

The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 17 No. 18

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, May 6, 2021



Patrick Bryant, Broker of Record

COMFLEX REALTY INC., BROKERAGE

small commission **BIG RESULTS**

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MAKING IT HIGH SPEED - Ryan Kennedy, left, Thomas Tanunagara and Randy Hickey of Ruralwave began installation last week of a high speed fibre optic trunk that will service a portion of Avonlea Rd. in Leaskdale. The area, which is currently serviced by wireless towers and satellite, should be covered by fibre optic service by the end of this summer. Inset: fibre optic filaments as contained in the trunk, which will run to individual buildings.

Photos by John Cavers

Scugog wants help with championing dead end road kids

by Roger Varley

A delegation from Scugog appealed for support from Uxbridge council in its quest to change a policy of the Durham School Transportation Service (DSTS) that prohibits school bus drivers from making three-point turns on dead-end roads and cul-de-sacs.

Scugog councillor Debbie Kiezebrink and deputy mayor Wilma Wotten presented a video to council which showed some school children who have to walk more than two kilometres to get from their homes on dead-end roads to the closest school bus pickup site. They noted some pickup sites are located on highways with 80 km/h speed limits and narrow shoulders. The video also showed one site where children have been advised to wait for the bus: it is on a bridge over a creek and the bridge has a railing missing. It is also located at the bottom of what the delegates called a blind hill.

The group provided a letter they sent to Edu-

cation Minister Stephen Lecce pointing out that delivery trucks, garbage trucks, fire trucks, snow plows and ambulances all make three-point turns when they find themselves on dead-end roads and wondering why school bus drivers can't do the same thing. She noted that



DSTS blames the three-point turn prohibition on the Durham school boards and the school boards blame the prohibition on the Ministry of Transportation.

"This is nuts," said Kiezebrink, noting that a 12-year-old child was killed recently in Port

Hope while waiting for a school bus.

Councillor Pam Beach opined that any school bus driver who can't do a three-point turn "shouldn't be driving." Wotten responded that it is not the drivers who are at fault, it's the policy. She said her group has contacted their school board trustee, DSTS and the school board "but it's buck passing. We've been going around in circles."

Councillor Popp, noting the policy also impacts Uxbridge, said "we've been going around a similar circle. It's been disappointing and problematic."

Barton said he will be meeting with Scugog mayor Bobbie Drew in the near future with a view to raising the issue at the provincial level. "You have our full support," he told the delegation.

Council will discuss a resolution on the matter next week.

Catch the Ace
PROGRESSIVE WEEKLY LOTTERY

PROJECTED JACKPOT FOR THE NEXT DRAW IS \$5,600

DUE TO PANDEMIC-RELATED RETAIL SALES RESTRICTIONS, THE LOTTERY IS CURRENTLY 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.

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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

Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for May 2021

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
- Sexual Assault Prevention month

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 piles.

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

dlroux@uxbridge.ca
Telephone: 905 852-9181

Fax: 905-852-9674

Horseshoes at the Museum

Register now for horseshoe games at the Museum! Running every Tuesday throughout the summer, once current Covid restrictions are lifted. Call Bob Kirvan at 905-852-9176 to register.

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.

Bids & Tenders

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

- Q21-03 Township Page – Closes May 25 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.

Ux-Camps

Registration
opens May 20

Learn more on pages 6 & 7

Spaces are limited. Summer programming subject to change without notice as per changing COVID-19 regulations.



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April 26, May 10, May 31, June 14, June 28

For more information and to Register:

Call 905-852-3081 or Email seniors@uxbridge.ca

COVID vaccination registration NOW OPEN
in Uxbridge for residents 50+ and those
turning 50 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

Pharmacy raising funds for COVID victims in India

by Nancy Melcher

The COVID-19 situation is reported to be dire. A local pharmacist who has relatives there wants to raise funds to help not just his family, but others who are in need there.

Hank Parsaniya and his wife Vidhi, owners of Trail Capital IDA Pharmacy, has set a goal to raise \$5,000.

“This second wave is deadlier than ever,” says Parsaniya. “This time there is no discrimination of age or health conditions.”

Parsaniya says that he personally knows many people who have died from COVID-19 in India’s second wave. He appreciates all that he has here in Canada and wants to help his fellow countrymen back home.

Parsaniya says he’ll start by donating \$1 from every vaccination given at his pharmacy. In addition, he will personally match public donations, up to \$1,000. He says he will send the funds to his family. His brother, a physician in Gujarat Province, has reached out to local hospitals and clinics to identify those with the greatest need.

“My network is strong and reliable there, so that is where the funds will be spent. My uncle will oversee the funds to ensure proper accounting, and my brother will help find the people that need it the most,” Parsaniya says.

Anyone wishing to make a donation can send an e-transfer to Parsaniya at hankvrp@gmail.com Cash and cheques may be dropped off at 2 Douglas Road, in the Starbucks/Wendy’s plaza.



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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ANOTHER ONE SOLD

"Maureen and Angela were just wonderful in helping us to sell our father's home after his passing. They seemed to realize how emotional this was for my sisters and myself and were very compassionate, and at the same time able to give us some expert advice. Communications with them were so enjoyable and the entire experience was fun, easy and stress-free. We can't thank them enough for helping us." - Jo-Anne S.



Angela Wood
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Our two cents

Yes, there IS a happy

We're not saying Roger Varley was wrong in his column last week ("Finding a little happy"), but just maybe there are a few more "little happy" moments that he might have mistaken for distractions. Perhaps he is not to be faulted for this because sometimes it takes a while for a distraction to evolve into a happy.

The merchants and other businesses in Uxbridge are currently engaged in what is being called a sign war. Anyone who has been around the urban area the last few days - (and, indeed, in some of the hamlets) - cannot possibly have missed it. The signs are self-explanatory: the sign war needs no description here. The main purpose of this war is to provide as many people as possible with a smile or a chuckle or just a brief lifting of spirits. But deep down, there's more to it than that. It's a way for the community as a whole to return to the original theme of the pandemic, saying we're all in this together and that with good-natured humour, we'll get through it all right. People will remember this sign war, however long it lasts, with a smile on their face and that makes a happy. It might not be world-changing, but then, how big is the world you want to change?

We remember with a smile the parade of inflatable Santas decorating dozens of homes along Campbell Dr. last Christmas, and it still makes us happy to think of this extraordinary example of neighbourliness and co-operation. The fact that the only event that didn't get totally shut down last year was the Optimist Club's Fantasy of Lights made that display even more special, and it makes us happy to think that it keeps getting bigger and better every year. It also makes us happy to realize the Fantasy isn't dominated by commercial interests or organizations: it also includes displays by families, making it truly a community effort.

Less organized but still an example of community togetherness is the plethora of painted rocks and branches one finds dotted around town, but all aimed at binding us together. They started showing shortly after the pandemic began and now they are cheerful daily reminders that we are a community. We profess we'll be a little sad come the day they eventually disappear.

Our merchants and retailers are still finding ways to try and buck our spirits up. Rutledge Jewelers continually dresses up the sidewalk in front of the store with decorative pieces that bring out the cameras of passersby, and the current Mother's Day tribute adds a delightful splash of colour to the downtown. The Second Wedge is providing a smile for passersby by peopling the shut-down patio area with mannequins and sculptures. HBArchitecture has set out an array of small tables and chairs just so that people can sit and take a break, surrounded by a herd of clay rabbits.

And so it goes. Yes, it has been a tough year, tough for everyone. But if we concentrate on the hardships and difficulties, it can blind us to those small moments that we need to cherish, those small bits of happy that will eventually, over time, build into one big happy.

But Roger was right about one thing: the weather just won't co-operate.

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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NEWSPAPER

READERS

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

The Uxbridge COSMOS

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CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARD 2019



Letters to the Editor

I appreciate the challenge you and your staff face each week to provide us with interesting and informative news. I so enjoyed your article on the Evans triplets of 1941 [April 29 edition]. It was a warm and enlightening story.

Also, I thought Roger's column "Finding a Little Happy" was so accurate. His quote by the late Jack Layton should be in our memory bank forever.

Glenys Yorke
Uxbridge

Re: "Grab the lifejacket" letter from Mary K. Maynard, April 29 edition

While I appreciate an open dialogue, I was dismayed to read the letter from Ms. Maynard, who remarked that the advice provided by four local family physicians and two local pharmacists was "utter nonsense". Actually, I was more than dismayed, I was angry. Angry that someone who doesn't know me, doesn't work in healthcare, hasn't seen the effects of COVID-19 first hand and in the ICU, felt they had to use such unkind words to describe me, my colleagues and what was intended to be an informative session.

I gave it a day, and now that I have had a chance to reflect on Ms. Maynard's perspective, and I want to approach it with kindness. I don't think she realizes how she comes across. And so it is with the upmost respect that I would like Ms. Maynard and those in her camp to think carefully about the position they hold when asserting their ability to wait and choose for "the right" vaccine. About their ability to work in a safe environment, or work from home, or not work at all. About

their ability to avoid social interactions by ordering curb side pick up or Amazon home delivery. About their ability to avoid interacting with persons who are at risk for COVID by not having children in school or extended family members who share one home. About their ability to avoid facing COVID at work because they are not a health-care provider or essential caregiver. About their ability to say that they would not get a vaccine at all except that they want to travel.

The reality is that, for most Canadians, simply living and working brings them in contact with enough people that the risks for COVID-19 far outweigh any real or perceived risks to the vaccines, and delaying vaccination for a "preferred" brand is like fussing over a lifejacket color as the ship is sinking. The vaccines currently available to Canadian's all offer exceptional risk reduction for hospitalization and death, so it is only in specific situations (eg. immunosuppression, allergy) that we would suggest waiting for a specific vaccine.

I do agree with Ms. Maynard that anyone with concerns should discuss with their family physician or pharmacist. We are here and ready to talk.

Dr. Carlye Jensen
Uxbridge Health Centre

Mary K. Maynard's overreaching, all-guns blazing letter of April 29 rails at the health care system ("medical gestapo") which she sees as coercive, particularly in regard to COVID-19 vaccines.

Ms. Maynard, who appears to possess a well-developed sense of self, has the unquestionable right to decline a particular vaccine and to decline all vaccines. In exercising that

right, she may do herself AND her fellow human beings a disservice, but that is her choice. Though public health systems and governments have made recommendations relating to vaccines, very few people would agree with Ms. Maynard that they have been coercive in this regard. Their recommendations are made for the common, public good, i.e., to minimize deaths, deleterious, long-lasting health impairment resulting from COVID-19, and to emerge as early as possible from the general societal disruption precipitated by the virus.

Ms. Maynard writes of the "COVID fiasco" and "mess," blaming with broad brush imprecision, "not Canadians" but "governments and public health departments who have failed to protect us." Someone should inform Ms. Maynard that in Canada, those who work within governments and public health departments are generally Canadians.

When using terms such as "medical gestapo" she would do well to give a thought to the countless doctors, nurses, and others within the medical system who are working their hearts out, at significant risk to themselves, in COVID-19 wards and ICUs. Thousands of others are administering COVID-19 tests and vaccines, and doing contact tracing, all of which has benefited Ms. Maynard directly or indirectly, whether she realizes it or not.

Ms. Maynard advises people to listen to their family doctors about COVID-19 vaccines, not to "this lot," i.e., not to the aforementioned people, including those in public health agencies. From whom does she think family doctors get their information on COVID-19 vaccines? They obtain it from public

...continued on page 8



A Blonde Moment

column by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

One number, two weeks. Go.

Last week, the paper ran a story regarding a recent cybersecurity breach at the Region of Durham offices, and focused on the length of time it took for the public to find out about said breach which, incidentally, was one month. The *Cosmos* is further looking into *why* it took so long for the region to let residents know that personal information may have been accessed. At the moment, I'm giving the region the benefit of the doubt, and can only surmise that it took its time doing a thorough investigation of what exactly occurred, as it did not want to unnecessarily alarm residents. Only after such a thorough investigation did the region think it necessary to alert residents about the cyber attack.

That's me being nice. The not-so-nice part still says "one freaking month before you let people know that their information 'may have been' hacked?" One month is a long time.

Back in my fourth year of university, I took an investigative journalism course. At our very first class, after a brief introduction and an outline of what we could expect from the semester, our professor handed out little slips of paper to everyone. Each slip had a different alpha-numeric sequence on it. We were given absolutely nothing else except a task and a deadline.

"Come back to class in exactly two weeks and tell me everything you can about the slip of paper you're holding," said our prof. So off we went.

We students quickly figured out that our slips of paper all had various driver's licence numbers on them. That, my friends, quite literally opened up the world to us.

Two weeks later, we went to class as instructed. Many of us had file folders, some of us had banker's boxes full - FULL - of the information that we had gleaned from our slips of paper.

I had three file folders full of papers, photos and other paraphernalia I had collected regarding my person. Let me tell you a bit about him.

He was a third year engineering student at the same university as myself, Carleton. I found out his name, age, and address just from his licence. From there, I found out his class schedule, who his professors were, where his classes were. I was able to track him down on campus, follow him, take photos (I loved this part - had me look into becoming a private investigator for the RCMP!).

I knew where he banked, and I knew what kind of accounts he had. I learned what clubs he belonged to, who his friends were, what they were studying, where they hung out on cam-

pus, what food they ate, what beer they drank. I knew his bus route, and mapped out his schedule.

I found out what his parents and grandparents' names were, what his siblings (two sisters and one brother) names were. I discovered where his siblings went to school and what they were studying, or what grades they were in. I knew their ages, I knew their after school activities. I was able to discover who their family doctor was, and did discover one health card number (the old red and white card days).

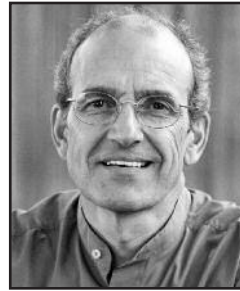
I discovered where one grandfather had come from in Europe, and one aunt, from Great Britain. If I remember correctly, I even discovered when the aunt came to Canada and when she got her citizenship.

I could go on and on about the contents of my three file folders. I knew more about my person than my person knew about himself. If I'd had more than two weeks, I could have accumulated even more information, I'm sure of it. And it's worth remembering that this was all in 1993, there was no internet at our disposal.

I'm not telling this story to brag about my stellar investigative journalistic skills. I'm telling it to show that, even in the pre-cyberspace dark ages, it was possible for a fourth-year university student to gather a lot of very personal information on an unsuspecting soul. Had this exercise been for something other than a class project, had I had a more nefarious scheme in mind, I could have quite easily ruined several people's lives. I could have stolen identities, emptied bank accounts, blackmailed people... the list is endless. Fortunately, my capacity for nefarious activities (and my desire to stay in school) was and is extremely limited, so my subject and his life were spared.

Every person who "donated" their driver's licence number was in cahoots with our prof, and we had full permission to go after whatever we could find, of course on the understanding that it would all be destroyed after presentation, which it was. Some of the licence volunteers were actually present when we revealed what we had discovered. They were shocked by what we had been able to uncover about their lives from just a number, in just two weeks.

We have no privacy, not really. It's only in the best circumstances that our information is kept in secrecy, and we have to trust that it stays that way. It doesn't take a university brain to figure out that we deserve to know right away when that trust has been breached. It's our little lives that nefarious types like messing with.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

An injection of kindness

For those of us who can afford to, the toughest part of coping with COVID is the waiting. Waiting for the wave of cases to pass. Waiting for the vaccine. Waiting for the chance to be social again. And again, because I can, I begin most mornings with a long, brisk walk around town. My timing often follows on the heels of the morning newspaper deliveries. So, along my routes, I regularly pick up some of the plastic-bag-wrapped papers and deposit them on the porch of their recipient.

"Why not save my neighbours a few steps," I figure, "especially if the weather's inclement?"

Anyway, one day a few months ago, I returned home from my walk. Hanging from my front-door handle was a bag containing a cardboard box with two (still warm) muffins inside. There was no note, no identification, not even a logo, just the baked goods. All that day - after my wife and I enjoyed devouring the muffins - I wondered where they'd come from. It wasn't long before I speculated perhaps someone along my route, who knew I periodically walked their newspaper from curbside to porch, might be my mystery muffin messenger. I started texting, emailing, phoning friends from along my walking paths - the Christoffs, the MacDonalds, the Sterritts, the Davies, the Carsons, the Moffat/Reiners and others. I asked our two adult daughters. To a person, they all said, "No. But what a nice gesture."

Often on the pages of the *Cosmos* we read that Uxbridge residents care enough about this place and its citizens, that they come to the aid of others. They'll return a pet. They'll offer to repair a vandalized store or home. They'll pitch in at the food bank or a service club when some of us are down on our luck, put out by circumstance, or struck by unexpected loss. We are a town of citizens who *do* know our neighbours, who *do* care about others' welfare, and who *do* help in times of crisis. Uxbridge is often home to random acts of kindness.

About a week ago, during a stop to (safely) see our youngest grandchild in town, I noticed that his favourite sandbox looked a little anemic. In other words, it needed an injection of some new sand. I knew who to call. Long-time farmer (and for me annual canoeing buddy) Keith St. John listened to my sad story, and he knew that I knew he had a seam of sand on his back-40. "Could I drive out there and fill a few bags for my grandson's sandbox?"

"Sure," Keith said with typical enthusiasm. "I'll take you there myself."

He did better than that. I followed his Bobcat to the farthest edge of his farmland, where an eroded hillside revealed that seam of sand. I stood back as he bucketed away for 10 minutes to get to the best of the sand. If I hadn't known better, I'd have thought Keith had tapped into Foxbridge's prized sand traps. Anyway, in the blink of an eye, I had all a child's sandbox could ever desire. I was in awe of Keith's gesture. But you see, Keith is actually part of a national personality - Canadians care about others.

A survey conducted last year - during the second COVID wave - showed Canada and Canadians moving up the rankings for the friendliest place and people in the world. A think tank called Migration Policy Group showed (in December 2020) that Canada and New Zealand have displaced Australia, the U.K. and the U.S. as the top-ranking countries, principally the result of populist political forces. For its immigrant-friendly policies, its emphasis on equal rights, opportunities and positive attitudes, Canada scored fourth in the world. Meanwhile, Gallop recently concluded that of 101 countries surveyed, Canada is the preferred destination bar none. That kind of statistic ought to be broadcast and celebrated as the hospitality industry and tourism agencies in this country attempt to rebuild post-pandemic.

By the way, by this point, I'd pretty much forgotten about the delivery of those two gorgeous muffins at my door late last winter. Then, this week, friend and neighbour Kathy Wasylenky emailed me. As people often do, Kathy wondered if I had any wartime information in my files about a Canadian who'd served in the liberation of the Netherlands. She finished her note by wishing me well. Then, she mentioned something her husband had discovered.

"Dave solved the mystery of who was bringing his newspaper to the porch," Kathy wrote. "So, he left a muffin on your door one day."

Mystery solved! I get to thank Dave Wasylenky, my mystery muffin messenger, publicly. May your random acts of kindness prove contagious. And may we all applaud Dave and Keith and so many others among us who care to inject some charity into these lonely times.

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



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Ux-Camps



Visit www.uxbridge.ca to review frequently asked questions, policies, and reminders prior to registering.

Explorers, Pathfinders & Trailblazers

Explorers ages 5 - 8, Pathfinders ages 7 - 10, Trailblazers ages 9 - 13. Looking for the ultimate outdoor summer experience? Get ready to roam the park. Campers will enjoy a variety of camp favourites, all wrapped up into one action-packed week. Explore our parks, creeks, and trails, and participate in outdoor staples like hiking, fort building, campfires and more. Campers will also partake in favourites such as outdoor sports, water activities, arts and crafts, camp games, and more. Activities are programmed for specific age groups. Limited weekly spots available.



Leadership Camp

This one-week program is designed to teach and expand participants' leadership skills, with emphasis on those required to be a future Camp Counsellor. Youth will participate in workshops including working with children, recreation program planning, problem solving, resumé building, how to be an effective leader and other fun team building exercises and activities. This program provides a great learning and growth opportunity for the youth in our community and is a wonderful addition to a resumé. Avoid disappointment and register early. Limited weekly spots available. *Possible volunteer placement opportunity, dependant on current health regulations at time of camp.



Week 1	July 5 - 9
Week 2	July 12 - 16
Week 3	July 19 - 23
Week 4	July 26 - 30
Week 5	August 3 - 6 (short week*) *short week is pro-rated
Week 6	August 9 - 13
Week 7	August 16 - 20
Week 8	August 23 - 27
Week 9	August 30 - September 3

Camp Name	Ages	Camp Location
Explorers**	5-8yrs	Elgin Park
Pathfinders	7-10yrs	Elgin Park
Trailblazers	9-13yrs	Elgin Park
Victorious Voyagers	6-9yrs	Uxbridge H
Leadership Camp	13-15yrs	Virtual/Uxb
Mash-up Mania	5-8yrs & 9-13yrs	Elgin Park

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Avoid disappointment and register early.



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Limited weekly spots available.

Location	Time <small>*Extended Care Not Available</small>	Sessions	Cost per week	Swimming
(Red and Grey Barn)	8:30am-4:30pm	1,2,3,4,6,7,8	\$192	TBD
(Bandshell)	8:30am-4:30pm	1,2,3,4,6,7,8	\$192	TBD
(Picnic Shelter)	8:30am-4:30pm	1,2,3,4,6,7,8	\$192	TBD
Historical Centre	8:30am-4:30pm	3,4,7,8	\$192	N/A
Uxbridge Historical Centre	8:30am-4:30pm	1,2,6	\$249	N/A
(Red and Grey Barn)	8:30am-4:30pm	5*,9	\$192	TBD

Please note that summer camp programming is subject to change without advanced notice, due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Township of Uxbridge will make every effort to promptly communicate the status of programs with registered participants, should modifications be necessary. To review our current COVID-19 protocols (based on current Ministry of Health Guidelines for Summer Day Camps), please visit www.uxbridge.ca.

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Letters, from page 4

health agencies which are advised,



in turn, by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.

If Ontario is in a "COVID mess," one of the reasons is the behaviour of the segment of the populace that ignores, resists or flouts regulations and advisories, including mask wearing, physical distancing and minimizing

congregate gatherings where possible, as well as opposing lock-down measures. Accepting the first vaccine that is available to one is widely recommended by the medical community, including family doctors, as

a safe measure to help get COVID-19 under good control as quickly as possible.

We need people to be part of the solution, not part of the problem, people who have a concern for others, not just for themselves. That is how we will collectively beat COVID-19.

**Earle Lockerby
Sandford**

This letter is to the gathering of 4x4 riders who were congregating on Main St. N. last Saturday morning.

There were people in the yard just north of the gas bar, not masked and not two metres distanced. More trucks with 4x4s passed me as I walked by. The age group seemed to indicate people in their late thirties and forties, so not a group that has even been vaccinated.

There are currently 50 cases of COVID in Uxbridge. There are four cases in our hospital. We are under a stay-at-home order by the province. We are to socialize only with people in our household. If one of this group is carrying COVID, all of you could get this virus and pass it on to your spouses and children and to your co-workers. Now our children are starting to die from this virus.

I am a senior and have been locked in my house for over a year. I have missed the birth of my only grandchild and there have been no services for 12 of my friends and family who have died.

I am tired of your selfishness. In the name of everyone who has suffered because of COVID, of all the people who have lost their jobs and their businesses because of COVID, for all the children who can't go to school and are not achieving their educational targets, for God's sake, STAY HOME!

**Nancy Emo
Uxbridge**

A message from the F(r)ONT!

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The gauntlet has been thrown down in Uxbridge. This week, local businesses took to the proverbial battlefield as a "sign war" erupted across the town.

On Friday, the Roxy Theater unveiled a message across its marquee sign calling on Canadian Tire to meet it in the Sign War ring. Canadian Tire reacted quickly and fired back with a punny dig at popcorn sales (which both businesses do).

Since then, businesses large and small, both storefront and home-based, from across the town, have been posting their silly messages and calling others to the front. It's all in the name of good fun and to get a little chuckle, which is quite welcomed these days.

Uxbridge Daily created a Facebook group called "Uxbridge Sign Wars" where signs are being shared and the war is being documented. The group already has almost 2,000 followers with new signs being continually added by community members.

Th *Cosmos* does not have an *issue* with a war of this type, who *news* it would be such fun! And now it would like to *press* the *Times-Journal* and the *Standard* to join the battle!

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Cyclist earns spot on national mountain bike team

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Uxbridge mountain bike athlete Tyler Orschel has been selected to race with the national team for the first two rounds of the XCO World Cup in May.

Orschel, 23, was born and raised in Uxbridge, and got into mountain biking at a young age. He says he was inspired by his father, who organized races through the 90s and 2000s, including the Uxbridge Ice Breaker, one of the biggest national mountain bike races at that time.

"I didn't really become solely focused on cycling until about 17 or 18 years old," says Orschel. At that time, he quit playing hockey and was being coached by his dad to follow a path in mountain biking. At 19, Orschel got an athletic scholarship with Brevard College in North Carolina, and is now finishing his final

year there.

This is Orschel's first year in the fully professional level, as an elite racer. He will be heading to Germany and the Czech Republic for the first two World Cup races, and returning a month later for the third race in Austria.

"Since this is my first year in this category, my ranking is at the bottom of the pro field," says Orschel. "There are typically 140 starters at this first race and I'll be starting somewhere in the 100 to 120 range. I'd love to make it into the top 60."

As it is a mass start, Orschel says his race will involve a lot of passing, but as long as he's moving up he will be happy.

Orschel has started a GoFundMe to help with the cost of heading overseas to compete.

"As an athlete, navigating the coronavirus pandemic has been a big challenge. With the absence of rac-

ing, sponsorship and funding opportunities have been canceled or postponed for the 2021 race season."

Although he does work part-time, Orschel says that he can't earn enough to cover the \$10,000 it will take to travel for the World Cup/World Championships.

"One day I hope to be in a position where I can help support racers like myself, who have the opportunity to race in Europe but lack the funds to do so. It is never easy to ask for help, but I don't think I would be where I am today without asking for help along the way!"

To find out more and to donate, visit gofundme.com/f/european-world-cup-campaign



Tyler Orschel hopes the community will help him with efforts to participate in the XCO World Cup in Europe in May. *courtesy of Tyler Orschel*



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- Across**

 - 1 Skier's tow
 - 5 Seasoned
 - 8 ___ excellence
 - 11 Tiny sea veggie
 - 12 It's mostly nitrogen
 - 13 Double agent
 - 14 Caper
 - 15 Golfers starting point
 - 16 Final, e.g.
 - 17 Tire attachment in the snow
 - 19 "Back in the ___"
 - 21 Dinky drink
 - 23 Bake in a shallow dish
 - 26 Searches on the internet
 - 30 Small case
 - 31 Electrical resistance
 - 32 Manner
 - 34 Belief system
 - 36 Emerald, for one
 - 39 Act of occupying an apartment
 - 42 Approves
 - 44 Acquiesce
 - 45 The Braves for one
 - 47 Fire sign
 - 51 Lowdown
 - 54 Clobber
 - 56 Sacred cow
 - 57 Numbskull
 - 58 Take in
 - 59 Chinese favorite, with egg
 - 60 Stomach, for short
 - 61 Genetic letters
 - 62 Periods
- Down**

 - 1 Barber's supply
 - 2 Ho-hum
 - 3 Taj Mahal site
 - 4 Doing yard work
 - 5 Grain good for cholesterol
 - 6 Alternatively, in ___ of
 - 7 Evening gown
 - 8 Chicken ___
 - 9 According to
 - 10 Rock group
 - 13 Deserve
 - 18 Zip
 - 20 "Murder, ___ Wrote"
 - 22 Church bench
 - 24 Total
 - 25 Microprocessor type, abbr.
 - 26 Leave
 - 27 Buckeye's home
 - 28 Russian Federation city
 - 29 Perched
 - 33 Strong desire
 - 35 The Temptations "___ Girl"
 - 37 Coffee order
 - 38 Hurricane's center
 - 40 Board room votes
 - 41 Marvel at
 - 43 Cavalry sword
 - 46 ___ and groan
 - 48 Scent
 - 49 Soda nut
 - 50 Some pipes
 - 51 Banned pesticide
 - 52 Promise of a payoff
 - 53 Tachometer reading
 - 55 School org.

Uxbridge Health Centre COVID Vaccination Clinic OPENING SOON!

UHC is excited to announce that we will be administering the AstraZeneca vaccine starting Monday May 10th! To book a spot visit www.uxbridgehealth.ca/gettheshot

Did you know, that recent studies show the AZ vaccine is more effective against the variants of the Covid-19 virus?



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Uxbridge Health Centre
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Council concerned over proposed cannabis facility

by Roger Varley

Several members of council said Monday they had concerns about a cannabis production facility proposed for an existing industrial building at Concession 5 and Sandford Road.

The concerns were noted when Wes Crown of MHBC Planning, representing the applicant, appeared before council to ask them to proceed with the rezoning his client has requested for the property. What followed was a chicken/egg debate.

Councillor Todd Snooks led off the discussion by saying that, based on his background - (Snooks is a York Region police officer) - he and other members of his profession are not happy with federal requirements for security at such operations. He wanted to know if the applicant is ready to install stronger security measures than required by the federal government. Crown said it would be premature to discuss detailed security measures before the rezoning is approved. He said once the rezoning is approved, detailed security measures would be addressed in the

site plan control process. He noted that the township's planning consultant, Elizabeth Howson, has given council a report recommending the rezoning application be approved.

"We can't get to site plan control until the zoning is in place," he said. "If council doesn't pass the rezoning now, why would my client spend money on a site plan application?"

Councillor Willie Popp said he didn't feel comfortable with the applicant's approach.

"You're pointing us toward minimum requirements," he said.

Regional councillor Gord Highet also said he was not feeling confident about the applicant's approach.

Noting that the applicant had not answered a number of questions to council's satisfaction in earlier discussions, Highet said: "It's the unknowns we're concerned about."

Mayor Dave Barton told Crown that council is uneasy about the application and it will remain on hold until the township is certain there will be no long-term issues arising from such an operation.

Uxbridge Health Centre opening a vaccine clinic

by Justyne Edgell, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Another opportunity to roll up your sleeve for the COVID shot is coming to Uxbridge. The Uxbridge Health Centre (UHC) has just announced that they will be opening a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic beginning May 10. They will be administering the AstraZeneca vaccine.

"We realize that there are side effects," says Dr. Michael Damus, lead physician of the clinic. "People are getting a sore arm, flu-like symptoms; these are common with any vaccine and can be easily treated with rest and some Tylenol. The protection you receive against the COVID virus, is paramount."

All those 40 years of age or older (or turning 40 in 2021) can book an appointment at the clinic, which will run daily with a limited number of time slots, due to vaccine supply.

While vaccine hesitancy is a concern for some, the centre hopes that by having family doctors recommend the shot, they will increase the confidence within the community.

"As a broad-based vaccine, it is proving to be more effective against variants, whereas the mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) were targeted at the original strain of the COVID virus."

To book an appointment, visit uxbridgehealth.ca/gettheshot

Few answers forthcoming on cybersecurity breach

by Roger Varley

No answers or explanations appear to be readily available regarding the recent cybersecurity breach at the Region of Durham, as no one at the region appears willing to talk.

According to the region's website, the breach of the region's data system occurred on or before March 25. Mayor Dave Barton said members of regional council only learned about the incident when the region made it public with an announcement on its website April 9. It wasn't until April 19 that Durham residents, including a number of Uxbridge residents, began receiving letters from the region advising them that some of their information might have been compromised. No news releases were sent from the region to the *Cosmos* to advise of the breach.

Barton said regional council discussed the issue at its regular meeting on April 28. However, that discussion was held *in camera*.

E-mails and phone calls from the *Cosmos* to various officials at the region resulted only in the region responding by re-posting the same original alert they had posted on the website. A message from Durham Region Chief Administrative Officer Elaine Baxter-Trahair simply told the newspaper that all questions regarding the incident be sent by e-mail to cybersecurity@durham.ca. That is the same source that supplied the limited information the region has decided its residents can be privy to.

So far, the *Cosmos* has been unable to find anyone at the region willing to explain exactly how many Uxbridge residents were affected, what sort of information was compromised or why there was such a long delay in advising the public of the incident. The region has supplied a phone number (1-833-526-0566) for anyone who has questions about the breach, but those manning the phones are not allowed to take questions from the media.

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www.themeatmerchant.ca

3 Brock Street West
905-852-9892

MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

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

The 'Jetting to Jamaica' trip was won by Dana Grace, ticket #351, sold by Mike Banh.

2nd place, \$150, won by Rick and Linda Castle, ticket #159, sold by Marion Martin.

3rd place, \$100, won by Barb Pratt, ticket # 074, sold by Dale Hickey.

Congratulations to our April draw winners, and best of luck to all our ticket holders for the 2021 Trip of the Month Club draw for May's 'Green With Envy' package! This includes round trip direct non-stop flights to Saint John, New Brunswick, 3- nights' accommodation at the luxury Algonquin Golf Resort and Spa overlooking Passamaquoddy Bay, 3-day mid-size car rental with unlimited miles, 2 rounds including green fees and cart at the Algonquin Golf Club, where the back 9 holes are ocean front. All service fees and taxes are included.

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.



HALIBUT HOUSE
fish & chips

4 Banff Road Uxbridge
905-852-8889

Open for Take-out
11:00am to 8:00pm

Checkout our full menu at
Halibuthouse.ca/menu

2 Halibut Fish & 1 Chips
Reg. Price \$28.97
Special Price with coupon
Only \$23.97

* Coupon expires Wed., May 19, 2021
* Coupon valid at Halibut House Uxbridge location
* Present coupon at time of purchase
* Cannot be combined with any other ongoing offer/promotion/discount

Halibut Fish Burger and Chips
Buy one for \$10.95 and get 2nd for Only \$5.00

* Coupon expires Wed., May 19, 2021
* Coupon valid at Halibut House Uxbridge location
* Present coupon at time of purchase
* Cannot be combined with any other ongoing offer/promotion/discount

Friday Special
for limited time
Chicken Souvlaki
(1/2 pound boneless chicken breast marinated in our signature blend of fresh herbs and spices) served with Rice and Greek salad.
Only \$10.00

* No coupon is required.
* Valid at Halibut House Uxbridge location
* Cannot be combined with any other ongoing offer/promotion/discount

Thursday Special
for limited time
Grilled Atlantic Salmon 8 oz, Rice and Greek Salad
Only \$12.99

* No coupon is required.
* Valid at Halibut House Uxbridge location
* Cannot be combined with any other ongoing offer/promotion/discount

Basa Fish and Chips
(only available Tue. & Wed.)
Reg. Price \$12.97
Special Price for the month of May/June
Only \$10.95

* Basa Fish only available at Halibut House Uxbridge location for a limited time.
* Basa quantity will be limited for each day, so please call early to reserve your order.
* Cannot be combined with any other ongoing offer/promotion/discount





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