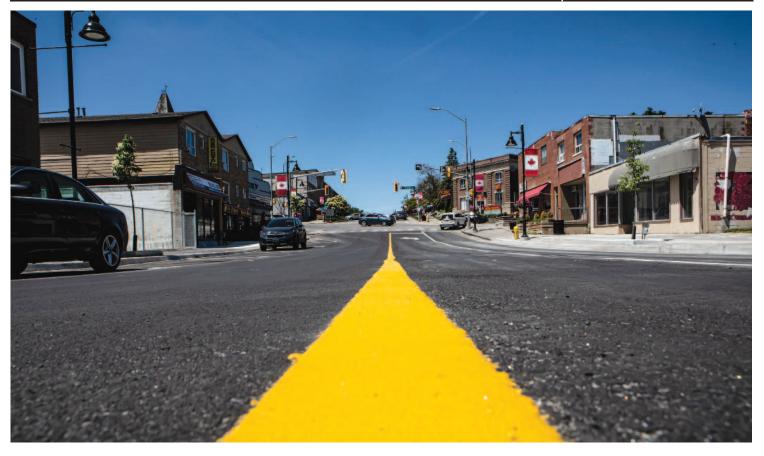
# The Uxbridge

Volume 17 No. 25

YOUR UNIVERSE

Thursday, June 24, 2021



FOLLOW THE YELLOW-LINED ROAD - Brock St. W. is finally free and clear of concrete barriers, bump outs and heavy equipment. The culvert project, which began in September 2018, is finished, except for, according to Public Works, some remaining clean-up. The empty lot that currently sits between Royal LePage and Mondo Hair Salon is the future home of Uxbridge Shoes, which has been operating at the southwest corner of Toronto St. and Brock St. since the project began. Photo by John Cavers

# Local doctors named 'Pillars of the Pandemic'

by Justyne Edgell

It's likely the beginning of the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, and experts are already begin to bestow honours upon those in health care who have contributed to the pandemic response in some way. Two Uxbridge doctors are among the first to receive such honours.

Last week, local family physicians, Dr. Carlye Jensen and Dr. Jennifer Wilson, were recognized by the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health for their service to the public throughout the pandemic. The two were among 13 Ontario healthcare professionals, community volunteers and organizations named as 'Pillars of the Pandemic.'

"[At the beginning of the pandemic] there was so much information coming at us 24 hours a day," recalls Wilson. "People were calling Carlye and I and saying, 'Please - distill this all down and tell us what to do to protect our loved ones and our town.' Carlye and I recognized a need for trusted crisis communication that was timely and proactive."

Thus began the COVID-19 Update community newsletter, which was spread through the township via social media, emails, and through the radio and newspapers.

"We came to realize how much the community appreciated hearing from us as local, trusted family physicians," says Jensen. "With the plethora of information, misinformation and changing information, it was very overwhelming for people to keep track, and we felt we could help by providing consistent and clear information that was relevant and practical for our community."

Once they started, the doctors say it was obvious that the community really appreciated hearing from them, so they decided to continue writing the newsletter as long as necessary.

Along with writing the newsletter, the two

doctors also led the Uxbridge Hospital's COVID response, and they helped establish the North Durham COVID Assessment Centre in Prince Albert, serving as co-medical directors along with Drs. Rebecca Wray and Merrilee Brown from Port Perry. The two led a task force of Uxbridge community leaders, creating a playbook for a COVID field hospital, should one become necessary, and provided leadership, guidance, and advocacy to various senior's facilities. In April, they coordinated a virtual town hall meeting, gathering several healthcare professionals together and taking the public's questions regarding COVID-19 and vaccine concerns.

In addition, they performed their usual clinical duties, worked in various vaccination centres, and, during the worst of the outbreak, worked in several nursing homes and in the Markham Stouffville Hospital ICU.

**COLDWELL BANKER** 

R.M.R. REAL ESTATE, BROKERAGE

...continued on page 3



### **Inside Your Cosmos**

Uxpool talks about opening up . . . . . . page 3 Pandemic penny-pinching .....page 4

### PHARMASAVE"

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### 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

# The Township of UXBRIDGE

Trail Capital of Canada



MORE INFO www.uxbridge.ca

# Council & Committee Meetings Meeting Schedule for June, 2021

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

### Proclamations for the Month

- Seniors Month
- Indigenous History Month
  - Pride Month
- Brain Injury Awareness Month

### **Employment Opportunities**

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

Community Services – Parks and Trails Manager – Closes **July 7, 2021** Community Services – Arena and Recreation Manager – Closes **July 7, 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.

# 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 Section 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 Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, submitted by Robert Clark, CCS.

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 reduce the minimum required lot frontage and lot area for the Rural (RU) Zone. This is to recognize the existing dwelling on the property that is part of a Consent Application to sever the existing single detached dwelling and frame barn that is being applied for concurrently. As part of the rezoning the existing frame barn structure is to be prohibited from housing livestock.
- The retained agricultural portion of the concurrent Consent Application is to be restricted from future severances and development of any future residential dwellings.

• The proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaw are to reduce the requirements of the Rural (RU) Zone for lot frontage from 200m to 85.95m and reduce the required area from 40ha to 1.4ha to accommodate the existing built structures on the proposed severed lot.

• The subject property is designated as "Prime Agricultural Areas" on Schedule 'A' – Map 'A2' of the Durham Region Official Plan and identified as "Greenbelt Plan Area" on Map 1 of the Township Official Plan. It is currently zoned "Rural (RU) Zone".

### LOCATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:

The subject property, is located on the west side of Regional Rd 1, south of Foster Dr, having the municipal address of 10700 Durham Regional Rd 1, and is legally described as Part of Lot 14 Concession 6, (Scott) Uxbridge; Part 1 of Plan 40R-15700. The location of the property is graphically illustrated on the key map below.

<u>FILE. NO.:</u> Zoning By-Law Amendment 2021-06 (**ZBA 2021-06**) <u>APPLICANT</u>: Robert Clark, CCS.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Additional information relating to the proposed Township 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. However, the Township Offices can only be accessed by appointment due to the COVID lockdown by contacting the undersigned.

Jo Ann Merrick Email: jmerrick@uxbridge.ca 905-852-9181 Ext. 202 MEETING DATE: Monday, July 12, 2021 TIME: Public Meeting 11:30 a.m.

#### **REPRESENTATION**

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.

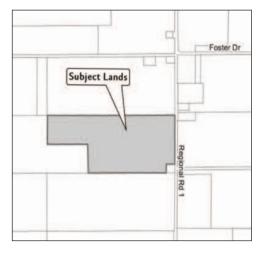
The full public notice can be viewed at https://www.uxbridge.ca/en/news/notice-of-public-meeting-re-zoning-by-law-amendment-2021-06.aspx

# DATED AT THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE THIS 18th DAY OF JUNE,

Debbie Leroux, Clerk Township of Uxbridge, 51 Toronto St. S. Uxbridge, ON L9P 1T1 905-852-9181 Ext. 228

### KEY MAP (not to scale)

dleroux@uxbridge.ca



### **Bids & Tenders**

All current bid opportunities are posted to **Uxbridge.ca/bids\_and\_tenders** 

- Q21-05 Township Page Closes June 24 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 <a href="https://www.uxbridge.ca/bids\_and\_tenders">uxbridge.ca/bids\_and\_tenders</a> in a timely manner.

### Closures

- Please be advised the parking lot at Spruce St. and Brock St. W. will be permanently closed for use effective June 30.
- Lane restrictions on Brock Street East from Nelkydd Lane to Regional Highway 47 will be in effect June 14 until the end of August, 2021, as the Region is installing underground services.
- Regional Road 8 from Concession 5 to Concession 6, from May 3 to July 9, will experience lane restrictions to facilitate road rehabilitation, culvert and guide rail replacement.





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

### **TOWN HALL**

by Roger Varley Notes from the June 21 Council Meeting

Get your swim fins ready: Uxbridge residents could be back in the water soon after council passed a motion Monday to re-open Uxpool as soon as possible.

In a report to council, Uxpool manager Carolyn Clementson said she would like to re-open the pool early in September, but noted that uncertainties still surround the province's relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions by moving to Step 3, making it difficult to determine how many people would be allowed in the pool at any one time.

Mayor Dave Barton, while stating that "it's time to open up pretty much everything," opined that the re-opening of Uxpool should be dictated by the number of participants allowed, rather than by a specific date. Recreation director Amanda Ferraro responded that she would like to see the pool open in September, numbers or not. She said it would be possible to open in August, but a July opening would be difficult to do because staff has to be hired and trained. In response to a question from Councillor Todd Snooks, Ferraro said the change of high school hours recently announced by the Durham District School Board might affect after-school programming "but we'll adjust and make it work.'

Clementson's report said opening the pool in August would result in expenses of \$485,268, while open-

ing in September would cost \$457,597. Councillor Bruce Garrod, chair of the finance committee, offered that the extra cost associated with the earlier opening in August would be covered by the almost \$400,000 the municipality received from the province in COVID-19 re-

Garrod's motion that Uxpool be opened as soon as possible in August was supported unanimously.

Not a good sign: In response to a letter from a resident about illegal signs posted around town, chief by-law officer Kristina Bergeron said members of the by-law department will proactively remove any illegal signs they see in the course of their rounds.

On the particular signs mentioned in the letter, which advertise "We Buy Houses," Bergeron said it is difficult to find out who is responsible for placing the signs because the phone number included on the sign leads callers to a recorded message.

Clerk Debbie Leroux said illegal signs are a problem everywhere.

Make way for green flashing lights: In his annual report to council, fire chief Phil Alexander noted that the average time for firefighters to reach the station on a call is four minutes and the average response time to an emergency call is 10 minutes and 34 seconds.

He added, however, that response times can be affected by traffic in town. That led Garrod to offer the opinion that many residents in town do not know that a vehicle with a flashing green light is a firefighter responding to a call and that they

...continued on page 6

### 'Pillars' of the community, from page 1

It was this leadership and commitment to their community that earned them the DLSPH recognition.

"The individuals chosen by the selection committee as 'Pillars of the Pandemic' have been exceptional in going above and beyond in ensuring the well-being of Ontarians," says Prof. Adalsteinn (Steini) Brown, Dean of DLSPH.

Both doctors agree that the past year and a half has not been easy. They have had to make major shifts in how they practice medicine and care for their patients.

"I'm very much a 'sit on the edge of the bed' and 'lean in' type physician," says Jensen. "I want to connect with the patient and a lot of that is



The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge

### FROM THE TAX OFFICE • 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

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

PLEASE RETAIN YOUR 2021 FINAL TAX BILL FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES. If a reprinted tax bill, receipt or Statement of Account is required

If you did not receive your 2021 Final Tax Bill, please contact the Tax Department at 905-852-9181 or tax@uxbridge.ca

achieved through facial expression and body language, much of which is lost when swathed in a mask, shield, gloves and a gown."

She says she had to learn new ways of connecting with her patients; for example, using her eyes and through tone of voice.

Wilson says one of her biggest challenges has been adapting to being a good physician over the phone.

"Last week I saw a toddler in my office for the first time in 18 months. His mom and I both started to cry when I walked into the room. I have missed my patients!'

Jensen and Wilson readily acknowledge the effort and sacrifices that everyone in Uxbridge has made.

"I am proud to say that I live and work in a community whose residents genuinely care for one another and are willing to make difficult decisions and sacrifices for the sake of their neighbours," says Wilson.

"It has been so rewarding to see the unfailing support of our community," said Jensen. "And now we see that same spirit of collegiality in achieving such high vaccination rates and continuing to follow the guidance from public health. We are really so blessed to work and live in a town such as Uxbridge."

To learn more about the award and the other award winners, visit the Dalla Lana school online at dlsph.utoronto.ca



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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.

New Roads Richmond Hill Subaru Limited-time offers. MSRP of S28,995 on the 2021 Forester CP CVT (MJ225). "Advertised pricing consists of MSRP plus \$1,800 freight and PDI, \$249 Admin, \$100 Tire Tax, \$10 OMVIC, \$20 Tire Levy, \$20 PPSA Service fee charge, includes a full tank of gas. Taxes, license, registration and insurance are extra. \$0 security deposit. "Lease rate of 0.5% for 24 months. Lease payments of \$81 weekly with \$2,978 down payment. Lease end value \$19,435 with \$3,458 doe on delivery. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km per year for 24 months, or 40,000 km total, with excess charged at \$0.10/km. Subject to credit approval by Subaru Financial Services by TCCI. Leasing and financing programs available through Subaru Financial Services by TCCI. Compared the programs available through Subaru Financial Services by TCCI. Compared the programs available shour subaru dealer for details. Models shown: 2021 Forester Limited CVT (MJ2LP) with an MSRP of \$38,795. Dealers may sell or lease for less or may have to order or trade. Vehicle shown solely for purposes of illustration and may not be equipped exactly as shown. Forester and Subaru are registered trademarks. Offers end August 31, 2021. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your local Subaru dealer or visit www.ontraio.subarudealer.ca for complete program details.

for any year's taxes, a fee of \$15.00 will apply.

Re: Letter to the Editor, "Rogers,"

Under Compton Communications

for many years, we were spoiled. The

service was always great and the cost

for TV, computer and home phone

service was reasonable. Learning that

we would be losing Compton, we

changed shortly before Christmas to

Rogers, being told it would be at a

There was no increase in stations; in

fact, less because the many music

channels from Rogers are not included. The monthly bill is \$40-50

higher. The written instructions are

minimal. I like being able to use my

voice to make requests, but find the

hand controller difficult to use be-

cause many buttons are so small and

close together; it is easy to touch the

wrong button and worse with my

My telephone is not working cor-

rectly yet either. I have heard many

other concerns about changing to

Re: Letter to the Editor, Todd letter,

Carol Johnson

Uxbridge

arthritic hand.

June 17 edition

similar cost and the same service.

June 17 edition

# Our two cents

### Pandemic prudence - will it persist?

A well-known Canadian bank's slogan promises us that we may be "richer than we think." And that would appear to be the case. According to a news item on the CBC this past weekend, Canadians "have saved a record amount of money during the pandemic, resulting from the combined impact of reduced spending and collecting more money from government support programs. At the same time, their discretionary expenses - spending at places like restaurants and movie theatres - dropped sharply."

That likely isn't news to any of us, but take a look at the numbers. The story went on to say that, according to Statistics Canada, "Canadians amassed \$212 billion last year, versus \$18 billion in 2019. That works out to \$5,574 per Canadian on average in 2020, compared to \$479 in the previous year."

Four hundred and 80 dollars in one year, and well over \$5K the next? That's a whole lot of saved up Timmies' money. Or getting-your-nails-done money, or \*insert your weakness here\* money.

Not everyone has extra money in the bank. Lower-paid workers, as well as those with less education, appear to have generally struggled the most financially during the pandemic, as they were most likely to lose their jobs or face reduced hours, says the CBC article.

But now that things are slowly opening back up here in Ontario, what is going to happen to all those bursting bank accounts? Will we take the new saving habits that we created during the pandemic and carry them over into post-pandemic life? To be sure, the prospect of finally being able to go *into* a a restaurant, or (and we can't wait for the day) get a decent haircut, or to go away for a weekend out of town will be too much for most of us to handle. We're certain that, if the province's gradual open-up goes as planned, there is going to be a huge dump of cash into the economy as people shop and travel like they never have before. The money we have saved is burning a hole in our pockets, and, says one economist, "A boost in business for the hotel, restaurant, tourism and other affected sectors could help those workers most negatively impacted during the pandemic."

Putting aside a little money for a rainy day, however, is not a bad idea. The pandemic really proved to us that we can all get by with less, not more. (As an aside, the planet didn't mind the reduction in traffic, waste, and unnecessary consumption, either.)

It usually takes, on average, two months to create a new habit, and a bit longer to break one. We've had 16 months to create new spending habits. Will we go back to our old ways, or be richer than we thought we could be?





Publisher/Editor: Lisha Van Nieuwenhove 905-852-1900 Advertising/Sales: 905-852-1900

38 Toronto Street North, Unit One, Uxbridge Ontario L9P 1E6 E-mail: Lvann@thecosmos.ca Web site: Thecosmos.ca

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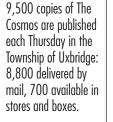








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Eleanor [Todd] did an excellent job explaining the present situation regarding important people, Indigenous people, and our history. Our politicians and people like Sir John A. Macdonald and Egerton Ryerson made Canada a better place to live and should be positively recognized. There are many things that were done for the good, but wrong.

In the 50s, where I was teaching school, children from foreign countries were often given a new English name as close as possible to their original name, intending to make it easier for them to be accepted by other children. Should the principals

be remembered for being racist?

Carol Johnson

Uxbridge

Editor's note: the following letter has been edited for length. A complete version is available online at thecosmos.ca

The history of Indigenous-settler relations in what is currently called Canada has been well documented in the reports of the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and the more recent Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In the thousands of pages, and in other forms of research and documentation, it is quite clear that Canada is founded on violence, and in the context of residential schools, violence against children. That history informs our present.

I would like to respond to some of the misconceptions and absences in a recent letter to the editor about the residential school system that operated in Canada for over 150 years and its much longer legacy.

To begin, this doesn't start or end with the Egerton Ryerson statue: the indoctrination of Indigenous children into Christianity and Euro-Western society has existed in various forms since the 1600s. The residential school system is just one such example and Ryerson is only one of the culprits.

Reflecting on the "disrespect" shown to the memory of Egerton Ryerson, I instead consider the disrespect, in the form of physical and epistemological violence, inflicted upon Indigenous, Black, blind and deaf children by Ryerson and his counterparts. I wouldn't want to imagine being a survivor or intergenerational survivor of the residential school system, having to walk into a building or walk by a statue commemorating a person who was complicit in trauma caused to my family. When compared to "sensibilities of

accountable for their actions? Where/when do we draw that line?

the past" do we not ever hold people

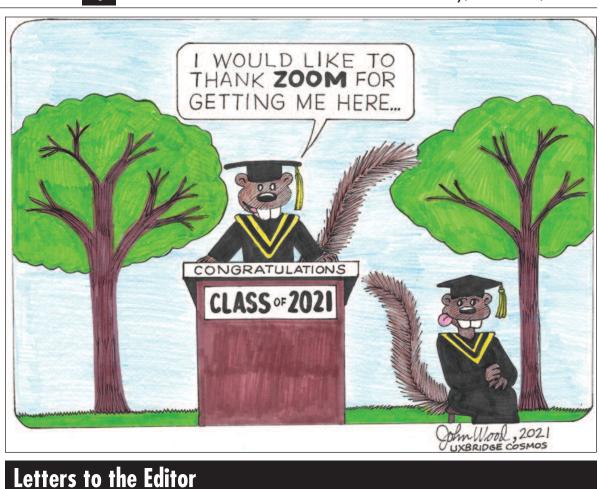
The idea that residential schools were a good idea at the time is both inaccurate and an attempt to erase the system of colonialism they operated within and that which still exists today. The road to hell is paved with good intentions, but it is none-theless hell, and Indigenous children and their families had to live in that hell (literal torture, rape, and murder). I personally don't understand how anyone can try to rationalize positivity in that.

I am also unclear about the circumstances under which it is justifiable, past or present, to remove children from their families because of their race. Even in the 1800s there were advocacy organizations of settlers opposed to the ideas of Ryerson and others. They knew it was wrong and it should be quite clear today that these actions were wrong.

While Ryerson might not have expressly advocated for the starvation, rape, and murder of Indigenous children in schools, with his overt focus on the "civilization," that is, assimilation, of Indigenous children, his work was inherently racist - it was then and it is now.

In listening to survivors' stories we can only get a glimpse into the atrocities that took place at residential schools. The National Film Board docudrama *We Were Children* is a resource that I would hope turn deniers into believers - that Canada is founded on violence and those violent founders are not worth celebrating

Dr. Kaitlyn Watson Member of Maamawi Collective Uxbridge





# Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

### Now it's getting silly

As I have mentioned in previous columns, I have two granddaughters who have Indigenous roots. I know first-hand the discrimination and insults they have had to suffer at the hands of ignorant yahoos.

I have also written in the past about the discrimination and shoddy treatment that Indigenous populations in Canada have had to put up with for years - and still do. The recent discovery of 215 children's graves at a former residential school in B.C. was merely the latest evidence of that discrimination and it has led to an outpouring of calls for action and reconciliation. That is commendable and understandable, but I think that now these calls have reached the point of silliness, including the removal of statues of Sir John A. Mac-Donald. But that's not the height of silliness.

Word comes out this week that a board of education in B.C.'s Kootenay district has decided to change the name of Prince Charles Secondary School to Creston Valley Secondary School. A CBC news item on the move gives no indication that the name change has anything to do with racism or discrimination. Indeed, the teacher who proposed the name change - (himself an Indigenous person) merely offered that, when he played on school sports teams, "I didn't like that we played for Prince Charles." His uncle, the first Indigenous person to graduate from the school, agreed with his nephew's move, saying: "The Queen to me was just a fairy tale."

That, apparently, was enough for the school board to quickly and unanimously agree to a name change.

If these people had done a little digging, they would realize that Prince Charles is not unworthy when it comes to having schools named after him. He has long been known for his environmental work and he sponsors over 400 charities. Indeed, he is a man of many talents. He has commanded ships, flown planes, plays the cello and has long been interested in farming and architecture. Perhaps it is not surprising that Prince Charles was honoured with a Kainai chieftainship in 1977, a ceremonial title bestowed by the Blood Tribe in southern Alberta to those who advocate for all First Nations people. Charles, who was given the name Red Crow, is listed as one of the tribe's most prominent members.

The royal family has long had an interest in

the Indigenous peoples of all the Commonwealth countries, not just Canada. According to a CBC report, in the Royal Proclamation of 1763, King George III recognized that Indigenous peoples had rights to the lands they occupied and promised to protect and not "molest them," a promise that survives today in Article 35 of Canada's Constitution Act of

In a 2012 interview with the CBC, John Borrows, an internationally recognized constitutional scholar and member of the Anishinaabe nation in Ontario, called the 1763 proclamation Canada's "Magna Carta" concerning Indigenous peoples.

But with the current wave of statue topplings and removals aimed at prominent Canadians who somehow don't meet the standards of today's social justice warriors, it's not surprising to see calls coming from across the country for the renaming of certain schools. Ryerson is the most obvious semilocal example. Unfortunately, while shining the white light of today's moral values on yesterday's "bad guys," we are being blinded to the fact that these people did some great things. And people like Prince Charles are getting caught in the crossfire.

I applaud the fact that the Indigenous people are being featured heavily in the news these days, and I hope that the heightened awareness brings about desired reconcilation. But moves such as the school in B.C.'s namechange can only bring ridicule and that will harm other, more rational demands for justice and reconciliation. Knee jerk reactions just don't work. If Prince Charles could be shown to have spoken or acted in discriminatory ways towards our Indigenous people in the past, I could understand the move to have his name taken off the school. But that, as far as I can find, isn't the case. It would appear that some people want his name removed simply because he is an old, British,

It seems to me that the answer to the white man's eradication of Indigenous history is not to eradicate the white man's history. Instead, both histories should be taught side by side so that future generations achieve a better understanding of how this country came to be and how one history affects the other.

Tell me, am I wrong?



# The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

### Competence and reward? Not here!

It was the end of our shift. The boss, the owner of the restaurant, called a staff meeting. There were waiters, waitresses, cooks and the busboy staff – about a dozen of us. For several weeks we'd known that the head busboy was leaving the diner. So, we were looking to the boss for some kind of announcement about who would become the next head busboy. His decision was not unexpected. He gave the job to Denny.

"Denny's been with us the longest," the boss said. "He has the most experience. He has the trust of everybody on staff and all our customers. He's the right choice for the position." Nobody, not a single person on our staff, disagreed. Everybody could see that the promotion had gone to exactly the right person. Denny met all criteria. So, he got the job. That's the way it was done at a restaurant staff meeting I attended in the summer of 1966.

Last Friday, the province watched Premier Doug Ford introduce a new cast of ministers appointed to his cabinet – the equivalent of the right busboys receiving promotions for the positions they can/should fill. However, for all his claims of bringing his strong sense of business acumen to the running of Ontario's public service, the Premier (or those in the Progressive Conservative inner circle advising him) has made abominable choices.

Last Christmas, you'll remember, at the height of the second wave and province-wide lockdown (i.e. discouraging non-essential travel) because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rod Phillips, then Ontario's finance minister, chose to travel to St. Barts, a luxury vacation destination in the eastern Caribbean. Bad enough given the deadly situation back home. But then to cover his tracks, he posted a pre-recorded Christmas greeting on Twitter, showing him isolating at home in Ajax.

"I want to thank each and every one of you for what we are doing to protect our most vulnerable," he said, posing next to his glass of eggnog and a crackling fire. When found out, Phillips resigned his portfolio on New Year's

Meanwhile, his colleague, MPP Merilee Fullerton, minister of long-term care - a year into the marauding pandemic – received a massive Commission report on the horrific state of Ontario's long-term care facilities, condemning the Ford Tories for not having a plan to deal it. And when questioned about reported deaths by neglect, the minister walked out of a media conference. She apparently had no solution for a system that saw nearly 4,000 elderly residents die in its care.

Enter the Premier's cabinet shuffle. And who emerges to lead long-term care, a portfolio that desperately needs honesty for its constituency? The one who misled his own leader, his own electorate, and the social media universe that thought he was abiding by the rules but wasn't. Meet Rod Phillips, the new minister of longterm care. Meanwhile, the outgoing long-term care minister, who appeared to be in over her head, moves to – in the Premier's estimation – an appropriate new responsibility. Meet Dr. Merilee Fullerton, the new minister of children, community and social services.

Remarkably, others in the Ford cabinet have stayed put. No doubt, Stephen Lecce, the continuing minister of education, will view his leading Ontario's education system into fulltime online learning as genius. From the beginning of his tenure, Lecce proclaimed remote teaching/learning as the panacea to Ontario's curriculum delivery. Meanwhile, critics - from OISE academics to front-line teachers, not to mention beleaguered parents - have called education cooped up in bedrooms, endless hours in front of computers and lack of face-to-face instruction short-sighted, unfair to underprivileged communities, and a poor substitute for in-class instruction.

The disarray of Minister Lecce's stay-at-home alternative during COVID-19 has illustrated all the faults its critics predicted, and one the minister completely underestimated - the detrimental impact of soulless, daily, digital learning on the mental health of two million Ontario students. Meanwhile, the minister never saw improved ventilation inside Ontario school buildings, early vaccination of teachers and janitorial staff as front-line workers, nor increased testing/tracing as a means of keeping classrooms open.

Haven't any of the Premier's advisors read the learned narratives of Canadian-born educator Dr. Laurence J. Peter? Over 50 years ago, the author of The Peter Principle, assessed the upwardly mobile hierarchy in which people are promoted to positions requiring different skills and because they lack those new skills they become incompetent at that new level of responsibility. In other words, in a hierarchy (a.k.a. a cabinet pyramid), they rise to their level of in-

Elevating a member of restaurant staff to head busboy seemed pretty harmless back in 1966. In nearly post-pandemic 2021, the Premier's elevating this cast of MPPs to portfolios governing the health, social services and education of Ontarians, simply looks like rewarding incompetence with responsibility.

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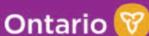
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### Heeding the green flashing light, from page 3

should pull over to let the vehicle pass. He said there has been "outrage" on local social media platforms over people not understanding the reason for the flashing green light.

The Cosmos asked council if any thought had ever been given to re-installing the siren that used to warn the town that the fire department was responding to a call. Alexander said the council of the day that decided to mothball the siren did so because it was not cost effective to maintain the siren. He said a majority of residenst did not like the siren and public awareness of the flashing green lights was the way to go.

Final culvert accounting coming: Councillor Willie Popp announced that the Brock Street culvert project is, to all intents and purposes, complete, with just some minor cleanups left to take care of.

Public Works Director Ben Kester said a final accounting of the project is expected some time in September.



PLAYING FOR A PLAY-**GROUND** - Leah Daniels and Will Hebbes recently gave a virtual concert to raise money for the Uxbridge Lions' Universal Playground project. Organizers say the event was a success, getting exposure for the playground and over \$2,500 in donations.

Submitted photo

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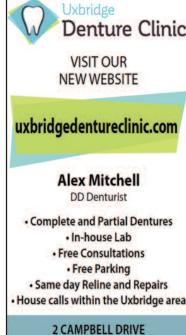


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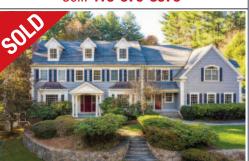
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TICKETS & INFO www.gardensofuxbridge.org



