

# The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 17 No. 23

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, June 10, 2021



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**HERE ARE YOUR PURCHASES, NOW SASHAY AWAY!** - PAM Damnic, a.k.a. Tanner Ferris, ignored the rain while helping Donna Fredericksen with her curbside pickup at Canadian Tire on Tuesday. PAM spent the afternoon celebrating and sharing Pride with customers, explaining that PAM stands for 'People Are Mammals'. "People don't need labels," says PAM. "Just be. We are the Discovery Channel, let's discover ourselves!" June is National Pride Month. *Photo by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove*

## New bell times not a big 10-4 with parents, students

by Justyne Edgell

Uxbridge Secondary School students and their parents got a surprise last week when they received an email from the Durham District School Board (DDSB) announcing that school bell times are changing to 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the coming school year.

Along with the time change, the DDSB also announced that it will be continuing with the quadmaster schedule that was implemented when at-home learning commenced due to COVID-19 lockdowns.

"All secondary students will be learning from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily during the 2021-22 school year. This includes those in special education classes and those learning at DDSB@Home," said the board in the email.

The email explained that the bell time change is due to a provincial shortage of school bus drivers.

"We have been working closely with the Durham Catholic District School Board and Durham Student Transportation Services and this approach is the only feasible way that we can ensure all eligible students can receive transportation services due to a province-wide shortage of bus drivers."

Trustee and board chair, Carolyn Morton, said she has already received quite a bit of negative feedback from parents and students.

"This is going to impact students with after-school jobs, who care for younger siblings after school or who have extra-curricular activities."

Morton said the decision was not made by the school boards but by Durham Student Transportation Service who "had input from both school boards."

Stock Transportation, one of the school bus operators that provides transportation to USS, said it is "aware of driver shortages province-wide as well as throughout all of North Amer-

ica," but would not comment any further on the local situation. The representative from Stock noted that the pandemic has caused worry among those who work in transportation, but that the operator is always accepting new drivers.

Morton said the school boards are "not necessarily" in agreement with the decision "but we had no other option."

"We think we did the best we can. I know it's not going to sit well, but we're limited (in what we can do). We can never make everyone happy."

The 4 p.m. end time appears to be the most troubling to parents. Many on social media pointed out that high school is when students are saving for university, and that reducing their availability for after school work hours is going to stress a lot of families.

Pat Higgins, owner of Canadian Tire

...continued on page 3

### Inside Your Cosmos

'Killer-pillars' are here .....page 3  
Pork chops and poppies .....page 5

**PHARMASAVE**

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Lottery rules at [www.uxbridgerotary.com/catchtheace](http://www.uxbridgerotary.com/catchtheace).  
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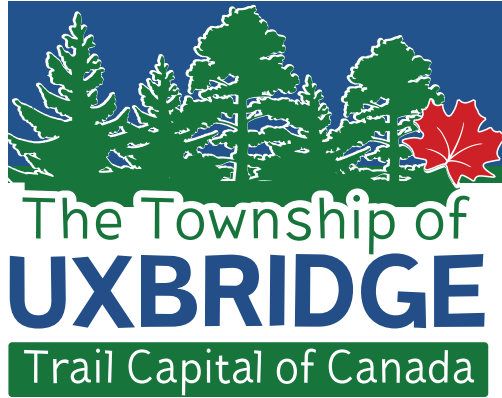
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Looking to move to Whitby? Then come check out this 3 bedroom, 3 bath home with a fenced back yard. Walkout from kitchen to full width deck, updated bathrooms, freshly painted in last 2 years, all new kitchen appliances, large master bedroom with 4 pc ensuite and w/in closet, main floor family room, formal dining room, close to 6 schools, parks, shopping, transportation routes. Offered for sale at \$749,900.



# 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 CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING AN APPLICATION FOR A ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

This Notice is to inform you that the Township of Uxbridge has received a Zoning By-Law Amendment application which has been deemed complete in accordance with the requirements of Sections 34 of the Planning Act. The Planning Committee of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge will hold a statutory public meeting to make available adequate information to the public regarding, and to consider, a proposed Township Zoning By-Law Amendment pursuant to Sections 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, submitted by ECMI Properties (125 Villarboit) Inc.

The statutory public meeting will be held in an electronic format only in order to practice social distancing and help stop the spread of COVID-19 in accordance with Ontario Regulation 149/20, Special Rules relating to a Declared Emergency under The Planning Act. The Township of Uxbridge will be processing the Zoning By-Law Amendment as required by the Planning Act and welcome any comments that you may have.

### PURPOSE OF PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT:

- The purpose of this application is to amend the Zoning By-Law to rezone 45 and 47 Anderson Boulevard to facilitate the development of a waste transfer facility for soil.
- The subject site is designated "Countryside

Area" "Policy Area 1.9.4.3 iii Industrial" in the Township Official Plan and currently zoned "Holding Rural Industrial Exception No. 36 ((H) M1-36) Zone" and "Holding Rural Industrial Exception No. 39((H) M1-39)".

### LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:

The subject site has the municipal addresses of 45 Anderson Boulevard and 47 Anderson Boulevard, and is legally described as Lot 12 & 13, of Plan 40M-2336 in the Township of Uxbridge, Region of Durham. The location of the property is graphically illustrated on the key map below.

**FILE NO.:** Zoning By-Law Amendment 2021-04 (ZBA 2021- 04)

**APPLICANT:** ECMI Properties (125 Villarboit) Inc.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information relating to the proposed Zoning By-Law Amendment is available for inspection in the Development Services Department between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Township Municipal Office, 51 Toronto Street South, Uxbridge, Ontario.

The meeting date and time is as follows:

### MEETING DATE:

**Monday, June 14, 2021**

**TIME: Public Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

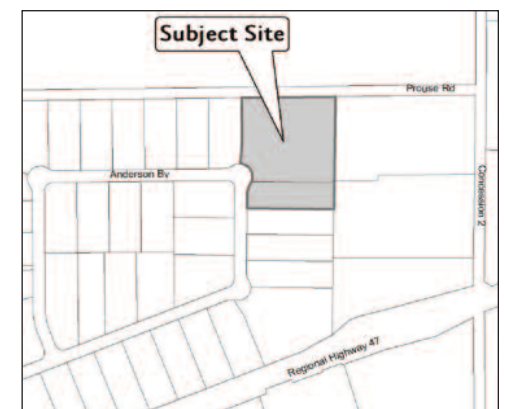
**ANY PERSON** may participate in the public meeting and/or make written or oral representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

The full public notice can be viewed at <https://uxbridge.ca>

**DATED AT THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE THIS 21st DAY OF MAY, 2021.**

Debbie Leroux, Clerk  
Township of Uxbridge  
Box 190, Uxbridge, Ontario L9P 1T1  
905-852-9181 Ext. 228  
[dlleeroux@uxbridge.on.ca](mailto:dlleeroux@uxbridge.on.ca)

### KEY MAP (not to scale)



## Council & Committee Meetings

### Meeting Schedule for June, 2021

Monday, June 14, 10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

10:30 a.m.

SECOND ST. STOP UP AND CLOSE  
PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, June 15, 7:00 p.m.

BIA BOARD

7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING RE: CHANGES TO  
ON-STREET PARKING NEAR FIELDS  
OF UXBRIDGE

Wednesday June 16, 3:00 p.m.

AGE FRIENDLY COMMITTEE

7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT  
MEETING

Monday, June 21, 10:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 23, 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING RE: CEMETERY  
ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Tuesday, June 24, 9:00 a.m.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Monday, June 28, 10:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETING

### Proclamations for the Month

- Seniors Month
- Indigenous History Month
- Pride Month

## Commun-E-Tea

Free!

Commun-E-Tea Virtual Tea and Talk  
Spots open June 14 and 28

To register call 905-852-3081 or email  
[seniors@uxbridge.ca](mailto:seniors@uxbridge.ca)

## FROM THE TAX OFFICE

2021 Residential, Managed Forest and Farmland Final Property Tax Bills were mailed May 27th, 2021. Payments for these bills are due on the following dates:

**FIRST Tax Installment is due on June 28, 2021.**

**SECOND Tax Installment is due on September 28th, 2021.**

2021 Final Property Tax bills for Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Residential properties will be mailed next week. Payments for these bills are due on the following dates:

**FIRST Tax Installment is due on July 15th, 2021.**

**SECOND Tax Installment is due on September 28th, 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.**

**PLEASE RETAIN YOUR 2021 FINAL TAX BILL FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.** 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 Final Tax Bill, please contact the Tax Department at 905-852-9181 or [tax@uxbridge.ca](mailto:tax@uxbridge.ca)

## Public Information Sessions

### Cemetery Rd. Reconstruction

The Township is hosting a virtual information meeting to discuss reconstruction plans for Cemetery Road, Wednesday, June 23, 2021 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. For a link to the virtual meeting or a phone-in number visit <https://bit.ly/3pt45yb>

### Changes to On-street Parking Near Fields of Uxbridge

The Township is hosting a virtual information meeting to discuss the trial project to change on-street parking regulations on streets located near the Fields of Uxbridge as part of a project to require non-Township residents to pay to park at the Skate Park and Pump Track parking lot. The meeting will occur on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 - 7:00 - 8:30pm. For a link to the virtual meeting or a phone-in number visit <https://bit.ly/3w5uWmu>

## DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

**Have your say - complete our survey!**  
visit [www.uxbridge.ca/myuxbridgedowntown](http://www.uxbridge.ca/myuxbridgedowntown)

Building on Yesterday - Planning for Tomorrow

My Uxbridge  
Downtown



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

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

## Invasive moth species taking over a garden or forest near you

by Justyne Edgell

The Uxbridge area is being invaded - by gypsy moths.

The moths, also known as LDD (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) moths, will evolve from the tiny black caterpillars that are currently making an appearance in record numbers in the region, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is already recording record breaking numbers.

Jolanta Kowalski, sr. media relations officer at MNRF, says its tracking this infestation, watching it expand across parts of southern and south-western Ontario.

"In 2020, small broken pockets of defoliation were mapped northwest of Uxbridge and continue west. The ministry plans to monitor that area this season," says Kowalski.

The ministry says over 550,000 hectares of trees were defoliated by the LDD moth in this area of Ontario in 2020.



An LDD (gypsy) moth caterpillar.  
Photo by Ryan Hodnett/trca.ca

The ministry does not carry out insect control programs on private land, but encourages both landowners and municipalities to take action. The Township's communications coordinator, Colleen Baskin, says that the township is already working on combating this invasion.

"We have a staff working group consisting of management, parks and roads staff looking at this issue. Our colleagues in Newmarket have a plan that we are looking at closely, as well as what other municipalities have proposed."

Baskin says part of the plan is to help educate and engage the community to take action in their own yards, at each stage of the moth's life cycle. Experts recommend removing the webby egg casing from trees before they hatch, using pesticides on the young larvae, and attaching burlap bands around tree trunks to collect the caterpillars.

For more information about the gypsy moth visit [ontario.ca/page/gypsy-moth](http://ontario.ca/page/gypsy-moth) or find informative blog postings at [onnurserycrops.com](http://onnurserycrops.com)

### Bell times ringing change, from page 1

Uxbridge, said he is interested to see how this change will affect his student employees.

"In our case, the shifts for students on weekdays start at 4:30 or 5 p.m. So, as long as they can get here on time there will be little impact at our end."

Paige Cassibo, a Gr. 10 student who works on a farm, isn't happy about the change.

"If I'm not done school until 4, I'm not home until 4:35 at the earliest. I start chores at 4 p.m. every day. This will push my whole evening back - after chores, dinner will be later, homework will be done later...I'm not really happy about it."

Kerri Mitchell, whose daughter lives in Uxbridge but attends school in Oshawa, has mixed feelings about the change.

"The later start is nice because her school used to start at 8:15. However, with school going til 4 it means my daughter's not able to start work until 5 p.m. at the earliest, when normally she could start by 4 no problem."

Mitchell said she imagines this change will create difficulties for staffing and scheduling as well as have consequences for the families who have children that work to help pay bills.

Mitchell's daughter, Sarah, said she understands the worry of the bell time change affecting jobs and other activities, and thinks these are a real concern; however, she is leaning towards some positives of this change. "I think that it's a good thing and will help with the adjustment back to full time in-person learning."

Two teachers who were asked their thoughts on the bell time change were not willing to comment on the record.



## Uxbridge at a Glance

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51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190  
Uxbridge L9P 1T1  
905-852-9181 [info@uxbridge.ca](mailto:info@uxbridge.ca)



### UXBRIDGE TOWNSHIP 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](http://www.uxbridge.ca) along with a letter of interest outlining relevant qualifications and experience to the undersigned by Friday, June 18, 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](mailto:dleroux@uxbridge.ca)  
Telephone: 905 852-9181  
Fax: 905-852-9674

### Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to [Uxbridge.ca/bids\\_and\\_tenders](http://Uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders)

- U21-22 Quaker Trail Paving  
**Closes June 15 at 2:00 p.m.**
- U21-23 Testing, Inspection and Maintenance of Fire Extinguishers  
**Closes June 15 at 2:00 p.m.**
- U21-24 Tree Removal  
**Closes June 22 at 2:00 p.m.**
- U21-25 Roadside Weed Spraying  
**Closes June 22 at 2:00 p.m.**
- U21-11 Fire Master Plan  
**Closes June 29 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](http://uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders) in a timely manner.

### Employment Opportunities

Details of all current positions are available at [www.uxbridge.ca/careers](http://www.uxbridge.ca/careers)

Uxbridge Tourism - Assistant Tourism Development Coordinator, **closes June 14, 2021.**

Office of the CAO - Project Coordinator, 10-month Contract, **closes June 15, 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.*

### Street Sweeping

Street sweeping is currently underway, 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.

1. Rural subdivisions and hamlets **COMPLETED**
2. N/W corner of town **COMPLETED**
3. S/W corner of town **COMPLETED**
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.)

### Stormwater Management Ponds

Stormwater Management Ponds are designed to collect runoff from the local storm sewer system, rainfall, snowmelt, etc.

The ponds are built to temporarily hold this water, provide treatment to remove pollutants and then slowly release the water back into the natural waterway to prevent downstream erosion and flooding.

When you see green murky water, that is nature's way of responding to a load of nutrients that have washed into the pond. This produces an increase in the plankton algae population which, in response, provides oxygen and food for other aquatic animals.

Many stormwater ponds have an abundance of algae as a result of the runoff from residential and commercial development.

### Closures

- Please be advised the Parking Lot at Spruce St. and Brock St. W. will be permanently closed for use effective June.
- Brock St. W. will be closed between Toronto St. and Bascom St. June 14- 16 for road resurfacing and line painting. Sidewalk access will remain open. Timing of the closure is weather dependent.
- Please be advised that lane restrictions on Brock Street East from Nelkydd Lane to Regional Highway 47 will be in effect beginning June 14 until the end of August, 2021. The Region is installing underground services in this area.
- Regional Road 8 from Concession 5 to Concession 6, from May 3 to July 9 will experience lane restrictions to facilitate road rehabilitation, culvert replacement and guide rail replacement.
- Lake Ridge Road (Regional Road 23), from May 3 to June 25 will experience lane restrictions from north of Reach Street (Regional Road 8) to south of Regional Highway 47 due to road rehabilitation.

### COVID Vaccine registrations now open in Uxbridge for:

- Residents 12+ or those turning 12 in 2021
- 2nd doses for 70+

Call 1-888-444-5113 or contact your local pharmacy to book.

# Our two cents

## It passeth all understanding

Already reeling from the discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children at a former residential school in B.C., Canadians now have to deal with the deliberate killing of a Muslim family in London, Ont. A 20-year-old man has been charged with murder and attempted murder after ramming his truck into the family as they stood on a sidewalk, killing four of them and leaving a young boy fighting for his life.

The news of the graves' discovery was shocking, but shouldn't have been. The concentrated attacks on Indigenous people and their culture have been going on in this country for far too long and they continue to this day. The news of the London incident was shocking, but shouldn't have been. It wasn't that long ago that a man killed 10 people by driving his vehicle long a crowded sidewalk in Toronto or that a mosque was attacked in Quebec, resulting in the death of six men.

Where does all this hate come from? What could have happened in a 20-year-old's life to induce such rage that he attacks an innocent family out for a walk? Why are Canada's Indigenous people subjected to ongoing racial prejudice and attacks across the country? Such hatred passeth all understanding.

But also beyond understanding is the general apathy towards these incidents. For sure, we all tut-tut over the 215 bodies and the slaughter of an innocent family, but in a short time other events and happenings will grab our attention and our anger will subside. Just maybe that's because we receive our cues from our so-called leaders.

Numerous Indigenous communities have been boiling their drinking water for decades, and there are no signs that any level of government is going to address the problem. Few of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission have been acted upon. The Roman Catholic church continues to sidestep the question of responsibility for its role in the residential school system and offers the appallingly weak mantra that it "feels the pain." The Quebec Court of Appeals decided the 40-year sentence handed down to the Quebec mosque shooter was too harsh and reduced it to 25 years. Alek Minassian, the Toronto van driver, didn't appear in court until 2 1/2 years after the incident and, although found guilty in March of this year, won't be sentenced until sometime in 2022. The wheels of justice, according to the old saw, turn slowly, but surely such a slow-moving process only promotes more apathy.

Even here in Uxbridge we have had a couple of incidents in recent months where racial slurs were painted on public property. There was some tut-tutting about that, too, at the time, but who even remembers those incidents? Of course, they were passed off as some youth trying to get a rise out of people, nothing too serious to worry about. But that also is apathy. The complexion of Uxbridge is changing and the number of non-white residents is increasing. These folks have chosen Uxbridge to be their home and we are the better for it. And since they are now our neighbours, we should all feel outraged when any of them are attacked or reviled simply because of their ethnic background.

We wish we had the solution to combat the racism and prejudice that runs so deeply through our society, but we don't. All we can offer is a line from a song: "Teach your children well."



## Letters to the Editor

**Re: Animal Shelter funds, letter from June 3 edition**

Kudos to Mikayla Villanova for expressing her frustration re the Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter project. It's shared.

For years, the thing seemed mired in a stew of delays, disputes and spiralling costs. Then it slipped into a mysterious black hole.

As someone who donated to the building fund over that period, I'd dearly like to know what happened to the cache of money raised by all those dedicated volunteers. Still earmarked for the Shelter? Or already spent on something else?

I acknowledge that the past couple of years have been hideously difficult for the council; the combination of the culvert nightmare and the COVID crisis have no doubt necessitated some tough calls. But "backburner-ing" the

Shelter yet again shouldn't be one of them. The need for a new facility is demonstrably urgent, so I add my voice to Mikayla's — where are we on this, Mayor Barton?

**Barbara Samuels**  
**Uxbridge**

I wish to add to the thoughts expressed by Mikayla (and those of the many others on the committee) concerning the "disappearance" of the proposed [New] Animal Shelter [of Uxbridge-Scugog].

I, new to the town, was supportive of the plan to provide better services for the animals of the Uxbridge area AND for those shelter workers who care for them. In my enthusiasm, I made a sizable donation towards the new shelter and looked forward to being a volunteer.

I would appreciate knowing in whose pocket my money is now?

The Town's? Some anonymous contractor? A bank account making interest to put towards the shelter? And please don't blame COVID, this issue predates it.

Also, an update concerning it should be provided to the community.

**Kathryn Mifflin**  
**Uxbridge**

A small group of people met on the weekend to remember the precious 215 Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nations children from the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. We received permission from the township late Friday evening, and arranged to meet on Sunday morning. We hung orange ribbons and t-shirts along Brock Street to acknowledge, respect and respond.

Thank you to the Township of Uxbridge for giving us permission to raise awareness in this way and keep the conversations going.

We are so grateful to local Uxbridge businesses who were able to quickly donate orange ribbons. Baldwin Sales, Keith's Flowers and Sugar FX made it possible via curbside pick up.

We offer sincere thanks to everyone who came out to help. We continue to ask everyone to find their own way to acknowledge 215 by taking action now. Write to your provincial MPP and your federal MP to encourage them to act on the 94 Calls to Action as recommended by The Truth and Reconciliation Commission more than five years ago.

**Barbara Blower**  
**Coordinator**  
**MAAMAWI COLLECTIVE**

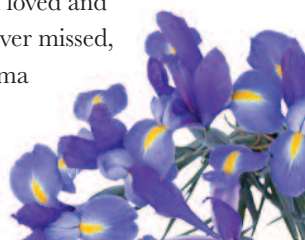
### In Memoriam

#### Bud Doucette

In loving memory of my dear husband Henry "Bud" Doucette, who passed away June 20, 2015

His memory is a keepsake  
From which I'll never part  
God has him in His keeping,  
I have him in my heart.

Still loved and  
forever missed,  
Wilma



### In Memoriam

#### Christopher Bayard

In loving memory of my dear grandson Christopher, who left us June 1, 2013

Treasured memories keep him near,  
As time unfolds another year.  
No need for words, except to say  
Still loved, still missed, every day.

Always remembered  
and loved by  
Grandma Doucette



## The Uxbridge COSMOS

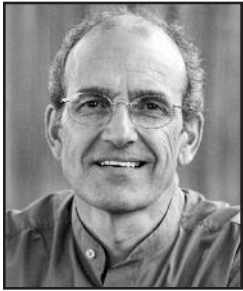
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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Friday to 4 p.m.

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## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Fairness or bust

It started with registration and Frosh Week in September 1968. I was so eager to attend the school, I even lined up at the bookstore to buy a jacket with his name "Ryerson" arched across the back. Three years later, I reached a milestone there when I received the certificate signifying that I had completed all my courses in broadcast journalism. But I returned a few years later, when Ryerson had become a degree-granting institution, completed the makeup courses, and stood in line again to receive my BA in 1976.

"By virtue of the authority granted by the province of Ontario under the Polytechnical Act, 1962, Ryerson has awarded the degree Bachelor of Applied Arts to Theodore Barris," the document said. Next to my name, a seal with the bust of Egerton Ryerson embossed on the degree.

I thought of that seal, and that bust, Monday morning, as I learned that demonstrators in front of the main gates of Ryerson University in downtown Toronto had toppled the statue of the institution's namesake. Several protesters then bashed the metal figure, sprayed paint on it, and covered it with an Indigenous activism flag. And I felt conflicted about seeing the larger-than-life figure of Egerton Adolphus Ryerson dented, stained and disgraced at the Gould Street entrance to the university. This was the home of my former post-secondary education, an experience that had always made me feel proud. This was where I'd studied, been tested, graduated and received my baccalaureate.

Juxtaposed with the embossed bust of Ryerson on my degree, I've been reading about the same 19th century educator appointed superintendent of education for Canada West (Ontario) in 1844. Ryerson is credited as the architect of public education... but also of Canada's Indian Residential Schools in 1847. It was on the grounds of one of these facilities where residential school survivor Ron Ignace told *Toronto Star* reporter Douglas Quan this week, what he was told was the rationale to have older native children dig holes around the school near Kamloops, B.C.

"(They told the older boys) we have some apple trees that we need to plant in the morning," Ignace said. "Go dig some holes," holes that allegedly later concealed the bodies of 215 children, who'd died of starvation, beatings, disease or simple neglect of the necessities of life by the Roman Catholic administrators of the school.

Yes, the namesake of my alma mater had come into his role as Ontario's education czar claiming that education should be universal and

compulsory. But according to Hunter Knight at the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, the Common Schools Act of 1844 did not institute equality of opportunity in schooling. Her research shows that the Act excluded at least four categories of children. Indigenous children were taken from their families and assigned to the residential system for a dozen years of hard labour and discipline – eradicating any memory of their homes, their families, their language and their cultures. Meanwhile, separate schools established in 1850 for Catholics and Protestants, excluded the children of Black families. In 1862, so-called vagrant and neglected children of the poor were streamed into industrial schools to divert them from imagined lives of crime. And in 1868, the Ryerson model sent children who were deaf or blind to schools where they learned manual trades.

Ryerson envisioned schools as a national development program. His vision was deeply entrenched in colonial, racialized and hierarchical terms, so that Canada would "not be distanced by other countries in the race of civilization," Ryerson wrote. Knight believes what Ryerson fashioned, however, "amounted to cultural genocide."

But for people such as myself, who boasted proudly of his degree in broadcasting from Ryerson, there's a deeper flaw in all this. How could we, who learned the skills of research, investigation and reporting of our world, have completely overlooked the namesake's ulterior motives in 19th-century Canada West? Why did none of us, trained to look past the obvious, examine the legacy of Ontario's guru of education, the parliamentary system which gave its blessing to such marginalizing treatment? Where were our instructors, who may well have turned a blind eye to Ryerson's colonial and racist agenda in our lectures?

As an undergrad at Ryerson, I reported in the *Eyeopener*, the Ryerson newspaper. Not once did I consider the history of my school's founder. I hosted news and current affairs programs on the institution's radio station CJRT and never put a mirror to Ryerson himself. I graduated from an applied arts program, but never once applied Ryerson's motto – *Mente et artificio* (with mind and skill). Questioning deaths at residential schools, exposing the abuse, critiquing the so-called public education system designed by the man embossed on my degree, never crossed my mind.

A toppled statue is the least of our worries.

**For more Barris Beat columns, go to [www.tedbarris.com](http://www.tedbarris.com)**

## Shelter letter gets response from township

by Roger Varley

In an impassioned letter, a young Uxbridge resident implored Mayor Dave Barton to "please do something" about the proposed new animal shelter (this letter was printed in full in Letters to the Editor, June 3 edition).

Mikayla Villanova said she joined the fund-raising efforts for the New Animal Shelter of Uxbridge-Scugog in 2011 when she was nine years old and continued to raise funds for the next seven years.

"My blood, sweat and tears went into raising the \$11,000," she wrote. "If you are reading this, I am hoping that I have helped you realize how much this shelter meant/still means to me and all of the people that worked so hard on it."

Barton told council the shelter project is on indefinite hold while the township seeks new partners to help fund the project. He said part of the reason the shelter was put on hold was because the winning bidder on the original contract subsequently raised the price by half-a-million dollars.

Asked why the township didn't re-tender the project after the original bidder increased the price, clerk Debbie Leroux said she couldn't talk about the bidding and added that there are not sufficient funds to re-tender the project.

Treasurer Donna Condon said the township still holds the raised funds in a reserve account, which totals \$626,635. That does not include the money that both Scugog and Uxbridge have pledged toward the project when it gets underway.

## 'Calming soon' to a street near you

by Roger Varley

Several traffic calming measures for both rural and urban Uxbridge have been proposed to council.

At Monday's council meeting, Lukas Gillham of public works offered a series of reports concerning traffic calming measures to be implemented on a number of urban streets. These will consist mainly of line painting on Nelkydd Lane, Herrema Blvd., Centre Rd. and Mill St.

For Mill St., in addition to line painting, Gillham suggested a "pork chop-shaped" island be installed at Mill and Toronto St. to deter left hand turns onto or from Mill St. He also recommended the installation of bump outs at Mill and Joseph and Mill and Baskin. However, the pork chop and the bump outs would initially be painted, rather than constructed. Public works director Ben Kester said they could

be constructed if the trial period shows the painted versions work.

The proposals were part of an overall approach to traffic calming measures and speed reductions throughout the township. The public has a 30-day window in which to comment on the policy proposals.

Gillham said the township is still considering whether to reduce speeds on rural roads to 70 km/h or 60 km/h. He noted that if the speed is reduced to 70 km/h, those roads that already have a 60 km/h limit would remain at 60 km/h. Kester said the region is not contemplating reducing the speed limit from 80 km/h on the rural roads it owns in the township. He also said the region still hasn't made a decision on whether to reduce the limit on its urban roads to 40 km/h to match the township's goal. He also noted the region must approve the idea of the pork chop on Mill St.

## Poppy project pared down by council

by Roger Varley

A recent proposal to festoon the Cenotaph area with crocheted poppies for Remembrance Day was trimmed back by council on Monday.

The original proposal suggested a blanket of poppies be hung down the north wall of the library, around the Cenotaph, along the fence at the rear of the Cenotaph square and at the Col. Sam Sharpe monument.

In a report to council, community services director Amanda Ferraro said stakeholders who were contacted about the proposal had concerns. She said all stakeholders, including the library board and the Uxbridge Legion, felt that displaying poppies on the Cenotaph

should not be permitted.

Sherrill Hodgson, president of RCL Branch 170, said that the Legion executive unanimously felt that "The Cenotaph is holy ground, which is sacred and honours the tomb of the War Dead. It is not a monument to be decorated."

The report went on to say the library board was not comfortable with the poppies being displayed on the building, but were in support of the poppies being displayed on the fence.

Council agreed to Ferraro's recommendation that poppies be hung on the fence as a trial for this year. The poppies will be hung for the same period as the Remembrance Day banners.

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## Library clock tower getting a facelift

by Roger Varley

Scaffolding will be erected on the library clock tower in the next couple of weeks as work begins on a facelift for the structure.

Most of the work on the \$140,000 project will be done on the inside of the tower, including new bracing and steel ladders to access the clock mechanism. On the outside, restoration work will be done on the brickwork and new louvres will be installed.

The old wooden louvres will be replaced with ones made of composite material. Amanda Ferraro, community services director, said the old louvres have rotted and the new composite ones will last longer and require less maintenance than wooden ones. She said Heritage Uxbridge has given its approval for the composite louvres. Ferraro said no one will be able to tell the difference and they will save money in the long run.

The work will be done by Historic Restoration Inc. and will take approximately 10 weeks. Work on repairing the clock, which has been out of commission for some months, will be done after the restoration work is completed.

Ferraro said the fate of the balcony on the north side of the tower is yet to be determined. Part of the balcony was taken down because of rotting wood but Ferraro said a "miscommunication" led to some of the balcony being left in place. While stressing that what remains in place is safe and in no danger of falling down, Ferraro said the library board will decide what to do with the balcony at a later date.



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