

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 17 No. 33

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Opportunity of a lifetime • No bats in his belfry • Downsizing apartment plans



A GARDEN P'ART'Y - Several of the artists who are featured on this year's Studio Tour met recently for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. When not busy getting caught up on the past 18 months' activities, the group discussed final preparations for the tour, which is happening September 18 and 19. For details, see ad on page 8 or visit uxbridgestudiotour.com

Photo by John Cavers

New hospital name, same corporation

by Justyne Edgell

It may have a new name, but the services promise to all remain the same. The Markham Stouffville Hospital Corporation is now Oak Valley Health. The new name joins the two geographical areas that the medical organization serves - the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Rouge Valley.

On August 18, the medical organization officially announced its rebranding. Oak Valley Health is to be "a new overarching name for the organization's two hospital sites - Markham Stouffville Hospital and Uxbridge Hospital," says the corporation in the announcement.

Along with the new corporate branding, the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital is now officially the Uxbridge Hospital. Dr. Carlye Jensen, local family physician and chief of staff at the hospital, says she is very happy about these changes. "You can think of the corporation name like

a family last name. Our Uxbridge last name was Markham Stouffville Hospital, which really didn't represent us well. Now, as Oak Valley, we share the same last name but are clearly branded as our own separate sites," says Jensen.

While being called a cottage hospital may sound quaint, the name "Uxbridge Cottage Hospital" may undermine the depth of services and care that the hospital actually provides. Jensen noted that the term 'cottage hospital' is actually a British term that refers to a "semi-obsolete, small hospital." The original Uxbridge hospital name is believed to have come from the man who owned the land where the hospital was built, and who came to Uxbridge from England where cottage hospitals were common.

A board of internal staff, physicians and volunteers, external stakeholders and community members came together to extensively research and develop the new name to better represent

the Uxbridge site.

Jensen says this name change will also be beneficial to the future of the hospital.

"Imagine if a new medical grad was offered a job at a 'cottage hospital,'" says Jensen. "It sort of makes us sound like country bumpkins, it just doesn't describe that we are actually an advanced care hospital. Also, for new residents moving to Uxbridge, it's good to have a hospital that sounds like, if you're having a heart attack you can go there and get cared for."

"Oak Valley Health will build on over 30 years of delivering high quality health care programs and services at Markham Stouffville Hospital. Over three decades, the hospital has undergone substantial change, doubling in size and taking responsibility for another site: Uxbridge Hospital and its catchment area," says Mike Arnew, chair of the board of directors, Oak Valley Health.

...continued on page 3

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for September, 2021

Monday, September 6

NO MEETING – LABOUR DAY

Monday, September 13

COUNCIL MEETING, 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC MEETING – ZBA 2021-01


EVENDALE APARTMENTS, 7:00 p.m.

Proclamations for the Month

- National Hunger Action Month
- Franco-Ontarian Day
September 25, 2021

Closures

- Lane restrictions on Brock Street East from Nelkydd Lane to Regional Highway 47 will be in effect until mid-September, 2021 as the Region installs underground services.
- Planks Lane from Third Ave. to Franklin St., to September 6. Street and sidewalks will be closed to facilitate watermain, sanitary and storm sewers and rebuild curb, gutter and sidewalks.
- Closure of the Toronto Street sidewalk adjacent to the Uxbridge Public Library will be in effect from August 23 through to mid-October for clock tower restoration work.
- Victoria Street will be closed each Sunday (7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) from Brock St. W. to King St. W., from May to October due to the Farmer's Market.



**DISCOVER
UXBRIDGE**

THIS WEEK IN UXBRIDGE:

The Lucy Maud Montgomery Trail - New!
Embark on a self-guided driving tour while listening to the podcast that tells the incredible story of Maud's life here over 100 years ago.

Maud of Leaskdale Performance- August 26, 28, & 29
Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the play, Maud of Leaskdale!

Yoga at Banjo Cider - August 26
Enjoy outdoor yoga and a sampling of local traditional ciders.

Live Music:

- Cassie Noble live at The Second Wedge Aug 28
- Jeff Haynes live at The Second Wedge Aug 29

LEARN ABOUT THESE EVENTS & MORE AT
WWW.DISCOVERUXBRIDGE.CA

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

Employment Opportunities

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

Public Works Department – Truck Driver
Closes August 31, 2021

Public Works Department – Truck Driver/Backhoe Operator
Closes August 31, 2021

Parks, Recreation and Culture – Arena Attendant Assistant, Casual P-T
Closes September 3, 2021

Parks, Recreation and Culture – Arena Attendant, Adult
Closes September 3, 2021

Parks, Recreation and Culture – Arena Attendant Assistant, Student, Casual P-T
Closes September 10, 2021

Fire Department - Assistant Fire Chief, 1-year Contract
Closes September 23, 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.

Bids & Tenders

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

U21-26 Uxbridge Seniors Centre
Washroom Upgrades
Closes August 27 at 2:00 p.m.

All bids must be received by the Township by the deadline stated, either electronically via the Township's website or in-person (by appointment only) at the Township Office located at 51 Toronto St. South. Public tender openings are not happening currently however bid results will be posted at uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders in a timely manner.

Support Your Local Animal Shelter



ONLINE DONATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

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

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

Take the Plunge at Uxpool and Swim with the Best

Registration for Fall Swimming Lessons begin August 25



Registration information can be found at www.uxbridge.ca/uxpool or by calling 905-852-7831

The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Township of Uxbridge hereby declares the following lands to be surplus to the needs of the Municipality;

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge deems it desirable to declare surplus and convey real property legally described as Part of Lot 22, Concession 7 and Part of Lots 22 and 23, Concession 8, Part of the Original Road Allowance between Concession 7 and 8, more particularly described as Parts 1 and 2 on Plan 40R-31448,

Township of Uxbridge, Regional Municipality of Durham;

FURTHER, NOTICE is hereby given that the Township Council at its regular meeting held on August 9th, 2021, declared by Resolution No. 2021-09 the aforementioned lands to be surplus to the needs of the municipality. A copy of the plan showing the location of the lands may be viewed in the Office of the Clerk. Township File: L06- PS108
Debbie Leroux, Clerk

UXBRIDGE-SCUGOG ANIMAL SHELTER

1360 REACH ST PORT PERRY

FRIDAY AUGUST 27TH

11:00AM - 4:00PM

Cat Adoption Day!

Adult cats and kittens available
Applications approved on site
\$100 adoption fee for cats or kittens
Free goodie bag with every adoption!

COVID friendly event, held outdoors
Masks must be worn at all times

Psst! We also have baby bunnies available for \$30

If you have any questions about the event you can call the shelter at 905-985-9547

Do you own or operate a business in Uxbridge?

We want to hear from you!

Complete the business survey at www.uxbridge.ca/myuxbridgedowntown

Building on Yesterday - Planning for Tomorrow



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

Hospital name changes, from page 1

There are more improvements planned for the Uxbridge Hospital, including the replacement of the original aging hospital, which was announced in 2019. The medical office building that is adjacent to the hospital, which is now almost complete, is also following suit with the Oak family name.

The physicians of the Uxbridge Health Centre, who are building the new medical office building, have decided to rebrand their clinic as Oak Tree Medical Centre once they move into their new building.

"Oak Tree Medical Centre is delighted to be the start of what will become a health care campus, that will change the face of healthcare in our community," says clinic ad-

ministrator, Debbie Edgell. "We wanted to be a 'tree in the valley' and a recognizable connection with the parent brand. After lots of brainstorming we settled on Oak Tree Medical Centre."

The clinic is scheduled to be completed by the end of the month and the physicians are projecting an official move in mid-September.

CORRECTIONS

On page 1 of the Aug. 19 edition of the *Cosmos* ("Three candidates out of the gate...") it was erroneously reported that Patricia Conlin was the PPC representative for Uxbridge. Conlin is the representative for the riding of Durham. Corneliu Chisu is the PPC candidate for the riding of Pickering-Uxbridge.

Page 3 of the Aug. 19 edition of the *Cosmos*, ("Labels and age...") reported that Bob Kirvan is on the board at Trinity Manor and also resides there. Kirvan is on the Trinity United Church board and resides on a farm on Conc. 4.

The *Cosmos* sincerely apologizes for these errors and any confusion they may have caused.

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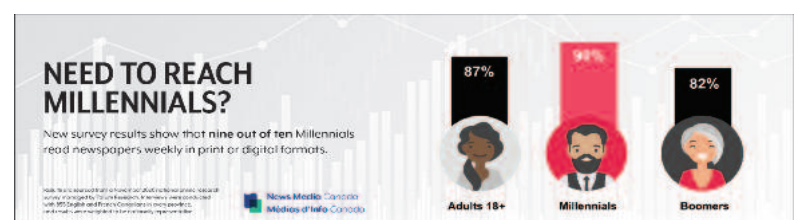
presents the

All Candidates Meeting

Online: Facebook Live
Date and time to follow.

Visit thecosmos.ca
for up-to-date information

Questions and comments from the public that are posted during the event will be moderated by the Cosmos and relayed to candidates during the meeting.



Uxbridge Fair

September 11-12
mostly virtual

- Livestock Classes on site (no spectators)
Entry by August 31.
- Sunflower, Homecraft and Horticulture classes
Virtual. Entry by September 7.
- All entries accessible at uxbridgefair.ca
- Junior classes brochure available at
The Bridge Social on Brock Street
- For assistance or support contact Tara at 647-444-0535



Our two cents

The chance of a lifetime

People have been griping about the state of Uxbridge's downtown core for a long time. Decades, in fact. One of the first plans to revitalize and rejuvenate downtown was presented to town council back in 1983. Nothing was done with it. Former mayor Bob Shepherd had visions of what the downtown could like in 2010. Nothing was done then. Earlier this summer saw the completion of the Great Culvert Project, which removed the lower part of Brock St. W. from the flood plain. The township will likely want to of-flood the Coffee Time/Circle K building that it had to buy in order for culvert work to be done, and that whole property, including the parking lot, sits there like an ugly duckling, waiting to be beautiful.

Now is the time for something to be done.

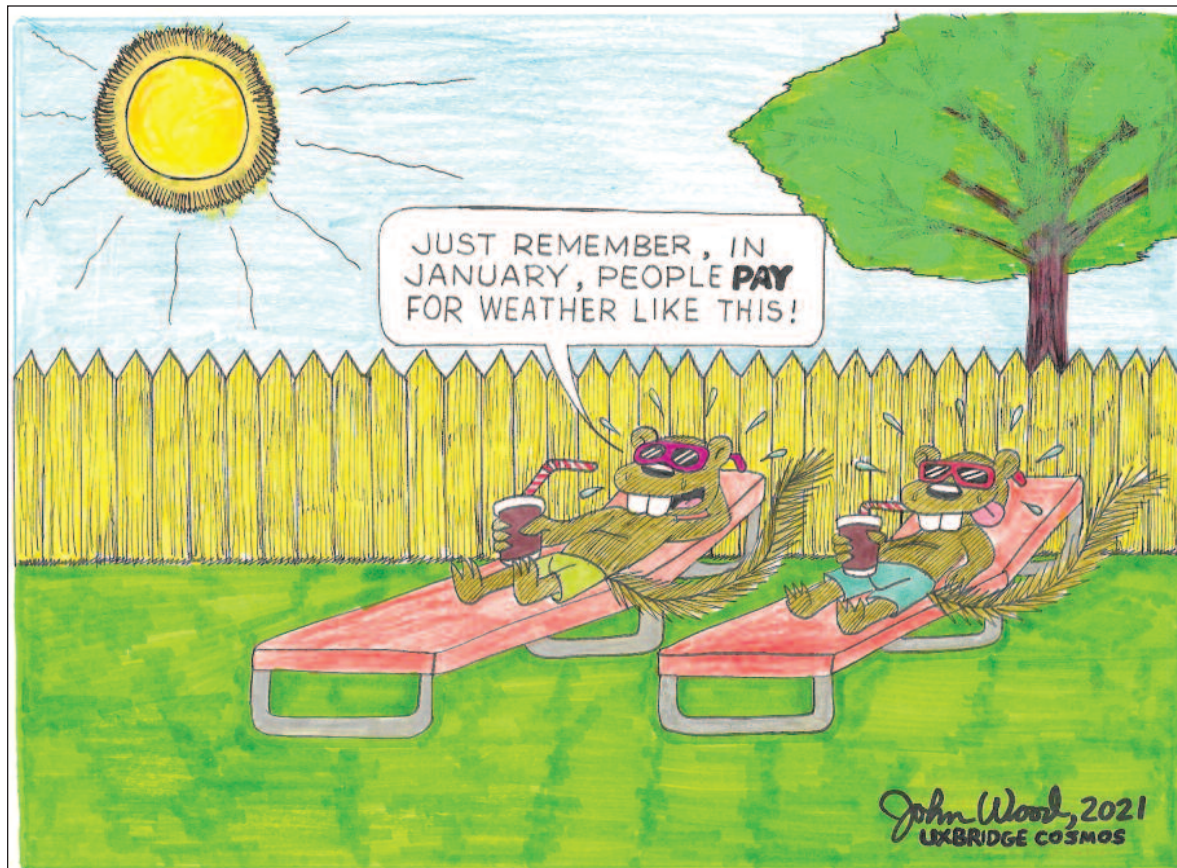
Residents are likely aware that the Township has implemented the Downtown Revitalization Project (DRP), and assembled a committee to oversee the project. Not as many residents appear to be aware that there are currently two surveys going on that ask for direct input from the community on what a new downtown could and should look like. And every single resident or business owner who has ever uttered a disparaging word about our downtown is obliged to take one, or both, of these surveys.

DRP project manager Judy Risebrough says that around 1,000 surveys have already been submitted (including the Visualization survey, which is now closed). And she's pleased with that number. But given the scope of the project and the longevity of its impact, it behooves the entire township to up that number considerably. As Risebrough points out, the surveys are "the opportunity to get engaged, to get people involved." She's even leaving the surveys up a bit longer so that when the high school opens in September, she can appeal to the students. After all, they are the ones who will see the fruits of the project's labours. The downtown won't be a Garden of Eden tomorrow - this project is looking forward through the next 15-20 years. The students of today are the townsfolk of tomorrow.

The DRP promises to "deliver a strategic plan and an action plan that will focus on the longer-term economic development and social well-being of the downtown." Sounds lofty, but the intent is real. And the need for a re-working of Uxbridge's downtown is real. Residents can fill out the Resident Survey, and business owners, even if they don't live in Uxbridge, can fill out the Business Owner survey. Both are accessible through the Township's website, paper versions are available through the municipal office.

Judy Risebrough put it quite succinctly: "This isn't about what you want, it isn't about what I want - it's about the collective, what *we* want."

What do you want in downtown Uxbridge, Uxbridge? Now's the time to have your say. It's a once in a lifetime chance. Literally.



Letters to the Editor

Development coming at a cost

Regarding that narrow street Roger Varley mentioned in the *Cosmos* on Aug. 12 ["Troubling Signs", Am I Wrong?] that has at least six "slow-down signs" - you know it as Mill St.

It rises to meet Toronto St. at the west end and doglegs to meet Reach St. at the other. I'm sure you know it because it is traversed by 3,000 vehicles daily, including large construction rigs, 18 wheelers, pick-up trucks (some with altered mufflers and/or trailers filled with rattling material), noisy motorcycles and regular cars.

You may also know part of its length is on the Ewen Walking Trail. Do you feel safe on a posted 50 km/h walking trail?

It is also the site of the farm and mill of Uxbridge town founder and benefactor Joseph Gould.

Not long ago, council announced a plan by a hired consultant to slow and reduce some traffic (yea) by building a "porkchop" traffic island at Mill and Toronto Streets to prevent left-hand turns, as well as two bump-outs to slow traffic to a single lane. Perfect solution. But what did we get? A resurfaced road (for a faster, smoother ride) and three painted lines.

Did we know council would allow developers to cut down mature carbon-sinking trees (Elgin Park Dr., Reach St.) like a crop of dandelions, or smash down houses (Reach St.)?

More building and trees are soon to go on the remainder of the Gould property on Mill St. Did we know [a previous] council would turn down grants to build bike lanes and charging stations for electric vehicles?

Did we know they would allow more building on Cemetery Rd. and Brock St.? Yet another subdivision is planned for 588 houses on farmland on Conc. 6, north of the museum. Where is the infrastructure to sup-

port all the pricey new houses and condos?

This council will increase the population of Uxbridge by over one-third, at the same time destroying downtown commerce and historic buildings, paving parkland and putting us \$20,000 in debt by cost overruns. Building a bridge on Brock St. would have served to enhance the town and been less costly than the sewer.

Where are the leaders who will champion the environment, protect the taxpayers, and say no to greedy developers and airport proponents? The climate is a code red alert world wide and yet our political leaders carry on with their usual "build and destroy" mandate. We need competent, environmentally conscious leaders now. We cannot wait for the Greta Thunberg generation to come of age and save us from ourselves.

Saundra Reiner
Uxbridge

Revitalization suggestions

The township is doing an online survey on how the downtown should be revitalized. I hope it has more respondents than the nine that responded to the speed limits survey.

This is the second chance this town has had in recent years to revitalize its downtown: the last one, proposed by then mayor Bob Shepherd, was shot down so we could have a few more of those wonderful angled parking spots on Brock. Thankfully, the sketches of the survey's plans all appear to show regular parking on Brock St.

Whatever plan the town chooses, it should definitely remedy three major problems with our downtown: signage, sidewalks, and parking. The plan should include parking lots and eliminate 19-foot-long pickup trucks angle-parked on Brock. This would allow for wider, pedestrian-friendly

sidewalks with more flower beds, benches, and space for outdoor dining, etc.

The easiest change to make is to clean up the embarrassing commercial signage on the southeast side of Brock. How difficult can it be to make commercial landlords remove the signage for former businesses? This section of our downtown looks like an opening scene for CBC's "Still Standing" with Jonny Harris.

Brian MacIsaac
Uxbridge

"Catch the Ace" is back!

This popular game, brought to you by the Rotary Club of Uxbridge, has donated a total of \$106,501 to local organizations and humanitarian initiatives since our first lottery in 2018. "Catch the Ace" has also made many area residents a little happier as a result of our first three lotteries paying out \$79,971 to the Jackpot winners and another \$53,798 to the weekly winners.

"Catch the Ace" has been on "hold" for several months due to the pandemic and restricted access to our retail partners, but the Jackpot is still alive and available, and we estimate the Sept. 14 draw Jackpot will be about \$5,600.

Tickets, still only \$5 each, will be available starting Sept. 8, at Vince's Market, Canadian Tire (Uxbridge), Pharmasave, the Royal Canadian Legion club room, and Stouffville IDA Pharmacy.

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Uxbridge, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 170, the CTC Jumpstart program and all the charitable organizations supported locally, we thank you for your past support and thank you in advance for your continued participation.

"Catch the Ace" Committee
Co-Chairs
Terry Chapman & Ian Morrison

When one of these disappears, A LOT disappears.

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The Uxbridge Cosmos

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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.

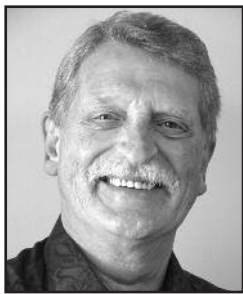
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CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARD 2019



Am I Wrong?

column by Roger Varley

The death of civility

It must be wonderful to be perfect. Imagine going through life without ever making a mistake or setting a foot wrong. However, I doubt any of us can imagine such an existence, being the imperfect human beings that we are.

My imperfection showed last week in the *Cosmos* story about the federal election when I incorrectly identified Patricia Conlin as the People's Party of Canada candidate in Pickering-Uxbridge. The simple explanation - though not an excuse - is that I misread an email.

The mistake was brought to our attention and, as we do whenever we make a mistake, we announced the necessary correction on page 3 of this week's newspaper. It was corrected immediately on our website last week.

Now, I hate making mistakes and my editor can attest to the self-flagellation I impose on myself whenever it happens.

That said, the tone of an email we received pointing out my error was, to say the least, unsettling. The writer asked for "a headline correction on the front page." The writer did say "please," but it was still clearly a demand. What the heck is a 'headline correction'? Did that mean the letter writer wanted the *Cosmos* front page headline this week to read "*Cosmos* Makes Mistake, Names Wrong Candidate"?

The letter writer then went on to ask the *Cosmos* to "please ensure that Roger Varley apologizes to your readers for spreading misinformation and have someone check his 'facts' before you print his articles."

While the information printed was incorrect and, therefore, by strict definition, "misinformation," with the current mania for labelling everything "fake news," it is fairly obvious what the letter writer meant by using that word, especially by including the word facts in quotation marks. In a follow-up email, the same writer labelled the mistake "very serious political meddling."

So arrest me, already.

As I said, we hate making mistakes, but we know they are going to happen from time to time. Heaven knows I've made some real boneheaded errors in the past. Having written around one million words for the *Cosmos* over the last 16 years, that's no surprise. In this case, the letter writer could simply have pointed out the error. But that's not the way the world works nowadays. Instead, it was apparently necessary to belittle me, boss the publisher around, and practically accuse us of

criminal behaviour. Civility, it seems, has died.

Anyone who ventures onto social media sites knows what I am talking about. God forbid anyone should misspell a word in their posts: the grammar Nazis will be all over them in a second. Offer a thought or suggestion that doesn't quite fit someone else's view and the vitriol spews forth and, more often than not, the legion of perfect people that populate these sites will all join in.

The death of civility has been spurred on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of us are feeling confused, uncertain and anxious, and the constant battling between those who believe in vaccinations and those who don't has shortened tempers to the point that there can be no longer be a shred of dialogue between the two camps.

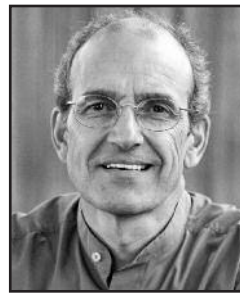
The death of civility also results from the change in the political atmosphere over the past couple of decades. There was a time when political differences were just that. But now we see those who are on the opposite end of the political spectrum as enemies - and not just political enemies. Other than to insult them, we want nothing to do with anyone who doesn't vote the way we do.

As I have said many times in the past, I can't think of too many professions where people put their names on their work for all to see and take responsibility via public corrections when they make a mistake. Apparently, however, that is no longer good enough for some people: these self-appointed guardians of the public good believe the miscreant responsible for the mistake must be thoroughly chastised and humbled before the masses.

Other parties kindly advised us of the error we had made, including the person who most suffered from it, Pickering-Uxbridge's PPC candidate Corneliu Chisu. In the voice message he left at the *Cosmos* office, he was gentle, pleasant, and simply pointed out the facts. No accusations, no finger-pointing.

According to the dictionary, synonyms for civility include consideration, politeness, good manners, etc. Whatever synonym you choose, there appears to be a dearth of it in today's society. Just as good citizenship comes with responsibilities, so does pointing out someone's errors or mistakes. It seems to me that if you can't do it with good grace, it's best just to keep quiet.

Tell me, am I wrong?



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

For want of bats in my belfry

I sat on our back porch after sunset one evening this week. I was looking for them. The light was dying fast, which was why I was there. I kept scanning the skies over our backyard and our neighbours' yards, looking, looking. One of my grandchildren was with me and wondered what I was doing, why I was so intent.

"They should be here by now," I said softly. "What should be here?" he asked.

"The bats," I said. "I haven't seen them this year."

After my evening stint scanning the skies, I did a bit of research. And I've learned some of the reasons why I haven't seen many bats around Uxbridge the past few years. I was surprised to read on one park service website as many as 45 different species of bats frequent the U.S. and Canada. Many of those species have suffered massive losses from a fungus known as *Geomyces destructans* (white-nose syndrome). By massive, I mean millions of bats killed across Ontario, Quebec and New York State.

"We stopped counting at five to seven million," biologist Craig Willis told the *Ottawa Citizen* in 2019. "Now it's millions and millions and millions."

But what scientists quickly point out - not surprisingly - is that interaction with people accounts for nearly as much of the bat demise as disease. Most bat varieties in North America try to roost in cliffs, caves, tree trunk crevices, bridges, barns or even abandoned mines. Well, we don't have many cliffs, caves or abandoned mines in these parts. But thanks to a strip-mining approach to urban planning and housing development in the GTA over the past 30 years, old-growth trees and abandoned barn lofts are in short supply. Indeed, a small livestock barn just a couple of lots away from ours was demolished in recent years, the same period when I watched bats vanish from the skies over my backyard.

The *coup de grâce* for bat species surviving in North America, however, may well come from that other side-effect of the environment - climate change. To be fair, there is no evidence linking climate change to white-nose syndrome. But by just about every other yardstick of human contact with the wild, humans are guilty of snuffing out bat populations every day. Our elimination of carbon-reducing rainforests and increased generation of greenhouse gases have clearly destroyed habitat, created erratic winters, and raised the temperature of the planet.

"So what?" say the climate-change deniers.

According to bat scientists, bats migrate short distances from summer roosts where they rear their pups, to winter ones where they hibernate. The more we alter the Earth's temperature, the more we affect the migration and breeding patterns of the bats detrimentally. Again, the experts say hibernating bats prepare for winter by accumulating fat reserves; but if the temperature rises suddenly - because of an abnormally warming climate - the bats awaken, consume more energy, and run the risk of starving. The upset also delays fertilization, and reduces the survivability of the offspring.

So, what does having fewer bats swooping over our yards mean? The most obvious impact is higher insect populations. According to the American Wildlife Federation, bats are Nature's best pest controllers - consuming vast quantities of moths, house flies and mosquitoes. U.S. agriculture experts say that bats save the industry between \$3.7 and \$54 billion in pest-control services. The Seacology website says a single bat will eat hundreds of mosquitoes in a single night. In so doing, bats have also become Nature's naturopaths - reducing the potential spread of lethal diseases such as West Nile virus, Zika, malaria and other deadly pathogens. Bats also turn out to be great pollinators. Like bees they collect nectar from flowers (as well as insects) and thus pollinate over 700 different plants - including bananas, breadfruit, avocados, dates, figs, peaches and mangoes.

Maybe we need to change that old yardstick of life to, "The birds and the bees and the bats!"

Amid all the doom and gloom about human detrimental effects on bat populations, there is some positive news. Scientists around the National Capital Region have decided that a happy bat is a fat bat. So, they've begun to build and install "bat boxes," or portable roosts, near existing wetlands where the bats regularly feed. In addition to replenishing bat habitat, when the bats take up residence, naturalists regularly check and clean the boxes of traces of white-nose syndrome fungus.

I know it sounds absurd - about as absurd as any politician this election denying climate change or anti-climate-change policies - but I'll put a bat box in my backyard, if only to be able to show my grandkids that bats - like the environment - are worth saving.

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Proposed apartment building offers downsized version

by Roger Varley

Evendale Developments has apparently downsized its proposed apart-

ment building for the corner of Brock Street and Herrema Boulevard. Ward 3 councillor Bruce Garrod

said revised drawings submitted by the developer last month show a four-storey building, not the six-storey edifice that was originally pro-

posed. According to documents filed by Evendale, the building would house an estimated 250 people. Garrod said there has also been a

change in how vehicles will exit the property. Originally, an exit from the parking area would have taken traffic onto Low Boulevard, a cause for concern among residents on that street: the new drawings show the exit leading to Herrema instead.

A virtual public meeting will be held on Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. to hear the developer's new proposal. Anyone resident wishing to observe the meeting can access it via the township's website.

Garrod pointed out that there still is a long way to go in the process and that the development has not yet been approved.

Have odiferous water? Blame it on the weather

by Justyne Edgell

Are you finding of late that your tap water is a bit smelly? Don't worry - the region says it is "safe to drink."

Residents in Durham Region have recently reported noticing that their tap water has a bit of a musty or earthy odour. The Region has responded, saying that "taste and odour episodes are caused by seasonal biological changes in Lake Ontario and typically occur in the late summer or early fall," and that the water remains safe to drink.

In a press release, Durham Region assured residents that despite the possible smell, lab reports on both raw and treated water continue to meet all Ontario Drinking Water Quality Management Standards.

The region recommends if the water straight from your tap has recently adopted the musty odour, you can fill a jug of water and a bit of ice, let it rest in the fridge, or add a few drops of lemon.

More information regarding regional water, including quality testing results, can be found at durham.ca/en/living-here/about-water.aspx

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