

# The Uxbridge COSMOS



Volume 17 No. 24

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, June 17, 2021



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**FINALLY!** - Barbara and George Pratt (centre, left) join Heather Schwartz on the newly-built patio outside Navarra's Eatery in Uxbridge. The trio was part of thousands of people across Ontario who took advantage of lovely weather and loosened COVID restrictions on the weekend and headed to their favourite restaurants. *Photo by John Covers*

## Uxbridge Fall Fair determined to plow ahead

by Roger Varley

Members of the Uxbridge Fall Fair board appeared before council Monday to confirm that this year's fair is happening, but that it will likely be greatly modified from past events.

Dave Dickie, fair manager, said the board's biggest concern is what capacity limits will be in place for Elgin Park come September. He said if capacity is limited, some events such as the antique car show and antique farm equipment show could be held at the museum grounds.

This year's fair, to be held the weekend after Labour Day, will have no Friday evening events, and hours for Saturday and Sunday will be reduced to eight hours each, from 9 a.m. to

5 p.m.

Fair president Bev Latva said the board does not even know at this point whether spectators will be allowed into the fair. She noted that if spectators are allowed, attendees would likely have to register online ahead of time. She also



Although a version of the Fall Fair will happen this year, events like the Demolition Derby, shown here, and the Tractor Pull are being cancelled. *Photo by John Covers*

said that, if spectators are allowed, there will be no admission fee, but donations will be sought.

Other changes for the 2021 edition would see the elimination of the Demolition Derby, the Tractor Pull and the midway. Also, there will be no vendors except food vendors. The home-craft and horticulture exhibits will be held online, and events like the Baby Show will be virtual competitions. Online registration will be available for entrants.

Dickie said that, because of a shortage of manpower due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fair would need an extension on the time it is given to clean up the park after the fair.

Mayor Dave Barton said the township will do all it can to help the fair board, noting that "part of normal in Uxbridge is the fall fair."

### Inside Your Cosmos

Graze a feast .....page 3

Dads, chocolate and cider .....page 6

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**Coupons on Page 5**

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## Council & Committee Meetings

### Meeting Schedule for June, 2021

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

Tuesday, June 22, 7:00 p.m.  
B.I.A. 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

## Bids & Tenders

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

- 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.

# 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](mailto:info@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 28, 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 15, 2021.**

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

### Tax Payments Options:

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

### Penalty/Interest Charges:

For non-payment of a tax levy on or before the respective due dates of each installment, a penalty of 1.25% shall be imposed on the first day of each calendar month and thereafter in which the default continues. Failure to receive a Tax Bill does not excuse the taxpayer from responsibility for payment of taxes nor liability of any penalty or interest due to late payments.

**The penalty/interest charges cannot be waived or reduced by the Tax Department or Council for any reason.**

**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)

## 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  
[dlr@uxbridge.ca](mailto:dlr@uxbridge.ca)  
Telephone: 905 852-9181  
Fax: 905-852-9674

## Closures

- Please be advised the Parking Lot at Spruce St. and Brock St. W. will be permanently closed for use effective June 30th.
- 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.
- Centennial Drive from Bascom Street to 95m southwest of Bascom Street, to end of June 2021. Road closed to facilitate culvert construction.

## Public Information Sessions

**Cemetery Rd. Reconstruction, Wednesday June 23, 7-8 p.m.**

The Township is hosting a virtual information meeting to discuss reconstruction plans for Cemetery Road. For a link to the virtual meeting or a phone-in number <https://bit.ly/3pt45yb>

## Canada Day

The Durham Way

- Decorating Contest
- Canada Day Playlist
- Scavenger Hunt
- July 1st virtual entertainment



Visit [www.uxbridge.ca/canadaday](http://www.uxbridge.ca/canadaday)

## Support Your Local Animal Shelter



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Donations made to the Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter are now available under the Township of Uxbridge Animal Control webpage:

[www.uxbridge.ca/en/living-here/animal-control](http://www.uxbridge.ca/en/living-here/animal-control)

Monetary support directly impacts animals in your community by feeding, housing, and providing veterinary services to animals in need.

### Buildings



### Public Spaces



### Streetscapes



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**June 28th at 1:00pm or 6:30pm**

**register at [uxbridge.ca/myuxbridgedowntown](http://uxbridge.ca/myuxbridgedowntown)**

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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



**TOWN HALL**  
*by Roger Varley*  
**Notes from the June 14 Council Meeting**

Council passed a bylaw designating Chief Administrative Officer Kristi Honey, the most senior non-elected official at the township, as a deputy clerk.

Honey explained the move gives her authority to act when both clerk Debbie Leroux and deputy clerk Josh Machesney are unavailable.

Reacting to news that the 7-Eleven corporation has applied for licences to add bars to some of its convenience stores, council passed a resolution opposing all such applications.

The resolution said allowing bars in stores frequented by unsupervised children "is a grave concern" and it is in the best interests of the township to prevent stores adding bars. As such, council opposes all applications for a license to allow the drinking of alcohol in convenience stores.

There are currently no 7-Eleven convenience stores in the township.

**Beautiful grazing boxes found North of 48**

*by Justyne Edgell*

Patios may be open and the urge to go out may be strong, but what's better than grazing on a platter of fabulous cheese, crackers, cured meats and fruit, right at home, in the garden, perhaps? Akshanaa Rathakrishnan reckons not much!

Rathakrishnan, a Goodwood resident and first year political science student at the University of Toronto, has a passion and an appreciation for good food and aesthetic presentation. After thinking about it for over a year, the 18-year-old decided to launch her business venture, North of 48 Grazing.

Rathakrishnan makes beautifully crafted charcuterie boxes, perfect for any occasion, that can be adapted to a variety of dietary restrictions. They can contain sliced meats that are crafted to resemble a flower, various hard and/or soft cheeses, nuts, fresh fruits like strawberries, figs, or pomegranates, raw

vegetables, artisan crackers and breadsticks, pickles, and brightly coloured macarons. The options and combinations are seemingly endless.

"Each of my grazing boxes are thoughtfully hand-styled and customized with a personal touch, and I deliver for free within Uxbridge," says Rathakrishnan.



Akshanaa Rathakrishnan, founder of North of 48 Grazing, makes mouth-watering charcuterie boxes that are perfect for snacking and sharing. Photo from North of 48 Grazing

Starting a business at only 18 years old, in the midst of a global

pandemic, hasn't been easy, but Rathakrishnan says this journey has taught her so much. "You don't need to have all the answers to start. You just have to be willing to take the first step," she says.

"I constantly thought, 'Am I doing the right thing? Where do I start? How would I manage my first year of university, work, extracurriculars/volunteering AND start this new venture?'"

But Rathakrishnan says she has had a great support team behind her as she develops this project. "As I end my first year of university, I'm so blessed to have had my parents and little sister encourage me to take that first step. The support over the past few weeks has been a blessing."

To order one of Rathakrishnan snack boxes, email [sales@northof48grazing.com](mailto:sales@northof48grazing.com) or find her on Instagram at [@northof48grazing](https://www.instagram.com/northof48grazing).



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**CORRECTION**

The *Uxbridge Cosmos* published information last week regarding traffic calming measures proposed for Mill St. that requires clarification ('Calming soon' to a street near you, page 5).

The proposed "pork chop" island at the intersection of Mill St. and Toronto St. S., designed to stop left turns onto and off Toronto St. S., will, in addition to being outlined with paint as reported, feature flexible, removeable bollards. The installation of this "pork chop" relies on approval from the Region.

If the "pork chop" island and the painting of centre and urban shoulder lines do not reduce speeds, consideration will be given to installing bump outs at Joseph St. and Bascom (not Baskin) St. Bump outs will not be painted on the road, as originally reported.

The *Cosmos* hopes this clarifies the information given, and apologizes for any confusion caused.



# We are opening

(entering Stage 1) on

## Thursday, June 17

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# Our two cents

## Slow the \*bleep\* down!

We really don't like telling people what to do. We usually like to reserve this space for thinking deep thoughts, or spreading good news, or, if necessary, calling out injustices or screw-ups on the part of those in "power" positions. But after witnessing a few too many close encounters (not of the third kind) on the roads of late, and with the onset of this heavenly weather, we think it's time for a few refreshers.

To begin, we saw this on Facebook over the weekend: "Today my sister and I rode our horses down Conc. 6. Cars were FLYING past us and not giving more than 2-3 feet of space. PLEASE, if you see us riding, slow down and move over. We're on animals with their own legs and brains."

They're not making this up. We've seen it ourselves, on other sideroads around the township. Vehicles give no heed to people who are on modes of transport other than those with four wheels. And the author of this post points out something often not considered - animals do, indeed, have their own legs and brains. A rider may be uncomfortable with the proximity of a Corvette flying by, but a horse may be terrified. Horses are flight animals, and terrified horses, even under the best riders, can be unpredictable. On a road, in traffic...that situation can only end in tears.

Same goes for cyclists. When you see them, slow down! At the very least, give them wide berth (signalling, if you're changing lanes) and let them feel safe. They're working hard out there, they shouldn't have to fear for their lives, too.

Now, for those not into the farming schedule around here, you should know that it's haying season right now. That means a lot of farm vehicles may be on the road while they move from one field to the next to cut the hay that feeds the animals that provide us with FOOD. Don't you dare get ticked at the slow-moving John Deere that's doing its best to stay off the road as much as possible. And don't make the asinine decision of darting out into oncoming traffic to pass, sending an oncoming car onto the opposite shoulder. Many's a farmer has earned grey hairs from watching potentially fatal collisions almost happen right in front of their eyes. Our farmers deserve better than that. If you get the opportunity to go by them, why not stick your hand out your window and give them a thumbs up or a wave - so much nicer than flipping them the bird.

Nothing you are doing and nowhere that you're headed is SO important that you can't take your foot off the accelerator and think about someone else for a moment. You may save a life. It may be your own.



## The Uxbridge COSMOS

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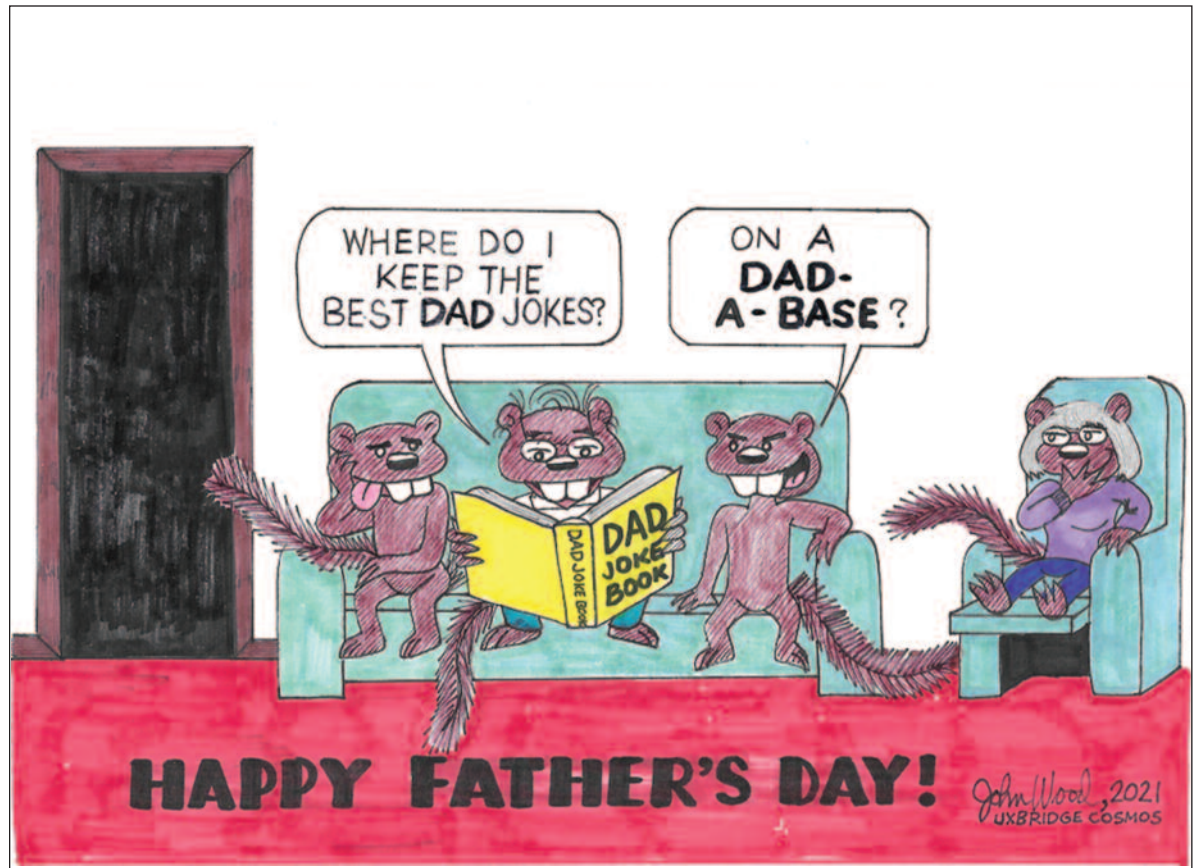


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9,500 copies of The Cosmos are published each Thursday in the Township of Uxbridge: 8,800 delivered by mail, 700 available in stores and boxes.



## Letters to the Editor

I moved back to Uxbridge five years ago, and signed up with Compton Communications. I was happy to support a local business; they did not disappoint. Excellent service and customer care. Like everyone else in Uxbridge who used them, I got the letter saying Rogers was taking over on May 15. The "Customer Care Specialist" that I spoke to at Rogers assured me that it would be a seamless transition; my services/channels would remain the same; my rates would stay the same, everything would be as before. In fact, I would have better internet service.

Not so. Rogers' tech people came to my condo on May 3 to disconnect/take away Compton equipment and install Rogers. Two weeks later, I started getting messages on my phone saying my account was overdue. I called and said I had not yet even received my bill. I was told that everything is online, they don't send paper bills unless you are over 65, and don't have internet access. Ten phone calls and eight hours on the phone later, I was assured that I would get a paper bill - but I had to fight like hell for that. And my bill is \$12 a month higher than it used to be.

Then, I noticed that while I could receive email, I couldn't send any. I have had the same private email address since 1996 through my website. It is known to friends, family, business associates and all the companies I do business with. My incoming emails are through my personal website; my outgoing email was always through my internet provider.

Here's the rub - when Rogers bought Compton, it did not buy the email servers! I spent hours and hours on the phone with idiots, going up one level at a time, only to find out that if you subscribe to Rogers, you HAVE to have a Rogers email address, i.e. [janedoe@rogers.com](mailto:janedoe@rogers.com) in

order to use their email.

I spent hours on the phone with useless tech people, often on hold for an hour at a time with no resolution. Rogers' "tech people" are, in my opinion, just idiots reading notes out of a binder. Had I known what was going to transpire, I would have gone elsewhere and saved myself a lot of aggravation.

As it turns out, if you are an established business, you can keep your current email address and use Rogers outgoing email servers. They just don't offer that to private individuals. That speaks volumes to me. Private individuals just don't matter to them.

I've kicked Rogers to the curb. They told me I had to send their equipment back through Canada Post - I told them "Come get your stuff or it's going in the dumpster!" Rogers is out of here come June 20. I have chosen to go with a privately owned Canadian company called Teksavvy that is truly for the common man and lobbies against Rogers and Bell with the CRTC.

Just wondering how many other Uxbridge residents are totally frustrated with Rogers. Friends and relatives who are longtime residents of Port Perry are telling me that, for the first time in many years, Bell is now getting a good foothold in Port Perry, due to residents dumping Rogers like a hot potato for the above reasons and many more. I invite comments from my fellow readers.

**Debbie Watson**  
**Uxbridge**

**Re: The Barris Beat, June 10 edition, 'Fairness or bust'**

When I read Ted Barris's column concerning the disrespect shown to the memory of Egerton Ryerson, it was following on the heels of several very lively conversations I'd been having with my granddaughter over

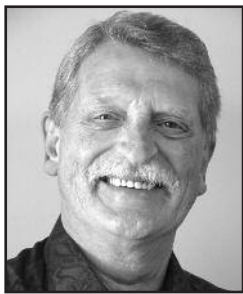
what she calls the residential school system. She says it was the deliberate cultural genocide of Indigenous people. I tend to belong to the camp that says, "It seemed like a good idea at the time."

I maintain that you can't expect people from two centuries ago to have the same sensibilities as the people of today. In the early 1800s in Ontario, many people were still living in log cabins lit by candles or oil lamps. Their cemeteries contained the graves of far too many children and young people because there was no cure for tuberculosis, doctors didn't yet know that they should be washing their hands before treating patients, and farmers didn't know that they shouldn't dig their wells too close to the barnyard. Charles Darwin's theory of evolution had not yet been published, and everyone took the messages in the Bible to be the ultimate truth. They believed (as did all the schoolteachers) in the adage "Spare the rod and spoil the child." That philosophy was supported in Proverbs 13:24. They also took to heart Matthew 28:19, where Jesus told his disciples to go forth and teach all nations.

In the 1800s, Ontario was rife with competing religions, all calling themselves Christian and following the teachings of the Bible. Missionary fervour was at its peak and there were mission schools already in operation on several reserves. Saddlebag preachers rode from community to community delivering their message of salvation and gaining converts among both the new settlers pouring in and the Indigenous population. Egerton Ryerson became one of those circuit riders after his Anglican father banished his Methodist son from the family farm. Ryerson also spent time as a missionary teaching

*...continued on page 6*





## Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### The last legal discrimination?

I will admit right from the beginning that this column is not so much a rant as a whinge. I do not expect my words to change anyone's stance on the subject matter, nor do I expect to garner any sympathy, but I've never let that stop me before.

The subject is what I consider to be the last legal discrimination in the country. We cannot - and indeed, should not - shame or discriminate against fat people, those with disabilities, people from different ethnic or religious backgrounds or people of a different colour, because our society in general is becoming less and less tolerant of such actions. But smokers? That's a different story. We can apparently shame and discriminate against people who smoke without fear or retribution.

When the COVID-19 restrictions were loosened in Ontario a couple of weeks ago, I rejoiced, as did many. The relaxed rules came about just as the weather became inviting enough to allow us to sit outside on a patio or at a sidewalk table and enjoy a cup of coffee. Part of my (almost) daily routine for the past few years has been to stroll down Brock Street, buy a coffee and, in the good weather, sit outside and chat with passersby or just watch the unfolding scene. However, part of my enjoyment comes from lighting up a cigarette or two while having my coffee.

But since the pandemic started, one coffee shop has replaced the tables and chairs it used to put out on the sidewalk with a fenced-in patio. As a recognized patio, it is now off limits to smoking and that prohibition extends to nine metres in all directions from the patio. Not to worry. I simply moved to a nearby coffee shop and enjoyed the tables and chairs they put out. But now that has also changed.

Picnic tables now occupy the same space that the tables and chairs once filled and, even though it can't really be classified as a patio, the coffee shop has labelled the picnic tables as a non-smoking area. That means there is now a large stretch on the south side of Brock where I am not allowed to sit and have a coffee and a cigarette. Instead, I have to take my coffee across the street to sit on the bench near the CIBC, where there is only minimum shade. There also is less foot

traffic at that location and so less opportunity to engage people in conversation. But there is also another, unintended, consequence.

It has been my pleasure for the last little while to randomly stop young children as they pass by with their parents and invite them to go into Blue Heron Books and pick out any book they want as a gift from me. There is no ulterior motive: it simply gives me a great deal of pleasure. But now that I am relegated to the CIBC bench, I am away from the vicinity of the book store and so have less chance to engage kids walking by. Simply because I smoke.

Those sitting at the patios apparently are not bothered by the smell of traffic fumes, the dust rising from construction projects in the downtown or the roar of trucks passing by. But a whiff of cigarette smoke in the open air? Call in the marines!

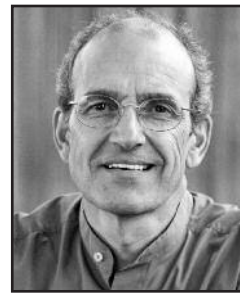
Likewise, if I go to Elgin Park for a quiet sojourn, I am not allowed to smoke in that lovely shaded green space, even if I'm the only one there.

There are those out there who will have no sympathy for me or others like me. Many would like to see tobacco products banned outright. But if that ever happened, think of the unintended consequences. According to the latest information I can find, for every cigarette I light up I pay 18.5 cents tax. If the government should decide it can do without all the revenue it brings in from tobacco taxes, imagine who they will come after to make up the budgetary shortfall.

Then there will be those who claim smokers put an unwarranted strain on our health system but, although I have been a smoker for over 65 years, I have never had an illness or health issue related to smoking. Nor has my vile habit had any negative affect on those I hold dear. Not one of my three sons or two granddaughters has ever smoked a cigarette.

But apparently it's still considered okay to discriminate against smokers and people somehow do not think it is rude for them to comment on my smoking habit. That being said, I doubt anyone will side with me on this.

Tell me, am I wrong?



## The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Notwithstanding democracy

The session bells were ringing Monday afternoon at Queen's Park, calling Members of the Provincial Parliament into the chamber. The halls outside buzzed with MPPs and their minions. Suddenly, the Premier emerged. He'd seen reporters with cameras. A reporter asked if Opposition debate would delay passage of Bill 307, the one that used the notwithstanding clause of the Constitution to reintroduce parts of a law overruled by a judge last week.

"No," Doug Ford said defiantly from behind his COVID mask. "We're fighting for democracy."

For the record, last Tuesday (June 8), Ontario Superior Court Justice Ed Morgan reached the conclusion that it was unconstitutional for the Ontario government to double the restricted pre-election spending period for third-party advertisements to 12 months before an election call. The Ontario Tories have argued that by extending the restriction, they are protecting elections from outside influence. But the way Justice Morgan saw it, several sections of the Election Finances Act (tabled by the Ford government) infringe on rights in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Let me repeat that: *An Ontario Superior Court justice says the Conservatives' bill infringes on Ontarians' rights in the Canadian Constitution.* Which begs the question: Who's fighting for democracy?

Remember last spring, when the World Health Organization announced that the Canada and the world faced a global pandemic? Premier Ford and Christine Elliott, the minister of health care, both said they were pulling together SWAT teams from hospitals and public health units to immunize long-term-care homes from infection. "We will fortify with an iron ring of protection around our long-term care residents," they said.

And wasn't part of that iron ring basic air conditioning for those besieged long-term-care residents? Just a few months later, in July 2020, during a heat wave - that added discomfort to infection - the Premier said his government would rapidly mandate air conditioning in all those homes, including residents' rooms - as a democratic right for the residents! A year later, on May 27, 2021, when questioned about installation of air conditioning in those homes, Donna Duncan, the CEO of the Ontario Long Term Care Association, said she could not say what percentage of homes have A/C throughout their facilities. Meantime, long-term-care advocate Vivian Stamatopoulos told CP24 last month there are still 289 homes (of 627 in Ontario) that do not have any A/C in residents' rooms.

And yet on Monday at Queen's Park, Premier

Ford said, "I'll work all day, all night to protect the people."

A year and a month into the pandemic, on April 30 of this year, Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commissioners submitted their final report to the minister of long-term care. In their 322-page report, Hon. Frank N. Marrocco, Angela Coke and Dr. Jack Kitts charged the provincial government with not having a plan to address the pandemic or to protect residents in long-term-care facilities. As of June 14 (three days ago), government stats show that there were 22,444 COVID cases in those homes, and that 3,794 residents have died of COVID.

Yet on May 14, when Merrilee Fullerton, Ontario's minister of long-term care, was asked when she learned about reported deaths by neglect, she said, "We're actively working right now ... understanding where that information came from." When pressed further on the report, she walked out of the room.

And the premier said on Monday, "We're fighting for the people."

And the list of anti-democratic actions the Ford government has taken in the last year alone grows - its July 2020 omnibus Bill 195 to potentially override collective agreements; in April 2021 its order to give police the power to "increase public compliance," a.k.a. potentially increase racial profiling; during the third wave its failure (until pushed) to shut down industrial hotspots of COVID infection and help compensate affected workers with paid sick leave; its failure to offer vaccination to front-line teachers and staff at the province's schools to help keep our kids in class. The list goes on and on...

Let me go back to Premier Ford's moment in the halls of the Ontario Legislature, last Monday afternoon, just before he used - *for the first time in Ontario's history* - the notwithstanding clause to override a Superior Court Justice's ruling and undermine Canada's Constitution, mind you - when he seemed miffed that the Ontario Opposition was filibustering to stall his unprecedented vote.

"They're filibustering," he said. "We're fighting for democracy."

A short time later he used his majority in the Legislature to pass Bill 307 by a vote of 63 to 47, as he described it "fighting for the democracy of the people," while disregarding the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms of 1982.

I think he's just fighting for his job, and in *his* mind, that trumps just about everything else, up to and including democracy.

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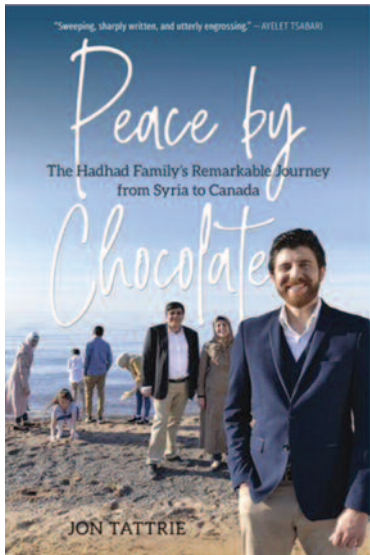
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# Chocolate, cider brings dads together

Submitted by Jane Kiyonaga

A father who is currently living with his family in a Syrian refugee



camp in Lebanon will celebrate Father's Day this weekend far from the rest of his family, which lives in Uxbridge. A few local businesses, partnering with the North Durham Refugee Reunification, are working to help bring this family together with - wait for it - chocolate.

A creative collaboration between Blue Heron Books, The Passionate Cook Essentials, Banjo Cider and volunteers from North Durham Refugee Reunification has inspired the "Sweet Syrian Story" event, which melds together the story of the above-mentioned family with that of the Hadhads, the well-known "Peace by Chocolate" family in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The Hadhad family was also forced to live as Syrian refugees in Lebanon, before coming to Canada.

The "Sweet Syrian Story" event will share the book "Peace by Chocolate," written by CBC journalist and award-winning author, Jon Tatttrie. Chocolate is the backdrop for this fast-paced, informative and real-life page turner about how the Hadhad family journeyed from Syria to Canada.

Participants in the virtual event have two options. They can, for \$89.95, enjoy the full package, which includes the book "Peace by Chocolate," the virtual interview, chocolate samples from Peace by Chocolate, non-alcoholic cider from Banjo Cider, and a Sweet and Savoury Syrian Sampler plate, prepared at The Passionate Cook's Essentials. Those interested in just the book and the Zoom interview can join in for \$29.95.

All profits from the event go to reuniting the family that is currently in Lebanon with their relatives in Uxbridge.

The deadline to purchase tickets is this Friday, June 18, at noon. Tickets can be purchased online at [blueheronbooks.com](http://blueheronbooks.com)

Spoiler alert ... one of the fathers *may* make a virtual appearance.

Letters, from page 4

school on the Credit River reserve before he was formally ordained as a Methodist minister. He came into prominence during his well-publicized dispute with the Anglican bishop over revenue from the sales of Clergy Reserves and which churches should reap the benefits, and that notoriety led to his appointment as Superintendent of Common Schools in 1844.

It was Sir Robert Bagot, the governor general for the Province of Canada, who introduced the idea of residential schools for the native population in his 1845 report. It was a logical suggestion since the upper classes, of which he was a member, had been sending their sons to boarding school for years, letting the teachers do the job of moulding them into proper English gentlemen. In 1847, the assistant superintendent of Indian Affairs asked Ryerson to devise a plan for educating the native children in residential schools. I have not read Ryerson's plan, but I doubt very much that it encouraged frugality by depriving the children of healthy food and warm blankets. I doubt that it condoned physical and sexual abuse, or the lack of concern for childhood illness. It doesn't make sense that he would prescribe severe punishment for children who spoke their own language when he himself had made the effort to learn to preach to the Mississaugas in their own tongue.

The residential school system that did so much cultural damage didn't get implemented until long after Ryerson died. Egerton Ryerson, the man who advocated for free schooling for all children, deserves to have a school named after him.

*Eleanor Todd  
Goodwood*

The community really came together as parents let the community know about an incident that took place on June 1. We got a really great message from the principal of Uxbridge Public School, Debbie Sansford, who is

addressing this head on. On June 2 she wrote (*letter has been edited for length*):

Dear Parents and Guardians, There is nothing more important than the safety of our students and staff. With this in mind, I am writing to share information regarding an incident that was reported after school hours and occurred off school property in Uxbridge on Tuesday, June 2.

School staff at one of our Uxbridge elementary schools received a report of a child being approached by a woman driving a red minivan and asking the child to come to the woman's vehicle to "be friends with her daughter" when there was no other child in the vehicle.

Thankfully, no students were harmed, and the incident has been reported to Durham Regional Police Service.

Considering this recent concern, this is an opportune time to review general safety tips with your children. To assist, we have compiled a list of safety guidelines for you to review with your child now, and at any time of year. When staff, students and parents work and communicate together, it makes a difference for our learning environment. Please discuss the following suggestions with your family so that safe strategies are reinforced.

Safety Guidelines: Always walk with a buddy to and from school. Do not talk to strangers. Inform your parents and the school if a stranger approaches you. Remember, adults do not ask for directions from children. Always let your parents know if there has been a change in your plans. Avoid taking shortcuts through fields and parks. Never walk alone, especially at night. Be aware of your surroundings when wearing earphones. It is okay for children not to speak to adults who they do not know.

Please take a moment to review these tips with your child. Together, we can keep our school and community a safe environment for our children.

*Nathalie Crewes  
Uxbridge*

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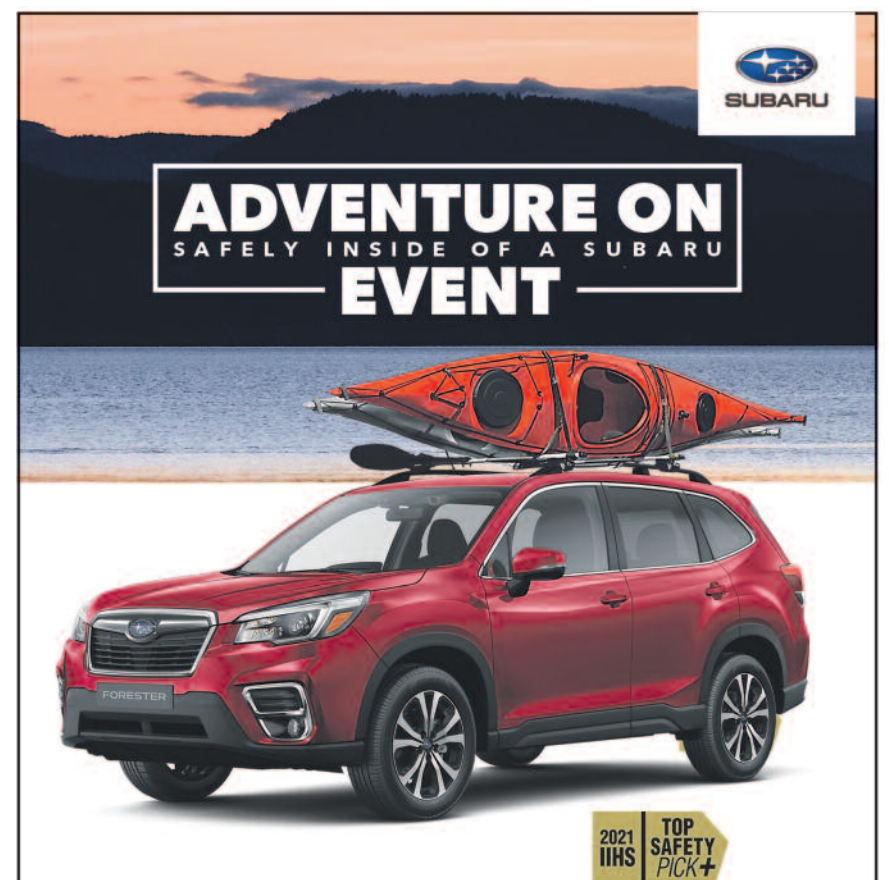
Ontario 

## Upcoming webinar discusses Oak Ridges Moraine, Greenbelt challenges

Ontario's Greenbelt, including the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, plays an integral role in conserving Durham Region's rich natural heritage and biodiversity. Next Tuesday, June 22, at 7 p.m., "architect" of the Greenbelt, Victor Doyle will provide historical and factual insights into the creation of these plans as they apply to the regional landscape. During the webinar he will also identify ongoing challenges and opportunities.

From 1988 to 2017, Doyle was at the epicenter of designing and implementing provincial plans in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Known as the "architect" of the Greenbelt, Doyle was also instrumental in developing the Oak Ridge Moraine Conservation Plan, Growth Plan and Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

To register, become a member at [northdurham-nature.com](https://northdurham-nature.com) (memberships are only \$10 and you will receive the link). Or email [northdurhamnature@gmail.com](mailto:northdurhamnature@gmail.com) if interested in attending.



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