a puppy requires (and maybe a kitten or another baby pet or possibly a toddler). I had someone say to me, as I was desperately applying for one of the many rescue dogs, “why don't you just wait until after the pandemic when all of the pandemic puppies get surrendered as people go back to work.” I come from a crazy, animal-loving family. To us, pets are family members, and while they can't talk to express their feelings or emotions, in my opinion, their soul and life is just as important as ours. We do have a bit of “not a rescue” guilt but, hey, nothing is stopping us from

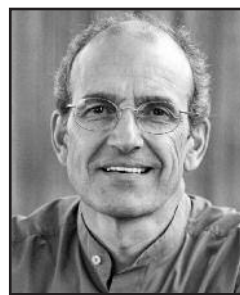
also getting a rescue if, god forbid, pandemic puppies find themselves in need of a home (maybe don't tell my parents that just yet, we're still trying to get through the night with this puppy)!

With all that puppy talk, I'd like to introduce you to Douglas. He has been told all about how he lives in the Trail Capital of Canada and is excited to get his second set of shots and to then be able to mingle and explore our trails and wild spaces! The hound in him is really looking forward to sniffing anything and everything! So, if you see us out and about a few weeks from now, we would love you to come say “hi”. Doug is still a little young for cookies, but he will graciously take a belly rub instead!

And for anyone who has recently lost a pet, I am sending you all the compassionate thoughts I can. Nothing will replace the hole our loss left in our hearts. But little Doug is shaping up to do a pretty good job at patching that gap.



“Douglas” Photo by Justyne Edgell



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Need for charity no greater than now

Jonathan Wilson will graduate in about a year. He'll complete the Journalism and Mass Media program at Durham College. Despite having to adapt to online learning for the past year from his home in Uxbridge, he's getting A's in his grades, and earning praise for his portfolio of stories. Once he graduates, Jonathan will start beating the bushes for full-time work as a professional journalist. His mom, Lisa Wilson, is proud of her son's accomplishments. She's also thankful for the charity of others.

“If it wasn't for the Lions Foundation and Dog Guides Canada,” Lisa told a handful of us this week, “none of this would've been possible.”

Under normal circumstances, at about noon this Sunday, May 30, dozens of dogs and their owners would gather at the Lions pavilion in Elgin Park. I say normally, because we've been doing this like clockwork for each of the past 20 years. Most of us would be completing our pledge forms, handing in the cash from donations, and meeting some of the beneficiaries of the Dog Guides program – people such as Jonathan – before starting our walkathon around town to demonstrate our dedication to the international Dog Guides program.

About nine years ago, Jonathan, who has autism, received Cagney, a black Lab guide dog trained to offer calm whenever Jonathan needed it, whether at home or at school. Each year following our walkathons, the Lions Foundation would have announced donation totals for ours and similar fundraisers across the country. The past few years, the national campaign has raised as much as \$1.3 million each walkathon, \$5-6,000 locally.

Not this year. Bob and Sue Armitage, who've organized the Lions Dog Guide campaign locally since the late 1990s, admitted that donations are down as much as 80 per cent since the pandemic. “But it still costs \$35,000 to train an individual dog such as Cagney, these days,” the Armitages pointed out.

By coincidence this month, members of the board for the Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust (UMST) met virtually to discuss the state of the charity and its potential beneficiaries. The UMST was born in 1998 when several area musicians and teachers – including the late Anthony Holt and flutist Leslie Joosten – recognized that music talent abounded in Uxbridge, but often not the financial means to see young performers flourish.

“We have all the ideals,” Anthony Holt told my colleague Roger Varley 23 years ago, “but now we have to get down to earth and raise the

money.”

Over the past 23 years, the UMST has awarded \$86,950 to 63 deserving musical performers. Many of the recipients have gone on to work as professional singers, instrumentalists, music teachers, private instructors and performers of musical theatre, jazz, popular music, and classical music. All because this community cared enough about the arts, in particular music, when times are toughest. Such as now...

When the UMST launched (I joined the board shortly thereafter), among the first in our community to offer assistance was the Optimist Club of Uxbridge. The Optimists donated to the UMST its first funds to assist aspiring music students pay tuitions to university music programs, repair instruments, acquire music texts, cover professional mentoring, and generally help tomorrow's music leaders take their first steps today. As one might expect in a pandemic, financial need for young musical artists is most critical. And guess who's stepping up again? In 2021, Uxbridge Optimists have chosen to support UMST as a principal charity. John Carroll serves as the club's treasurer.

“The club was there at the beginning for the scholarship,” Carroll said. “Giving students validation of their hard work in music is always important. We think it's especially so this pandemic year.”

This Sunday, none of the diehard participants in the Lions Dog Guides walkathon can gather at the fairgrounds. But to illustrate the value of the program, a handful of us, including Jonathan and Cagney, his guide dog, got together for a socially distanced public service photograph in the park. It was a bittersweet moment. We can't raise necessary funds the traditional way, but we did learn how Cagney's presence in Jonathan's life has made a difference.

“My grades (at Durham College) have been in the 80s this year,” Jonathan said, “and I received the best arts and culture story award.”

The benefits of charitable donation – giving a young man a chance at a writing career via walkfordogguides.com/fundraisers/uxbrideliionsclub, or scholarships to aspiring musicians via the Uxbridge Music Scholarship Trust uxbridgemusicscholarship@gmail.com – couldn't be more tangible. If you haven't donated to a charity before, do it now. If you have and can, double the amount. The need has never been greater.

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



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Uxbridge helps Indian families breathe a little easier

by Nancy Melcher

The "Uxbridge Helps India" fundraiser under way at Trail Capital IDA Pharmacy is, according to pharmacy owner Hank Parsaniya, progressing very well. As of press time Tuesday evening, Parsaniya had confirmed that over \$7,000 has been donated. So far, he has sent 140,000 Indian Rupees, or approximately C\$2,318, to support four different projects.

Four hundred and fourteen dollars was donated to a young woman who is a medical student. Both her parents died from COVID-19, leaving her responsible for her 15-year-old brother. She said she joined a treatment team the week after her parents passed away because she didn't want others to lose their parents like she did.

Another \$414 was donated to a family in the state of Gujarat, on the western coast of India. The father

and his son, both of whom were the main daily wage earners, died from the coronavirus, leaving the mother, the son's wife and her three-year-old daughter without support. The funds will provide groceries for four to five months, enabling them to grieve and make arrangements for their future.

A third donation of \$414 went to another family that lost its daily wage earner, as well. The mother is now actively looking for work as a cleaner to provide for the family, but again, these funds will provide groceries for up to five months to help ease her transition.

Almost \$1,077 was used to purchase an oxygen concentrator for the public health centre in a rural village, helping COVID patients with low oxygen levels survive until emergency help arrives, which can take anywhere from 20 minutes to several hours.

All donations Parsaniya raises go directly to those in need in rural India. Parsaniya, who is from Junagadh District in the state of Gujarat, has a volunteer network that includes family members who are health care professionals there, and they are identifying the dire situations that require these funds.

Donations may be made by e-transfer to hankvpr@gmail.com or by dropping off cash at Trail Capital IDA Pharmacy.



Donations from "Uxbridge Helps India" helped purchase an oxygen concentrator, shown here, for a rural village in India, giving patients suffering from COVID-19 extra support while waiting for emergency medical help to arrive.

Photo from Facebook - Trail Capital I.D.A.

Relaxed restrictions welcomed on weekend

by Roger Varley

With the provincial government loosening restrictions on outdoor activities as of last Saturday, the skate park and pump park at the Fields of Uxbridge were a popular destination on the weekend, as were local golf courses.

Visiting the skate/pump park a few times over the weekend, the *Cosmos* observed dozens of youngsters trying out their skills, but the numbers on hand during the visits never approached the 50-person limit.

For the most part, the users were children and youth.

In talking with adults at the site, all of the nine people interviewed by the *Cosmos* were non-residents. Four came from Oshawa, three came from York Region, one was from Thornhill and one was from west Toronto. All said they had heard about Uxbridge's facility through social media.

Asked about Uxbridge council's decision to run a six-month trial of requiring out-of-towners to pay for parking at the park, the majority said they thought it as a

"reasonable" move, but added that the proposed \$10-an-hour charge was excessive.

Meanwhile, over at Foxbridge on Saturday, pro Mack Harrison said the first day was not crowded, likely because of the threat of rain. However, he expected bookings for tee times on Sunday and Monday to be near maximum. Harrison did have one complaint, however, saying that, because of the timing of the government announcement that golf courses would be allowed to re-open, he had to scramble to find enough staff to work on the weekend.

The skate/pump park and the golf courses were not the only busy places. At Kawartha Dairy in the south end of town, long lines of people queued up outside to buy ice cream. In anticipation of further loosening of restrictions, a number of restaurants have begun preparing their patios for opening, with at least six in the downtown core waiting for customers.